

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

WEATHER:

Thursday, mostly sunny, hot and humid highs in the mid 90s, South winds gusting 10-20 mph. Thursday night, 20% chance of thundershowers lows in the mid 70s. Saturday and Sunday continued chance of thunderstorms highs in the mid to upper 80s.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Bill is reaction to crime

By Diane Brayton
Staff Reporter

In an effort to attract college students to the law enforcement profession, the United States Congress is considering a bill that would allow students to trade the cost of college for a pledge to join the police corps.

The purpose behind the Police Corps Act of 1989 is to "establish a national police corps program modeled after the ROTC program," said Jim Skinner, senior foreign affairs legislative adviser to Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif.

The program was developed as "a long-range solution" to an increased concern about violent crime, Skinner said.

"There clearly need to be foot soldiers for the war on drugs," he said.

The bill, if passed, would allow a maximum of 25,000 qualified students to participate yearly. The students would receive federally guaranteed loans. The government would repay up to \$40,000 of the loans once students complete four years in the state or local police department.

The bill was developed by Adam Walinsky, a New York City lawyer who has been trying get support for

the idea for about eight years, Skinner said.

Walinsky found sponsors for the bill in Dornan and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. Both staunch liberals and conservatives support the bill, Skinner said.

"There is a whole range of Democrats and Republicans climbing on board," he said.

Along with paying tuition, the bill would establish a national training center for the students.

For the first five years of the program, law enforcement officials would be eligible for the program. After the fifth year, only undergraduate or graduate students would be eligible.

Skinner said the only drawback is the project's cost. Figures for the project range from \$800 million to \$1.4 billion, Skinner said.

"If you're going to be serious about the war on drugs, you have to finance it," Skinner said.

To defray costs, an old military base may be used for the national training center, he said.

"I've yet to find a city that hasn't expressed interest," Skinner said.

Gates Minnick, chairman of the Lincoln city council, said he thinks

See COPS on 8

Debate over firing continues

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Editor

Although a statement issued recently by the regents' special attorney may have clarified the board's desire to keep quiet about the firing of NU President Ronald Roskens, it hasn't cleared the air of conflict.

Charles Wright's statement claimed that the regents and the university could be legally liable if they made "inadvertent" comments injuring Roskens' reputation and future employability.

State senators eager for an explanation of the board's action said legal liability is no reason for public officials to keep information from the community.

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion said the regents are not private people conducting their own business, and therefore are not free to hide their actions to protect themselves from lawsuits.

"I'm saying they're representatives at large doing the people's business," Withem said. "That obligation outweighs any personal concerns they might have about

liability."

The regents agreed July 31 to fire Roskens while honoring the remaining two years of his contract, including salary and benefits totaling about \$250,000.

Withem said he has spoken to Wright and has no doubt that his legal advice is sound, but public accountability is of the greatest importance in this instance.

"If they can't be accountable for their actions they ought not be in public office," he said.

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly said he doesn't believe the regents could be held liable for disclosing their reasons for the firing.

As long as the regents' statements are true, they wouldn't be liable even if Roskens' reputation was damaged, Warner said.

"I've never heard of anyone being held liable because they were accurate and precise," he said.

Wright was vacationing and unavailable for comment.

Warner said he doubts the regents have anything both damag-

ing and truthful to say.

He said he expects to pursue the issue and look for the answers but has no immediate plan of action.

Dan Meyer, a Lincoln insurance salesman and former legislative aide and lobbyist, said he will sue the regents for violating the state's open meetings law if no one else sues first.

If groups like the Nebraska Press Association don't sue it will be up to a private citizen or group of citizens, he said.

The Nebraska Open Meeting Law states that "every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking ...

The July 31 meeting was closed to the public and the media.

Meyer said he understands the concern about liability but that public accountability is more important.

"I think there is a deeper thing being ignored -- whether the regents violated the open meetings laws," he said.

National voluntary certification system to begin in 1993

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

A new national system of voluntary certification could lead to higher salaries and increased prestige for elementary and secondary teachers, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Jan Shimshock, staff associate for development and communication of the NBPTS, predicted that school boards will compete for board-certified teachers and may increase their salaries.

The new system, scheduled to begin in 1993, will have stricter requirements than standards set by states, Shimshock said.

To be eligible for certification, a teacher will need a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and at least three years of teaching experience.

Bert Alfrey, certification officer for the Teachers College at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the college does not plan to make any curriculum changes because of the new system.

"Those are voluntary things above and beyond anything the state requires," he said. "It is more for people out there in teaching. It can add status to their certification."

Alfrey said the Teachers College is reviewed every three years by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and every five years by the Nebraska Department of Education.

He said some school districts might pay more for teachers who have the board certification.

Shimshock said members of the NBPTS think board-certified teachers will be asked to take on more responsibilities within their

school districts.

"They will become 'lead teachers,' or mentors for younger teachers," he said. "They will have a say in developing curriculum and programs. With the increased responsibilities, they will probably receive increased salaries."

Shimshock said the board hopes the certification system will attract better students to the teaching profession.

He said the SAT scores of teaching students in college are lower than scores of the overall student population.

As teaching is professionalized and put on a level with law, medicine and architecture, better candidates will be attracted to the teaching field, Shimshock said.

"We're not saying that the current crop of teachers is bad or that teacher-education programs are inadequate," he said. "We are increasing professionalism in the field."

Hopefully, teacher-preparation programs will start gearing their curriculum toward board certification, he said.

Shimshock said the board now is trying to find ways to assess teacher ability.

"The licensing exams used by the states now are paper-and-pencil tests along with some classroom observation," he said.

Shimshock said the board is developing criteria to measure excellence in teaching rather than making sure the teacher meets minimum requirements in teaching ability and knowledge.

Interviews, lesson portfolios and videotapes of classes are ways the board may evaluate teachers.

"We have to be sure the teachers know their subjects and are able to convey that knowledge to students," he said.

Figures surprise officials

Enrollment rises despite tuition hike

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

Tuition increases haven't had as great an impact on enrollment at the University of Nebraska as NU officials once thought.

Despite a nearly 8 percent tuition increase, enrollment at NU increased last year, marking the end of a slight but steady enrollment decrease since the early 1980s.

While NU's enrollment was declining, enrollment at state colleges was increasing. In 1986 some university officials were concerned that enrollment changes were the start of a trend where more students would choose to attend state colleges.

At that time, officials said lower tuition costs may have been one of the reasons students decided to attend state colleges instead of NU or private institutions.

Despite concerns, NU has experienced a 1.2 percent enrollment gain since 1984, according to a report published by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

That increase was caused by last year's 3.2 percent enrollment increase, bringing the enrollment of NU's three campuses to 41,249.

During the same time period, state colleges experienced an 11.79 per-

cent gain.

Lisa Schmidt, NU director of pre-admissions activities, said state colleges had a greater enrollment increase than NU because students were interested in the location and programs offered by state colleges, not lower tuition.

"It's important for the university to be responsible about cost," she said. "Price will always be an important factor. But if (students) want to attend an institution, they'll find some way to pay for it."

NU is not competing directly with state colleges for enrollment, she said, because NU and state colleges attract different types of students.

NU's biggest competition is with other large institutions not located in Nebraska, she said.

"There's a large group of students that we compete for that are looking at a big institution, so they're either looking at the university or looking at going out of state," she said.

Schmidt said NU competes with state colleges when potential students want to live close to home.

"In parts of the state we do (compete for students with state colleges)," she said. "But for the most part, the tuition difference is so little that it's not the most important factor."

Dale Williamson, director of admissions at Chadron State College,

said that although cost was typically one of the top five survey answers given by CSC students as to why they attend the college, location and programs offered were the top two reasons.

Wayne Samuelson, associate vice president for student affairs and director of admissions at Kearney State College, agreed that location and programs offered were the most important reasons for students who choose to attend state colleges.

"Our location is a big attraction," Samuelson said. "With Omaha just down I-80 ... Omaha students make up 16 percent of our enrollment."

Another important factor is size, he said.

If Kearney State offers programs comparable to a larger institution, he said, a student leaving home for the first time may be more likely to select the college because it's smaller and less intimidating.

But students typically choose an institution with a combination of benefits they are looking for, Samuelson said.

"It's a matter of finding a fit," he said. "There's a fit for some students at some schools and not at others."

Williamson said expanded recruitment of non-traditional students also increased enrollment at state

See COLLEGE on 17



UNL sophomore band member John Kreifels displays a stern marching posture Wednesday afternoon during band camp. Although the band members appear as if they have forgotten their instruments, they are working on marching choreography for the UNL pre-game show Sept. 9.