

# Daily Nebraskan

Friday

WEATHER:

Friday, sunny with highs in 40s, W winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, cloudy with low about 5 above zero. Saturday, mostly sunny with highs 25-30. Sunday and Monday, highs around 30, lows in teens. Tuesday, highs around 20.

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## Bill to help finance college tuition advances

By Chris Carroll  
Senior Editor

The Nebraska Legislature advanced a bill Thursday that would provide an incentive to Nebraskans who save money for a young person's college education.

### Legislature NEBRASKA

Under LB140, Nebraskans could set aside up to \$2,000 a year for an individual's education without having to pay state taxes on that money.

Those taking advantage of the plan could invest or save the money, as long as they place it in a federally insured financial institution.

An individual saving \$900 in a year with an adjusted gross income of \$15,000 would save

about \$28.35 in Nebraska taxes, according to statistics compiled by the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

The bill, also known as the Nebraska College Savings Plan Act, states that money accumulated under the act would be available to students once they enroll full-time in a degree-obtaining program within the state of Nebraska. Full-time is defined in the bill as meeting 75 percent of the institution's full-time enrollment requirements for undergraduate students and meeting 50 percent of graduate enrollment requirements.

Students could use this money to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies at private, state or technical colleges in Nebraska. Tuition, housing and small equipment expenses are included in the bill.

Students who want to attend a college outside of the state would be charged a 10 percent

penalty and have to pay taxes on money in the account. The same penalties would apply if the money was used for something other than pursuing an education.

Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha, one of the bill's sponsors, said the rising costs of higher education justify the College Savings Plan.

Tuition at state colleges rose an average of 114 percent since 1978, Chizek said. The cost of a University of Nebraska education has increased 130 percent, he said.

In 1978, University of Nebraska-Lincoln students paid \$22.50 per credit hour. By 1988 the cost had jumped to \$48.50.

Nebraskans in the middle-income bracket cannot always afford to pay higher education costs in lump sums, Chizek said. The bill would encourage long-term saving, he said.

Chizek said the average Federal Adjusted

Gross Income for 75 percent of the state's residents is under \$30,000.

During discussion of the bill, Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said he supports the bill, but is concerned that state revenue lost through tax breaks might decrease the \$4 million need-based aid provided to state colleges and universities.

Sen. Gerald Conway of Wayne, another sponsor of the bill, said there is plenty of need-based aid available, and that the bill addresses the plight of middle-income Nebraskans who may not qualify for need-based aid.

Sen. Owen Elmer of Indianola said the bill is "... worth the small investment the state might have."

Twenty-five senators supported advancing the bill from the general file and two were opposed.

## Commission's abrupt action prompts exec's investigation

By Eric Pfanner  
Staff Reporter

The Electoral Commission's decision Thursday on the number and location of polling sites for student government elections has sparked an investigation into the commission's handling of the situation.

Jeff Petersen, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said he is disappointed by the commission's decision and the manner in which it was made. He said he is investigating the proceedings.

The commission unanimously approved a proposal by Bill Meredith, commission member and chairman of the human development and family department, to locate polls at the Nebraska unions, Cook Pavilion, Hamilton Hall, and the Lutheran Center at 535 N. 16th St.

By passing Meredith's proposal, the commission ignored a resolution made by ASUN in January encouraging the commission to place a polling site at the Harper/Schramm/Smith food service building. Members of the Residence Hall Association had proposed the food service site to ASUN senators.

"I was a little surprised at the abruptness of the proceedings tonight," Petersen said. "Particularly in light of the fact that the RHA proposal was not even mentioned."

Nate Geisert, ASUN first vice president and electoral commission member, said he thought all the commission members were aware of the RHA proposal.

"I didn't have anything to say on it," he said. "Everybody (on the commission) was at the ASUN debate." Larry Koubsky, RHA president, said no RHA members expected the commission to approve the Harper/Schramm/Smith polling site. "I knew they (commission members) had already made their decision before the meeting," he said.

Marc Shkolnick, RHA vice president, said he was "a little upset" by the electoral commission's decision. "(A polling site at) Harper/Schramm/Smith would be symbolically a great move for greek/residence hall relations," he said.

Koubsky said he was happy with the increase in the number of polling sites. The Cook Pavilion site is a good one, he said, although RHA would

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## Blank to propose task force to study post-secondary changes

By Lisa Twiestmeyer  
Staff Reporter

and Larry Peirce  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska Regent Donald Blank of McCook is adding a new chapter to the continuing story of the future of Nebraska's post-secondary institutions.

Blank will introduce a resolution at the NU Board of Regents meeting Saturday proposing that Gov. Kay Orr appoint a special task force to study the idea of reorganization or name changes for the state's post-secondary institutions.

The resolution proposes that the task force study and recommend whether structural or curriculum changes in the University of Nebraska, the state colleges and the technical colleges are desirable to better serve students.

The task force also would study the financial ramifications of such changes, how the post-secondary system can be coordinated and what system is best so Nebraska can be economically competitive.

Blank proposes that the task force include representatives from the university, state colleges, technical community colleges and the legislative and executive branches of state government. The task force would submit its recommendations by

Dec. 15, 1989.

If the resolution is passed, any legislation introduced in the Legislature this year concerning the issue would be deferred until the 1990 session when legislators could consider the task force findings.

Blank said he thinks nine to 10 months should be enough time for the task force because the issue has been discussed and studied a lot already.

"I don't think we need a full-blown study," he said. "This should be enough time for them to take a good look at what direction we're going and report to the Legislature."

Blank said he is introducing the resolution because there are so many variables involved in restructuring the university system. If Kearney State College entered the university system, he said, it could have many different effects on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the other state colleges.

For example, he said, if Kearney becomes part of the university, 50,000 of Nebraska's post-secondary students would be under one system. It wouldn't make sense to leave the 9,000-10,000 students from the other state colleges out of the system, he said. This is the type of thing the task force needs to look at, he said.

Blank said the task force also

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Duk-Choong Kim

David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

## Kim discusses economic cooperation

By Brandon Loomis  
Senior Reporter

A growing global tension-easing trend could lead to increased economic cooperation between East and West, said Duk-Choong Kim, who some call the "Henry Kissinger of Korea."

Kim, a prominent South Korean businessman, professor and economic adviser, spoke to an audience of about 300 people in the Nebraska Union Thursday as part of the Cooper-UNL Forum on World Affairs series.

Kim addressed the topic: "U.S.-East Asian Trade Issues from an East Asian Perspective."

"No longer is ideology a dividing line," he said, maintaining that the political openness established between former President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will influence the world economy.

"It's a brand new ball game," he said.

Now that the United States is not so preoccupied with containing communism, Kim said, the world can concentrate on economic problems.

He said communist nations are beginning to realize that having some private enterprise is the key to meeting the basic demands of their citizens. In the future, communists

probably will incorporate more aspects of a capitalist system, Kim said.

"They're sending a white flag saying, 'we failed to meet the basic demands of the people.'"

Kim said the new political climate also has helped the economy of South Korea. Although South Korea was never communist, its system in the past has been less than sympathetic to U.S. demands for human rights and a democratic government, he said.

Until recent years, South Korean laborers could not organize and strike. But strikes for higher wages are now common, having reached an all-time high in November 1987.

"We had 3,000 organized labor strikes in one month," Kim said. "We are changing to meet your criteria."

In 1960, the per capita yearly income in South Korea was \$80, he said. Now it is about \$5,000.

"I'd like to see it at \$10,000 before I die," Kim said.

Before last year, South Korea's president was chosen by an elite electorate of 5,000, he said. Last year that was expanded to 25 million.

Kim said the prospects for reunification of North and South Korea are slim so long as there is no formal peace treaty between them.

He did say, however, that economic cooperation between the two countries is a "definite possibility."

"The North needs our expertise," he said.

In the next century, the United States will have to cooperate economically with East Asian countries to maintain economic power.

"The center of economic activity in the 21st century definitely will be in Asia," Kim said.

One example of Asia's growing economic dominance is that South Korea went from being one of the world's four biggest debtor nations to having a trade surplus of \$14 billion last year.

Kim said the United States should have an open trade agreement with South Korea like the new agreement with Canada. Korea is opening up its market to American products, he said.

Currently, South Korea's market is open to about 95 percent of American products, he said.

Kim said he was surprised and pleased to see so many people in Nebraska interested in U.S.-Asian trade. He said he prepared his speech thinking he would deliver it to about 38 people, because "in the middle of nowhere, why are they interested in international affairs?"