

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER: Monday, mostly sunny, high in upper 40s with W winds at 10-20 mph. Monday night, clear skies, low around 20. Tuesday, sunny and mild conditions with high around 50.

INDEX

News Digest 2
Editorial 4
Sports 10
Arts & Entertainment 15
Classifieds 19

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Student regents get to vote, unofficially

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

Saturday was an "exciting day" for University of Nebraska students after the NU Board of Regents voted to give its student members an unofficial vote, Student Regent Jeff Petersen said.

"This is one of the best things to happen to students in a long time as far as gaining status and representation at the university," said Petersen, who is also president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

The Board voted 5-3 to give the three student regents the opportunity to formally state their positions on matters voted on by the board. The students' votes will be recorded in the board's minutes, but will not be counted when voting results are tallied.

The student regent vote will be in effect on a trial basis for one year. The board will re-examine the issue at its December meeting and decide whether to make the vote permanent.

Student Regents Joe Anderson of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Paula Effle of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Petersen agreed that the trial-period stipulation helped in getting the resolution passed.

"I think it was a good compromise to get this going," Petersen said. "It will also put more pressure on the student regents, because if we don't

act responsibly, we'll lose the vote."

The student regents also agreed that having their votes recorded will increase their accountability to their student bodies. The student regents must thoroughly study issues facing the board and be aware of what's going on, Petersen said, so they can justify their positions on issues to the students.

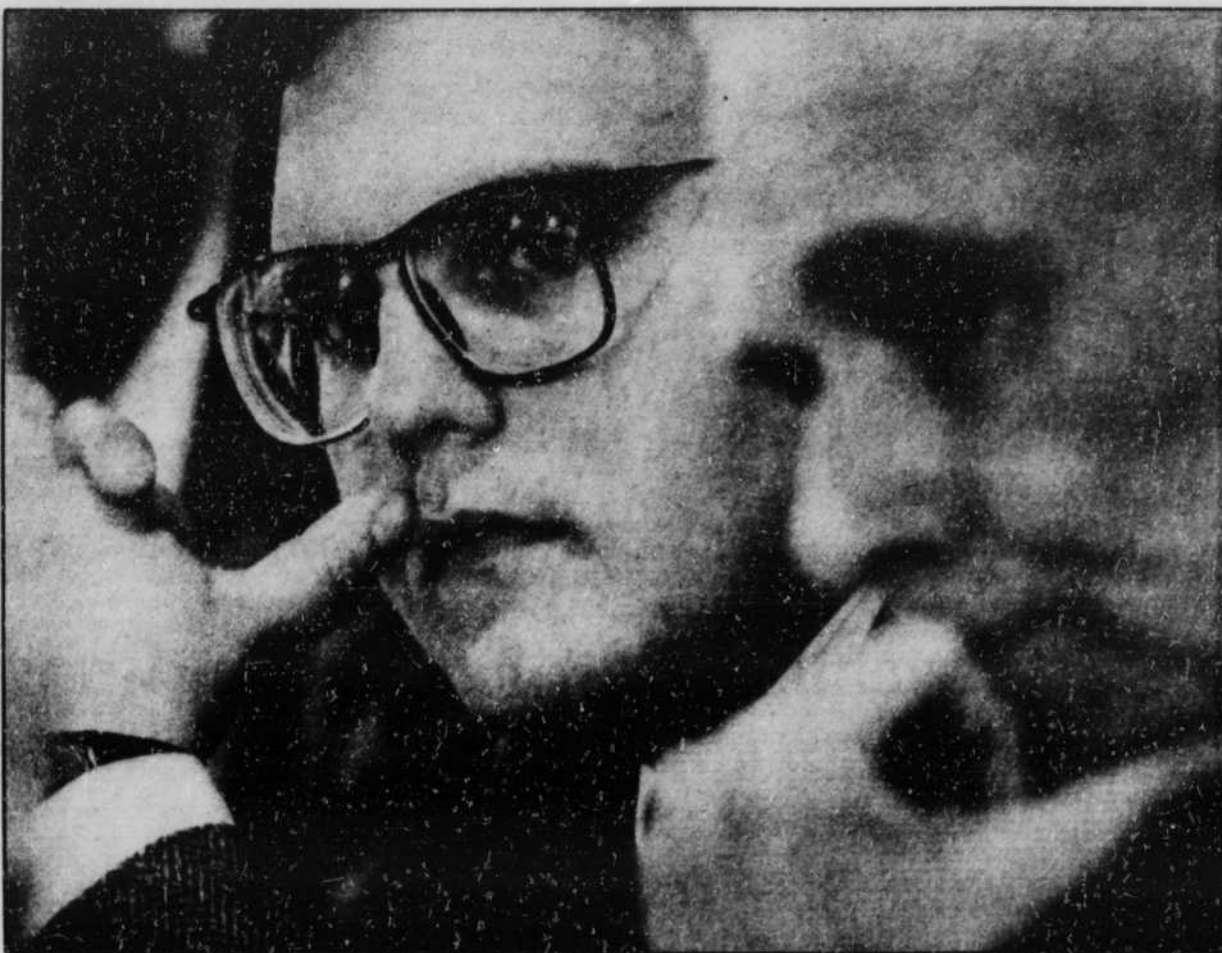
Regent Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City, who was appointed as chairperson of the board at Saturday's meeting, said she supports the student vote as a way to resolve the concerns student regents have of being more accountable.

"This is something positive," Hoch said. "It is important they (student regents) have that input."

Regents Margaret Robinson of Norfolk, John Payne of Kearney and Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha voted against the resolution.

Robinson said the students always have had the opportunity to take board agendas to their own student government meetings and let students know their opinions on issues. This accomplishes more than keeping a record of a non-voting opinion, she said.

Payne said student regents always have had ample time to express their opinions on controversial subjects. Ninety percent of the board's voting is on routine matters, he said, which do not necessitate recording student



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

ASUN President Jeff Petersen listens to a discussion during Saturday's NU Board of Regents meeting.

See REGENTS on 8

Regents approve buying computer equipment

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents approved Saturday the purchase of about \$1.6 million worth of computer equipment to increase the capacity for university administrative needs.

The board voted to purchase a used mainframe computer system from Comdisco, Inc. to replace the existing central processor. The board also voted to purchase two IBM disk controllers and an IBM disk storage unit for \$438,208.

Saturday's vote ended a three-month delay in the decision to purchase the equipment. The board reviewed recommendations for the purchase in October, but later decided to delay action so it could receive bids from more ven-

dors.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn said the board's main concern is that current general registration and drop/add activities will have as much computing capacity as possible. Accounting, purchasing and other business administrative offices have helped by delaying their computing work, he said.

Wilfred Schutz, assistant vice president and director of university-wide computing, reported that registration is running smoothly and processing is at an acceptable speed.

Ron Lockard, president of the Lincoln Independent Business Association, commended the board for deciding to wait to accept more bids. He said that although his previous comments to the press had questioned the bidding process, IBM itself "hasn't done anything wrong."

Hansen asked Lockard if he felt the univer-

sity had taken part in bid rigging and a lockout of suppliers. Lockard replied that the perception of the public seemed to suggest that.

Lockard said his concern was that the bids could have been written without specifying the IBM brand name and model numbers.

Hansen said he took "strong personal issue" with Lockard's comments in a Jan. 9 Omaha World-Herald article, saying the comments suggested the board was "a party to and supporting fraud." Hansen then demanded a retraction.

Lockard said Hansen had misinterpreted his comments, saying the regents had instead stopped any fraudulent action by keeping the bidding period open longer. He apologized for any personal offense Hansen had taken, but refused a retraction.

In other action, the board approved 5-3 an

amendment by Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk to move student record keeping back to the campuses. Student records are currently kept on the central computer at Central Administration.

Robinson said she introduced the amendment because of complaints she had received about delays in getting information from student records for financial aid and other purposes.

State Sen Don Wesely spoke to the board on increasing UNL's involvement in Nebraska's economic development.

Stanley Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, gave a presentation on the college's engineering research centers and their role in industrial development in Nebraska.

'Dem bones being identified at Morrill Hall

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
Staff Reporter

A 10 million-year-old camel ankle bone, half of an ancient bison skull and the tooth of a Tit-mothens were among the discoveries identified at the "Bring Your Skeletons Out of the Closet" program Sunday at Morrill Hall.

About 400 people from across Nebraska brought in bones, shells and teeth for UNL scientists to identify during the afternoon program, part of the museum's Sunday Afternoon with a Scientist series.

Michael Voorhies, curator of vertebrate paleontology, said the primary reason for the program is to help people identify fossils they have found.

"People usually bring in grocery bags full of stuff," Voorhies said. "I really get a kick out of it."

See SKELETON on 3



David Franz/Daily Nebraskan

Gregory Brown identified a bone for Jack Soukup of Eagle at the Bring the Skeletons Out of the Closet program at Morrill Hall Sunday afternoon. Soukup brought in many bones found in a creek near Linwood. About 400 people attended the event.

Athletic officials to analyze effect of new tax law

By David G. Young
Staff Reporter

A change from the 1988 tax laws could have a significant effect on donations to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Athletic Department, according to Richard Wood, NU vice president and general counsel.

The provisions of the tax bill passed by Congress in November change the deductibility of athletic department donations, Wood said. Under the new law, donations which are in any way tied to obtaining athletic tickets will be only 80 percent deductible, he said.

Keith Miles, legal council for the NU Foundation, said the previous law, passed in 1986, allowed the Internal Revenue Service to take into account the monetary value of ticket purchasing rights. This appraised value would not be tax exempt, he said.

For example, under the old law, a donor could give \$1,000 to an athletic program, only to have the IRS deter-

See BILL on 8