

Nebraskan

Weather: Friday, unseasonably warm with highs in the mid to upper 80s, winds from the S at 15-25 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy, low in the mid 50s. Saturday, breezy and cooler with a 30 percent chance of thundershowers, high in the mid 60s.

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Bill to pay football players defeated by one vote

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

A bill that would give University of Nebraska-Lincoln football players a stipend failed

legislature NEBRASKA

to pass final reading in the Nebraska Legislature Thursday by one vote, but the bill's sponsor says the fight is not over.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said he plans to have the bill reconsidered today, the last day of the legislative session.

"It's not over," Chambers said. "I'm going to find a senator."

The bill failed in a 24-22 vote. The bill needed 25 votes to pass.

Sen. Chris Abboud of Omaha moved that the bill be returned for an amendment, but later withdrew the motion.

Abboud said he wanted to make some points about the bill that had not been brought out in previous discussions.

"The National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, has made it clear that if the state of Nebraska does adopt this law, any payment . . . would disqualify Nebraska from competition," Abboud said.

Abboud also questioned the constitutionality of the bill and whether the Legislature should be telling the university to pay its football players.

"I don't believe the Legislature should request the university to do something that would prohibit its athletes from qualifying in the NCAA," he said.

Chambers disagreed with Abboud about the constitutionality of the bill.

"There is nothing in the constitution of this state that keeps this legislation from being enacted," Chambers said.

Chambers said UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, coach Tom Osborne, and athletic director Bob Devaney all support the bill.

Abboud said UNL officials have no other choice.

"They're dealing with members of the Legislature and the Legislature sets their budget," Abboud said.

Regents consider raising tuition and salaries

By Amy Edwards
and Lee Rood
Senior Reporters

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students may have to fork out \$48.50 per credit hour in tuition next semester if the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approves a proposal for faculty pay raises.

Student tuition rates will be discussed Saturday at the regents' meeting at 8 a.m. in Varner Hall.

Joe Rowson, NU director of public

affairs, said the regents also will be asked to approve guidelines for salary increases at NU.

Guidelines include allocating money for salaries, adjusting tuition rates and awarding salary increases on the basis of performance.

The proposed salary allocations include an increase in tuition for each campus of 4 percent of the salary base for both faculty and non-faculty, and distribution of the balance. Rowson said distribution of salary increases will be discussed at the regents' June

meeting.

The total proposal calls for an 8.5 percent tuition increase.

Earlier, regents had proposed a 6.5 percent tuition increase to help finance faculty salary increases. The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee suggested raising that by 2 percent.

The proposed tuition increase for undergraduate and graduate students at UNL is 8.4 percent.

Jeff Petersen, president of the Association of Students of the Uni-

versity of Nebraska, said the \$3.75 hike from last year will help pay UNL faculty and staff members better.

Petersen, also a non-voting student regent, said if the proposal is passed, students will pay 16 percent of a \$10.7 million total increase in UNL staff salary enhancement dollars.

"I don't think students were unfairly burdened in comparison to the state," Petersen said.

Students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the NU Medical Center will also see an increase next

year if the proposal is passed.

According to the plan, UNO undergraduates will pay 5.6 percent more next semester for tuition, in exchange for \$2,715,190 in pay increases.

UNMC undergraduates will have a tuition increase similar to UNL, but professional students in the dentistry, medicine and pharmacy colleges will see the highest tuition increase.

Eugene Merchant, associate chan-

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Higgins successful

Senator wants 'to make a point' on bill

By Anne Mohri
Senior Reporter

Sen. Marge Higgins of Omaha said she won't know until next year whether her more than five-hour filibuster Thursday accomplished what she wanted.

Higgins said she hopes the filibuster at the Nebraska Legislature will influence next year's legislators.

"I want to make a point that will stick and last until next year," she said.

Higgins added 15 amendments to LB855, a bill that would exempt insurance companies with annuity contracts from taxation. All 15 amendments failed and LB855 was passed 39-2.

Under the bill, the insurance companies would be required to pay an assessment fee of \$215,000 a year for the next three years. After three years, the insurance companies would not pay taxes on premiums.

There are three Nebraska-based annuity insurance companies, Higgins said. By passing LB855, Higgins said, other insurance companies and industries would threaten and blackmail the Legislature in

expectation of receiving the same type of tax break.

By exempting insurance companies from taxation, Nebraskans would be forced to pay their taxes, she said.

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said he supports the bill. Insurance companies in Nebraska were paying several million in taxes, while the state only collected about two hundred thousand a year under the old system, he said.

The bill adjusts the taxing system so that the companies don't have to pay millions, he said.

And, Wesely said, "We (Nebraska) didn't really lose anything. We should come out better" under the bill.

Wesely said he supports Higgins right to filibuster.

"It took a lot of time and we don't have a lot of time," Wesely said. "But I never begrudge anyone the opportunity to express themselves."

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion also supported the bill, saying it was the only fair thing to do. The old system was punishing insurance companies for locating in Nebraska, he said.

Ninety fourth grade students



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Omaha Sen. Marge Higgins waves to 90 fourth-graders from Field Club Elementary School in Omaha during her filibuster Wednesday afternoon.

from Field Club Elementary School in Omaha visited the Legislature Thursday.

Higgins defined filibuster to the

students and explained what LB855 was and how it would effect their parents and their futures.

She said the three Nebraska-

based insurance companies "live here in this state like bloodsuckers letting the rest of us pay their taxes, pay to educate their children . . ."

Team touring city as possible Special Olympics site

By Lee Rood
Senior Reporter

Summer Special Olympics officials will be touring Lincoln today, visiting sports and housing facilities to see if the city would be an appropriate site for its 1991 games.

Members of the International Summer Special Olympics Games Site Visitation Board of Directors are considering Lincoln as one of six possible sites for the games, said Deane Finnegan, administrative assistant to Mayor Bill Harris.

She said other cities being considered are Orlando, Fla.; Nashville, Tenn.; Providence,

R.I.; Minneapolis; and Chicago.

Harris went to the Lincoln Municipal Airport Thursday night to welcome the team.

Members of the team will have the opportunity to compare some of Lincoln's hotels, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus and its sports complexes, parks and residence halls for the event.

In the Summer Special Olympics, mentally retarded persons from around the world compete in volleyball, soccer, basketball and other events. Contestants must be older than 8.

Finnegan said the team will be checking to see if Lincoln has adequate accommodations for the international event.

"They just want to make sure we have the facilities to handle the over 8,000 coaches and athletes expected," she said.

Finnegan said the team also will be looking at State Fair Park to build an Olympic town for entertainment during the games.

Most of the housing would be in UNL residence halls, but some of the participants would stay at Nebraska Wesleyan University and other places, Finnegan said.

Finnegan said everyone in the mayor's office is confident Lincoln can accommodate the event, despite the competition with larger cities.

Lincoln offers a warmth that some of the

larger cities may lack, Finnegan said.

If the team makes a decision to schedule the games in Lincoln, it would benefit the city's economy and community, she said. The team is expected to make a decision sometime in late June.

The Summer Special Olympics last year in South Bend, Ind., brought more than \$35 million to the city, she said.

Lincoln could use a similar economic boost, she said. But there would be more important benefits, too.

"It would be a chance for the world to see that people with mental retardation are doing great things," she said.