

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

WEATHER

Wednesday, high 30, N winds 5-15 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy with flurries, low 20. Thursday, cloudy with flurries, high 25. Friday through Sunday, snow on Saturday, highs in 30s, low 10-15.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Motorcycle helmet controversy develops new life in Legislature

By Jana Pedersen
 Staff Reporter

The debate over helmet requirements for motorcyclists gained new life Tuesday in the Transportation Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

The committee heard testimony on LB690, a bill that would limit helmet requirements to motorcyclists under age 19.

Last year the Legislature passed a bill, which made helmets mandatory for all motorcyclists. That bill went into effect Jan. 1.

Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg, co-sponsor of LB690, called this year's bill a "compromise."

The voting on last year's bill was close, and the issue deserves another chance, he said.

Terry Schultz, president of the Nebraska Motorcyclist's Association, said most of the members in the association are against any form of helmet legislation.

But they would be willing to compromise in support of LB690, she said.

Angelo Bruno, fatality reporter for American Bikers Aiming Toward Education, testified in favor of LB690. He said the money used to implement the current mandatory helmet law could be better used to promote motorcycle safety awareness in Nebraska.

Schultz agreed. There were 31 motorcycle fatalities in Nebraska in 1987 and only 19 in 1988, she said.

This decrease was due to increased public awareness concerning motorcycle safety, not a mandatory helmet law, she said.

But Moore said the bill does not deal with whether helmet use saves lives.

The more important issue is personal freedom, he said.

Nebraska voters repealed the mandatory seatbelt law, he said, because it was an infringement on per-

sonal freedom.

The mandatory helmet law is similar to the seatbelt law, he said, because it also infringes on personal freedom.

Jeanne Albers, the director of Quality Living, Inc., who spoke in opposition to the bill, said the current mandatory helmet law is not an infringement of personal freedom.

Albers compared the helmet law to restrictions on smoking.

Smokers can still smoke, she said, but only responsibly, in designated areas. Under the mandatory helmet law, she said, motorcyclists can still ride, but only responsibly, with helmets on.

Another opponent, Leo Wilberding, whose son was killed in a motorcycle accident, said motorcyclists want to have the right to take risks, but that does not give them the right to hurt other people who are affected by their deaths or head injuries

See HELMET on 3

Undeclared enrollment up 15 percent

By Theresa Sindelar
 Staff Reporter

Because students are waiting longer to decide their majors, the number of undeclared students has jumped more than 15 percent, according to Donald Gregory, director of General Studies.

"Our department has the second-highest number of enrolled students this spring," Gregory said. "This is our highest enrollment ever, usually we are 3rd behind the College of Arts and Science and the College of Business."

Since this is the second year the General Studies department has been in existence, Gregory said it is hard to

gather statistics from previous years.

Gregory said a major reason students are waiting longer is to explore all options.

"The increase has occurred this year because it takes a while to hear that the General Studies department is a place for good advising," he said.

"Universities across the nation are recognizing that students are taking longer to decide on majors and are guiding those students accordingly," he said.

High school counselors are not advising students any differently, he said, they are continuing to take basic courses to keep options open.

"We have enough advisers to deal

with the rising number of students in the department," Gregory said. "If all the students came in at once, we would have a problem, but a lot of students don't come in at all," he said.

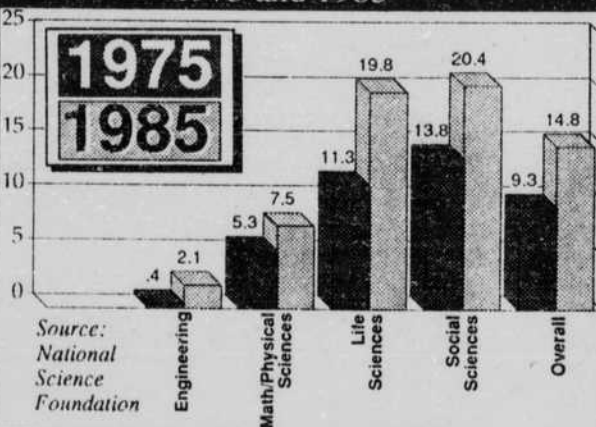
There is the expected rush of students during registration, but the remainder of the time, advisers are available right away or by appointment, he said.

"In the future, we plan to expand the department, but it's not on the immediate horizon," he said.

Gregory said it is best for students to choose a major during their sophomore year, but it is not necessary.

"If they wait much longer, choices begin to narrow," he said.

Percent Women on Faculty in Broad Fields 1975 and 1985



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Report predicts nationwide engineering faculty shortage

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
 Staff Reporter

More women and minorities must pursue advanced degrees in engineering in order to curb a nationwide engineering faculty shortage predicted for the 1990s, according to a report on replacing engineering faculty.



The report, prepared for a national task force of engineering deans, indicates that fewer students are pursuing advanced degrees in engineering than in previous years. Women and minorities make up an extremely small percentage of engineering degree candidates, and more must be recruited to make up for the decrease.

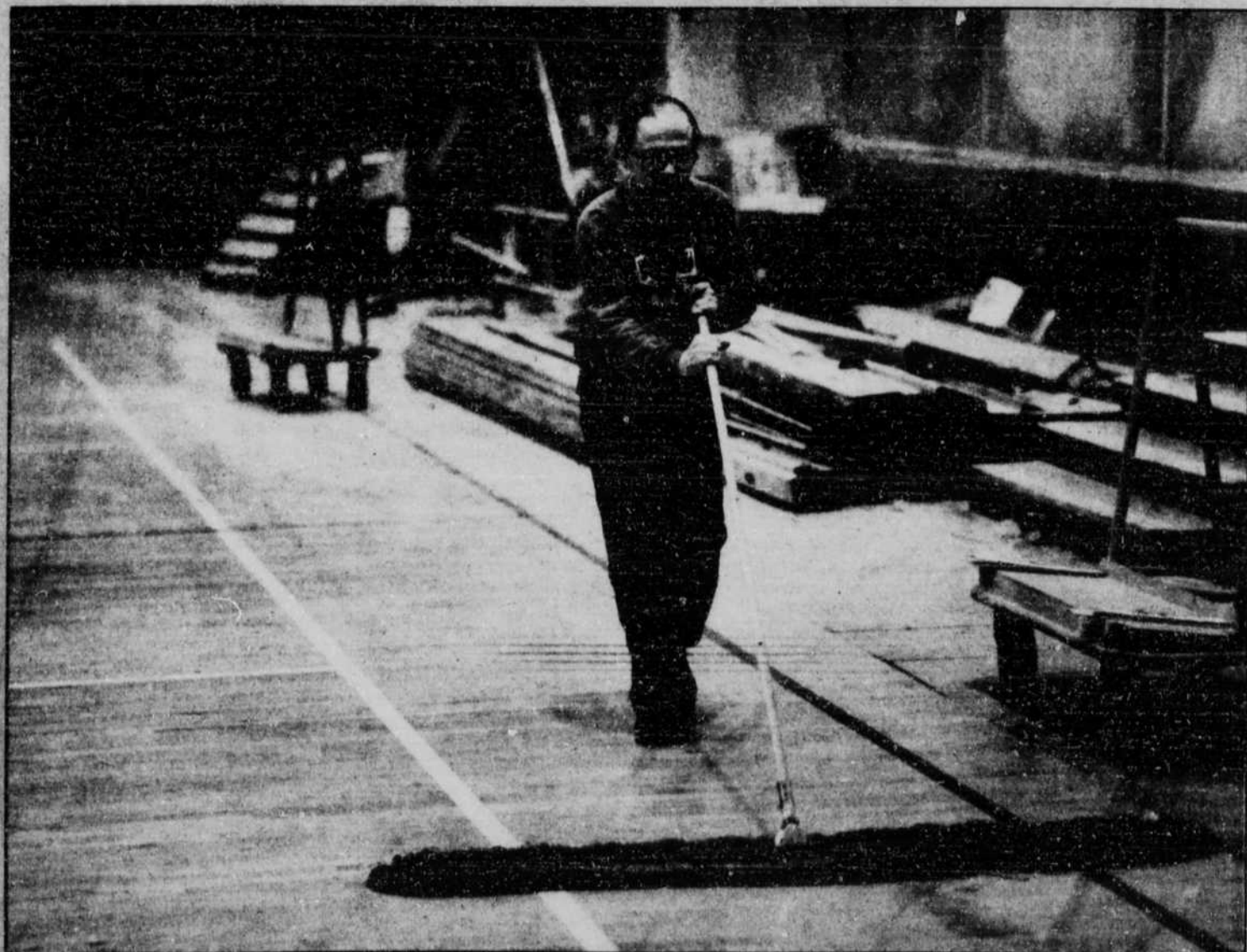
Stan Liberty, engineering dean at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, served on the task force in January to study the problem of engineering faculty shortages.

The task force found that colleges must recruit more women for undergraduate engineering degrees so they can help fill the pool of available faculty in the future, he said.

Liberty said women make up 15 percent of students receiving undergraduate engineering degrees nationally, and the percentage earning advanced degrees is lower. Women currently make up 3.4 percent of all engineering faculty, the report states.

Minority students make up an even smaller amount. The report indicates that the number of non-Asian American minorities preparing for engineering faculty careers is "minuscule." Blacks currently account for less than 1 percent of engineering faculty, the report indicates.

See FACULTY on 3



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Clean sweep

NU Coliseum custodian Dave Hoffman sweeps up dust left from the on-going construction work there.

Security becomes an issue as thousands flood Lincoln for basketball tournaments

Chris Carroll
 Senior Editor

Security will be tightened this weekend and next on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus in anticipation of the Girls' and Boys' State Basketball Tournaments, said Lt. Ken Cauble of the UNL Police Department.

Although many fans come to enjoy the games, Cauble said, inevitably individuals with other motives come to Lincoln during the tournaments, not necessarily to watch the games.

Up to 40,000 additional people are expected in Lincoln during the tournaments, Cauble said.

Individuals interested in committing larcenies and burglaries see state tournaments as an opportunity to blend in with the crowd, Cauble said.

People stopped in the residence halls and greek houses can easily say they are visiting friends or relatives, Cauble said. Although many people will be legitimate visitors, Cauble said, some may not.

It is important to keep all dormitory rooms locked, he said. Members of greek houses should make sure that all individuals that claim to be visitors, really are, Cauble said.

He said individuals posing as visitors could easily walk off with a color television set.

Vehicles also should be locked and all valuables removed or placed in the trunk, Cauble said.

The UNL Police Department will increase foot patrols and checks on the residence halls over the weekend. Cauble said officers also will be present at all games at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Girls' State runs from March 2 through 4 and Boys' State runs from March 9 through 11.