

# Daily Nebraskan

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## UNL ethanol car gets more praise

By **Jana Pedersen**  
 Staff Reporter

After a test drive by President George Bush last week, the Nebraska Corn Board's ethanol-fueled E-85 car received two more endorsements

### President lauds possibilities of 'alternative fuel'

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another with 22 percent ETBE. Bush watched a digital readout as the cars were running that showed ETBE emitted less pollution than the base fuel, Jenkins said.

Bush then test drove the E-85 Corsica with an ethanol additive in it before departing for the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Jenkins said.

Bush told a crowd of 10,859 that Lincoln is on the leading edge of alternative fuel research. Part of Bush's clean air plan is to harness technology to clean up the environment.

"Alternative fuel is going to help us reconcile the automobile to the environment," Bush said.

when it was publicly unveiled Monday in Waverly.

The endorsements came from Tom Sneva, 1983 Indy 500 winner, and David Lindahl, director of the Office of Fossil Fuels for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Sneva and Lindahl also acted in two 30-second TV commercials that will be used to promote ethanol use in Nebraska.

Lindahl said the E-85 car, which runs on a blend of 15 percent gasoline and 85 percent ethanol, is the best way to help reduce air pollution from exhaust fumes in the United States.

Sneva agreed. "(Cars are) an important factor in all of our lives," he said. "To continue to use them, we have to reduce air pollution."

Lindahl said several cities which have implemented oxygenated fuel programs using fuels like ethanol have had significant reductions in air pollution.

Pollution-level reductions in the United States could have a global impact, he said, by reducing the greenhouse effect and the probability of a global climate change.

Because ethanol is a domestic product, Lindahl said, its use also will benefit the nation's economy and allow the U.S. to stop depending on foreign nations for fuel.

The ethanol-blend fuel used in the E-85 car also will be less expensive, he said.

Lindahl said the Fossil Fuel Of-

ice's goal of selling ethanol blend for 60 cents a gallon is achievable, making it more economical than gasoline for American consumers.

The savings is complemented by the safety of ethanol. Lindahl said ethanol does not burn as easily as gasoline.

Sneva said safety is the main reason why Indy race cars run on oxygenated fuel.

Lindahl said since that switch was made in 1965, there have been no fire-related deaths in racing accidents.

The combination of a lower price, increased safety and the same miles per gallon should make ethanol blends a wise choice for car drivers, Lindahl said.

Last year, more than 8 percent of the fuel sold in the United States, almost nine billion gallons, was some form of oxygenated blend, Lindahl said. That figure is growing, he said.

Currently, there are five government-supported ethanol manufacturing plants and several independent operations, he said.

The progress being made in ethanol research today could reduce production costs by 40 percent, Lindahl said.

That research is being supported and monitored closely by the government, he said.

Lindahl said he hopes to help implement a national policy on alternative motor fuels which will help market ethanol.

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