

# Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

Weather: Thursday, sunny and warmer, high around 80 with winds out of the S at 10-15 mph. Thursday night, mostly clear and mild, low in the mid 50s. Friday, unseasonably warm, high in the low to mid 80s.

A&E: Shakespeare and Stan Lee —Page 5.

Sports: Future Olympians to battle at NCAA Men's Championship next week —Page 13.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Curtis bill finally advances to final reading

By Victoria Ayotte  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska legislators adopted an amendment Wednesday clarifying the relationship between the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

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at Curtis and the University of Nebraska before advancing LB1042 to final reading.

LB1042, a bill to finance Curtis, was advanced with a 28-12 vote.

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion proposed the amendment, which would strike language from the bill that defines Curtis as an "independent

entity within the University of Nebraska."

The school is not an independent entity because it is still governed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, even though it is to have a separate budget, Withem said.

"The language 'a separate entity, an independent entity,' will merely cloud the issue in further years," Withem said.

Sen. Owen Elmer of Indianola, the main proponent of the bill, said the amendment would not really affect the bill, but agreed that Curtis is only separate from the University of Nebraska in regard to the budget.

Elmer also clarified that it would be the Board of Regents' responsibility to decide whom the Curtis administrators answer to.

Curtis administrators currently answer to

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Elmer said.

Whether Curtis faculty members would get part of the faculty salary increase signed Tuesday would also be up to the regents' discretion, he said.

The amendment was adopted by a 25-5 vote.

Legislators rejected an amendment by Withem to indefinitely postpone the bill.

Withem said there needs to be more debate on the bill, and so far the debate has centered on more emotional parts of the bill, such as the death of the town of Curtis if the school closes.

Withem said the real problem is that the Board of Regents does not do a good job setting its priorities, although it is getting better.

The regents finally started making some tough decisions, like closing the Curtis school, he said.

"What kind of message are we sending to the Board of Regents?" he asked. "What we're saying is: Board of Regents, don't take the heat again. Continue to stagnate."

Elmer opposed Withem's amendment.

"This school is not for my district, it's not for Curtis," Elmer said. "It receives students from all over this state. It has a mission in this state."

Elmer said NU is becoming more and more oriented to UNL, and other schools have taken the brunt of the budget cuts.

Withem withdrew the amendment because it lacked support.

The bill will undergo final reading Friday, the last day of the legislative session.

### Chemical odor causes hall to be emptied

### Grad student's work creates gas-leak fear

By Randy Lyons  
Staff Reporter

Fears that natural gas was leaking in Hamilton Hall caused officials to evacuate the building about 10:15 a.m. Wednesday.

Students and staff members were kept out of the building for about a half hour until officials discovered the odor was caused by the evaporation of a chemical used in a laboratory.

A graduate student in an eighth-floor laboratory was working with methyl mercaptan, which often is added to natural gas to allow for leak detection.

George Sturgeon, vice chairman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln chemistry department, said all of the proper procedures were used to evaporate the chemical in the lab, but some of it may have evaporated in the waste drain.

Sturgeon said the odor also may have been caused by the fumes being brought back into the building by the air recirculation system.

Methyl mercaptan has an intense odor; therefore a small amount is easily detectable, he said.

Jerry Delhay, manager of physical plant maintenance, said Hamilton Hall was evacuated as a precautionary measure because of fear of a gas explosion. Delhay said officials from the Lincoln Fire Department, UNL's division of environmental health and safety, and Minnegasco were called in to evaluate the situ-



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Terry Meyerhoeffer, a senior in advertising, takes a Spanish quiz on a parking post outside Hamilton Hall Wednesday morning after the building was evacuated.

ation.

Steven Bray, lab manager for the chemistry department, said it was difficult to determine what caused the odor in Hamilton because it was detected on the first floor much sooner than in the lab on the eighth floor where the chemical was being handled.

At the same time odors filled Hamilton, similar problems occurred at Manter Hall.

Debbie Pinkelman, storeroom

manager at Manter Hall, said dog fish, a type of shark used for dissection in classes, were being incinerated.

Fumes from the process escaped into the air, and winds pushed them into Manter Hall's fresh-air handling unit.

Earle Brown, director of the division of environmental health and safety, said a back draft from the incinerator stack also may have caused the problems at Manter Hall.

### Pickle card regulation passes unanimously in the Legislature

By Amy Edwards  
Senior Reporter

After three hours of debate Wednesday, Nebraska legislators voted 38-0 to pass a bill on select file that would regulate the distribution of pickle cards.

Four amendments were added to the bill, which was debated for more than nine hours on the legislative floor.

The amended bill would allow pickle cards to be sold in package liquor stores, set up a gaming commission to regulate the pickle industry, to raise the state tax to 20 percent of the definite profits, and to increase the non-profit organizations' share of the earnings.

Sen. Pat Morehead of Beatrice proposed an amendment to LB1232 that would establish a gaming commission in or before 1991 to control pickle cards.

Morehead said the commission needs to be set up because gambling has grown so much in Nebraska that its control needs to be separate from the Revenue Department.

Sen. Vard Johnson of Omaha opposed the amendment because he said the separate commission had been tried and didn't work.

Morehead's amendment passed 30-15.

It wasn't until the final amendment of the debate that the gaming commission got the money it needed to regulate the industry.

Morehead offered the amendment to authorize \$15,000 for the regulation of pickle cards for 1988-89 and \$8,000 in 1989-90.

Sen. Stephanie Johanns of Lincoln offered an amendment to LB1232 to allow the sale of pickle cards in off-sale liquor establishments. The amendment also would include convenience stores.

Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg opposed the measure. Moore said the accessibility of pickle cards needs to be controlled so children and people who are offended by pickle cards won't be exposed to them.

Moore said pickle card sales should be allowed in any store where 75 percent of the store's income comes from alcohol.

Johann's amendment failed 16-21. Moore later offered an amendment that passed 25-10 to allow pickle cards to be sold in package liquor stores.

Morehead offered an amendment to raise the state tax on pickle cards from 16 to 20 percent of the definite profit. The amendment also would redistribute the money from the sales agent and operator to the non-profit organization.

Currently, non-profit organizations receive 47 percent of the profit. Morehead's amendment would raise that to 48 percent.

Morehead said her amendment would raise the state's share of the profits to \$7.5 million from \$4 million if the number of pickle cards bought stays the same.

The amendment passed with a 26-22 vote.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha proposed an amendment to give the Revenue Department the right to suspend pickle licenses without a public hearing, to clear up language in the bill and to allow the University of Nebraska at Omaha Mavericks to continue pickle operations.

Sen. David Landis of Lincoln offered a motion to separate the Maverick issue from the rest of the bill.

The first part of Hall's amendment passed 27-1. The second portion concerning the Mavericks passed 25-17, then was reconsidered with a motion from Johnson. It then failed on a 15-22 vote.

## Committee approves plan for UNL expansion

By Amy Edwards  
Senior Reporter

After a year of debate and compromise, the Malone Redevelopment Study Committee agreed Wednesday on a tentative plan for University of Nebraska-Lincoln expansion into the Malone neighborhood.

Bert Harris, City Economic Development director, said the plan includes a park between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Malone neighborhood.

Harris said the park would start

one block south of the Malone Community Center, 2032 U St., and continue to the eastern half of the block bordered by 22nd and U streets.

A boundary between the university land and the park would consist of a bike path from the park along 22nd street.

The plan also includes housing rehabilitation between 22nd and 23rd streets.

The plan still has to be approved by the city council, the NU Board of Regents and the Malone Neighbor-

hood Association and Malone Community Center boards, Harris said.

"This is a fragile compromise and we need everybody's support to sell it to the regents," Harris said. "The key is to keep everybody with one voice."

Harris said the Lincoln City Council and the regents have the power to implement the plan, but that if the community center and the neighborhood association don't agree, it would be difficult.

The plan calls for a review of the situation in 20 years, he said.

The study committee was created last May by former Lincoln Mayor Roland Luedtke to explore alternatives on the compatibility of the needs of the Malone community, the city and UNL. Two members from each of the four entities are on the committee.

Topher Hansen, president of the Malone Neighborhood Association, said money is available to begin development of the park immediately if all parties agree on the plan.

In 20 years, if there is need for further development, both the univer-

sity and the neighborhood would have the same chance at development of the land, Hansen said.

Hansen said the Malone area has more security now than any other area in Lincoln, because a "watchdog" organization is set up to evaluate the needs of both parties.

The plan is not ideal for any party, Hansen said, but "it's a plan we can all live with."

John Goebel, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, could not be reached for comment.