

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

WEATHER

Tuesday, high 50-55, NW winds 15-30 mph. Tuesday night, fair and cooler with lows in 30s. Wednesday, sunny with highs in mid to upper 50s. Thursday through Saturday, cooler with chance of rain or snow Thursday, a dry and slowly warming trend Friday and Saturday.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Nebraska Legislature advances drug bill

By Jerry Guenther
and Natalie Weinstein
Staff Reporters

The Nebraska Legislature gave second-round approval Monday to a bill that some senators called "a step in the right direction" in solving statewide crack and cocaine problems.

Legislature

State senators voted 27-10 in favor of LB592, a bill placing mandatory three- and five-year prison sentences on crack and cocaine dealers.

Sen. Chris Abboud of Omaha, a co-sponsor of the bill, said the bill is

worth passing even though it does not solve Nebraska's drug problems. LB592 will send a message to drug dealers that "Nebraska is not open for the business of the sale of cocaine and crack," he said.

Sens. Ernie Chambers of Omaha and Loran Schmit of Bellwood, who both opposed the bill in first-round debate two weeks ago, continued their efforts to delay action on the bill.

Chambers made an unsuccessful motion to indefinitely postpone the bill. Later, Schmit made an unsuccessful motion to delay debate on the bill until April 17.

Chambers says LB592 does nothing because judges already have discretion when deciding the length of

prison terms. In previous debate, Chambers called LB592 a "politician's bill." He said some senators endorse the bill to make them look like drug fighters.

'Pass the bill, wash your hands, and feel good. And you haven't done anything.'

--Chambers

"Pass the bill, wash your hands and feel good," Chambers said

Monday. "And you haven't done anything."

In his closing remarks to indefinitely postpone the bill, Chambers accused the senators of being cowards.

"I know it will take more political stomach than the body has to kill this bill," he said.

Schmit also said the bill is ineffective but politically appealing. If the bill gets final approval, he said, senators will be able to tell their constituents "we got tough on drugs."

"Hell, we did nothing, folks," Schmit said.

Schmit said he wanted to delay debate on the bill to give senators more time to consider other alternatives.

Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg, a co-sponsor of the bill, said he agrees with Chambers that sometimes senators do "oversell" bills. But passing the drug bill would not make drug problems any worse, he said.

By not passing the bill, Moore said, it would be as though "we are throwing up our arms" and saying the problem is so big that it cannot be solved.

Other senators agreed that the bill would not solve the problem entirely but was still worthy of becoming law.

Sen. Carol McBride Pirsch of Omaha said senators need to pass the LB592 because an all-encompassing drug bill could not pass anyway.

See DRUGS on 3

Fraternities are dropping little sisters

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

Problems with liability, pressure from national chapters and increased costs have caused many national fraternities to drop their little sister programs.

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the trend to cut little sister programs is slower but still growing, said Jayne Wade Anderson, director of greek affairs.

Half of UNL's 28 fraternities have little sister programs. Several have dropped the programs in the past few years.

Kevin Yost, Interfraternity Council president, said pressure from national fraternities is the biggest reason programs are being cut.

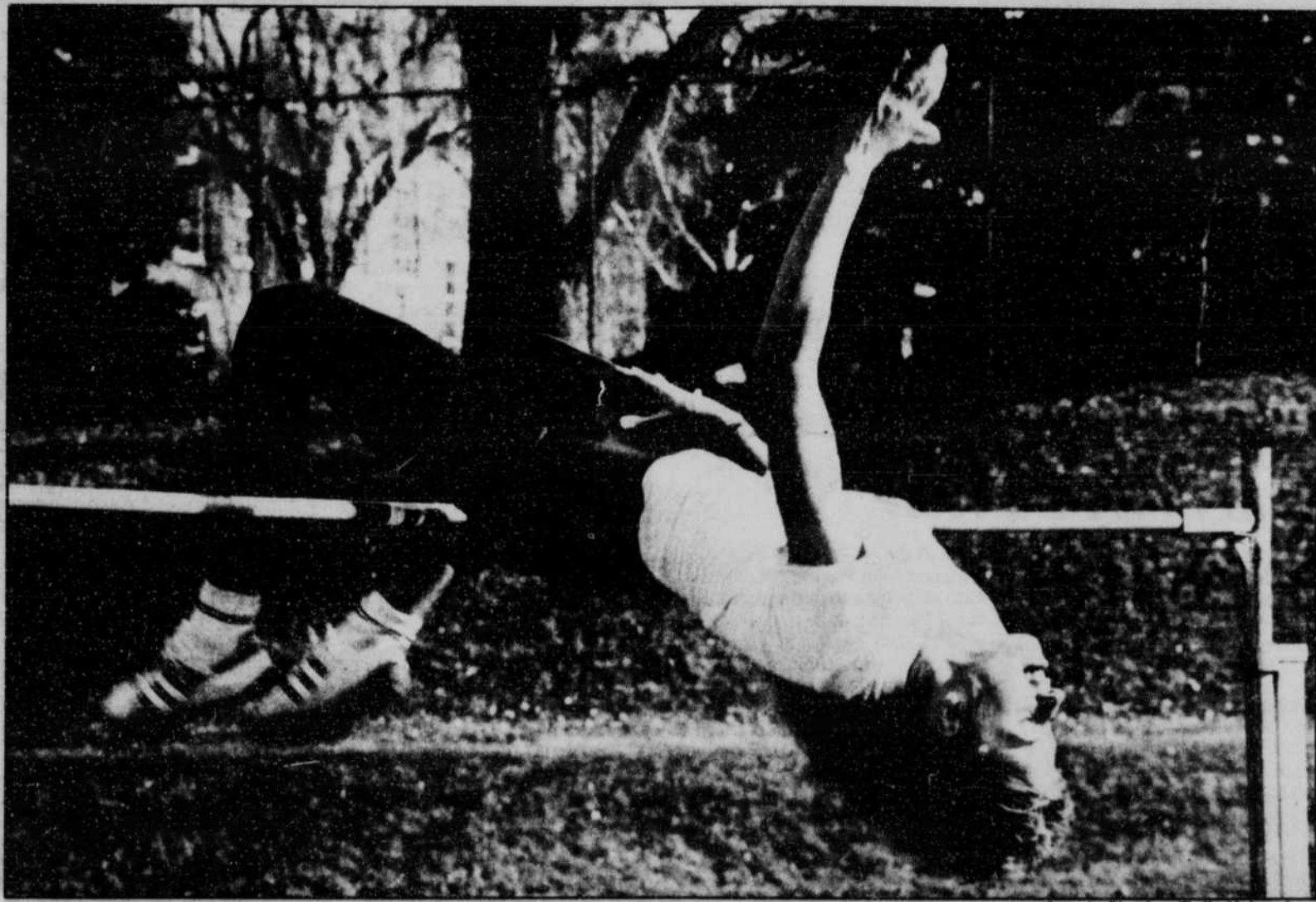
The national chapter of Alpha Tau Omega has recently passed a resolution denouncing little sister programs as "second class membership for women."

By the ATO resolution's definition, Anderson said, little sister programs could cause problems with the way fraternities are recognized at UNL.

Fraternities are the only UNL organizations recognized as men-only groups, she said.

Counting little sisters as "second class" fraternity members creates inconsistency in fraternity recognition, Anderson said.

See SISTERS on 3



Bar hopping

Kelly Cox, a redshirt with the Nebraska track and field team, works on her high jumping form Monday at Ed Weir Stadium.

Connie Sheehan/Daily Nebraskan

Sports overemphasized, restrictions needed, poll says

By Eric Pfanner
Staff Reporter

According to a national poll conducted by Media General and The Associated Press, a majority of Americans favor tightening restrictions on student athletes at top sports colleges.

Two-thirds of the 1,108 poll respondents said the schools overemphasize sports and neglect academic standards for athletes.

Tightening standards is "a good thing," said Ellen Baird, University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"If you don't have good standards, you are failing the athlete," she said.

Baird said people opposed to tightening NCAA standards argue that college athletics provide a way out of poverty for athletes. But the percentage of college athletes who go on from college to play professional sports is "tiny," she said.

Therefore, she said, "The way to

get people into the system (to have a productive life) is a quality education -- and athletes are as deserving as others."

Responses to the poll were divided into several groups. Seventy-seven percent of those 65 and older, 61 percent of those between 18 and 29 and 52 percent of black respondents said the schools overemphasize sports, the AP reported.

But Baird said the poll results deal with the public's perceptions, not facts, and therefore may not give an accurate picture of the emphasis on sports at universities.

Baird said she doesn't think sports are emphasized at the expense of academics at UNL.

"I don't think UNL overemphasizes sports," she said, "but there is a tremendous premium on sports in the Lincoln area."

Since the media in the Lincoln area focus on UNL sports, it may appear that UNL sports are overemphasized, she said.

But it is important to "distinguish

Nee says standards unrealistic in Prop. 42

By Eric Pfanner
Staff Reporter

Responding to the results of a recent media poll, UNL basketball coach Danny Nee said he is against the NCAA's Proposition 42 because the rule bases decisions regarding an athlete's eligibility on unrealistic standards.

More than eight in 10 respondents to an Associated Press/Media General poll favored Proposition 42, which stiffens current scholarship eligibility requirements for student athletes.

Nee said that under Proposition 42 colleges would use different criteria when rewarding athletic

scholarships than they do when admitting student non-athletes to a university.

Under Proposition 42, student athletes must meet the academic standards in the present rule, Proposition 48, to be eligible for athletic scholarships.

The results of the survey are not surprising, Nee said, since most people do not understand the facts regarding Propositions 42 and 48.

Standardized tests and high school grades should not be the most important determining factors in judging an athlete's academic ability, Nee said.

Nee said that once given a chance in college, some students who did poorly in high school

show improvement. He cited two UNL athletes admitted under Proposition 48 who currently have grade point averages of 3.4 and 2.7.

Under Proposition 42, student athletes who do not achieve scores of 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or 15 on the American College Test and do not have a 2.0 grade point average in 11 high school core courses would be denied athletic scholarships.

Proposition 48 requires that athletes meet only part of the same academic standards to receive scholarships. Partial qualifiers must sit out their freshman season, and are eligible for only three years of play.

the university from the larger community," she said.

Baird said the university administration promotes UNL "as a

whole."

"Sports are important, but in perspective," she said.

Half of the people surveyed in the

poll said they think professors commonly give athletes higher grades

See POLL on 3