

Daily Nebraskan

January 16, 1990

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 89 No. 79

WEATHER:		INDEX	
Tuesday, cloudy, areas of fog and drizzle in the morning becoming partly sunny by afternoon, high 45-50, southeast winds 5-15 miles per hour. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, low 30. Wednesday, partly cloudy, cooler, high 35-40.		News Digest	2
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Constitutional amendment necessary

Moore to propose official student vote

By Emily Rosenbaum
Senior Reporter

A legislative resolution to provide an official vote for a student regent on the NU Board of Regents will be introduced this week by state Sen. Scott Moore of Seward.

"The main thrust of the bill will be to make sure that the students have voting power," Moore said.

The three student representatives on the board -- from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center -- now have no official vote and "the regents can ignore students," Moore said.

Under the new proposal, the governor would appoint one of the three

student regents to serve as a voting member. The student body at each University of Nebraska branch still would elect the three student regents.

the education or government committee in February and then will be voted on by the Legislature, Moore said. If the Legislature approves the

bill will be passed this year, but he wants to ensure that legislators are aware of the need for student voting power.

Bryan Hill, UNL student regent, said the student regent vote proposal is a "realization that students need a vote to be a player."

To get students to participate in higher education government and to make the government responsive to students, they need the power of voting on the board, Hill said.

"Unless you give students a vote, the board of regents can pat the student regents on the head and try to shut them out," Moore said. "If you don't have a vote, you don't seem to count."

Proposals made by the consulting firm Widmayer and Associates don't specify whether student representa-

tives should get an official vote.

The Legislature instructed the Chicago-based consulting firm to make the proposals, which would create a new board of regents to coordinate higher education in Nebraska and lay boards of trustees for each of the three branches of the NU system and the four state colleges.

A student representative would sit on each board of trustees, but the proposals don't say whether the students would have an official vote. No student member would sit on the proposed board of regents.

"The Widmayer proposal is going to be a big change, but we don't know what's going to be the vehicle for change in higher education," Moore said. "I want to make sure the issue of student representation is discussed this year."

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Moore
state senator

To allow for a voting student regent, a constitutional amendment would have to be passed, Moore said. The proposal will be assigned to

bill and Gov. Kay Orr signs it, it will be included on the November ballot to be voted on by the public, he said. Moore said he is not certain the

Director: Money helps but isn't cure-all for minority recruitment

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

A million-dollar endowment fund for scholarships is just one step toward increasing the number of minority students recruited and retained at the university, a UNL official said.

Jimmi Smith, director of Multi-Cultural Affairs, said more money is needed to recruit and retain a minority student population at UNL that is proportionate with the state's. That is the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's goal, he said.

The university has not even begun to attract the number of minorities it needs to fill that goal, he said.

"We'll be fortunate if we're even at the halfway point," he said. "We've got to go a long way before we can even meet that minority standard."

The Nebraska Legislature on Friday advanced to the second round of debate a bill that permanently would appropriate money for the already-in-place minority scholarship program and would not allow the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to discontinue the program.

program.
A resolution equivalent to this bill was passed last year. The Legislature did not have enough time to pass the bill. The resolution appropriated \$800,000 for the minority scholarship program.

The endowment is made up of \$800,000 in state money and \$200,000 in private donations. The interest from the money is used for the scholarships.

Although money is an issue in recruiting minorities, Smith said, it's not the only issue.

A different kind of recruiting, with more personal contact and promotion of available scholarships, is necessary to attract minority students to UNL, Smith said.

The university may be able to recruit more minority students with the scholarship fund, but it still will be difficult to retain them, Smith said.

All UNL students must recruit other minority students by "celebrating diversity," he said.

"By having folks that are not like you -- that brings the excitement in life," Smith said. "If

See SCHOLARSHIP on 5

Landis reintroduces bill to allow legislative-backed living wills

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Editor

Lincoln Sen. David Landis has reintroduced a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would give terminally ill patients the right to refuse life-sustaining treatment.

LB839 allows patients to direct physicians to let them die once they are in the final stages of an illness. It also includes a provision allow-

"You go to an attorney tomorrow and they'll write you a living will," Hall said. "We don't outlaw it. We just don't sanction it."

Landis said that without legislative backing, the right to die is meaningless and patients are not guaranteed full control.

Hall said if the bill became law, there could be a day when hospitals offer patients living wills before entering into any kind of serious surgery. This would remove practically all liability from doctors in such cases, he said.

"The hospital should have some sort of liability for those patients," Hall said.

Hall also expressed concern that family members could commit fraud, presenting a phony living will so they could immediately collect an inheritance.

"Maybe I'm just jaundiced on this or crass, but I think it's just a money issue," Hall said.

Landis said he believes there is widespread support for the bill outside the Legislature, particularly among the elderly. He said the American Association of Retired Persons will support the bill.

"I think people generally support the concept of self-determination," Landis said. "It's part of our rugged, individualist nature."

"I think if people get on the phone to their senators it will pass. If they don't, it will continue to be blocked by effective interest groups," such as the Right to Life movement.

Hall agreed that voters probably will support the bill, but said that support comes from the assumption that living wills currently are illegal.

"I think there is probably widespread support for this issue," he said. "But I think there is also widespread misunderstanding."

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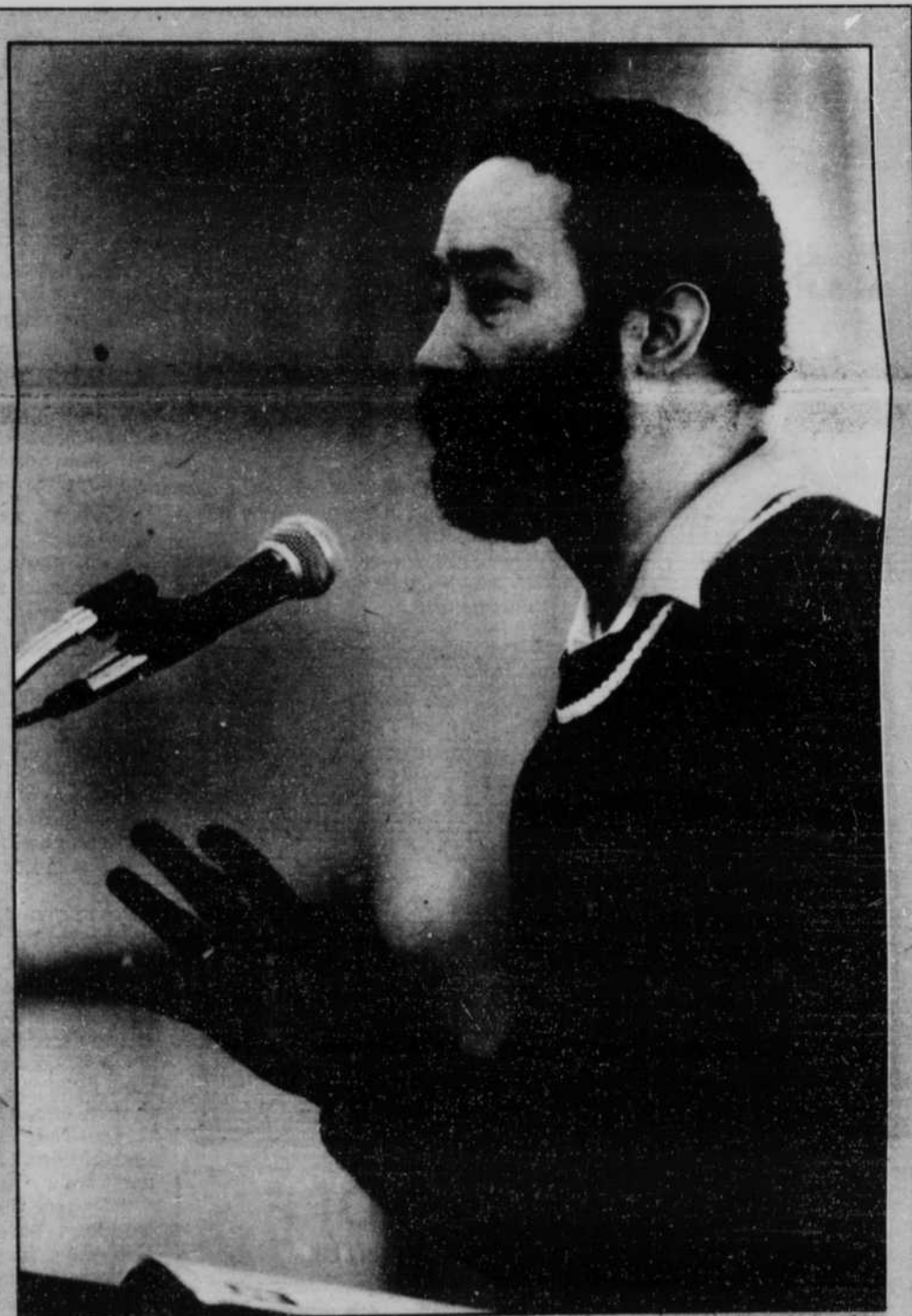
Hall
state senator

ing patients to appoint someone to make the decision of life or death for them after they are unable to do so themselves.

"We normally believe, and have as a principle of law, the idea that I am the absolute determinant of what happens to me," Landis said.

A similar bill introduced by Landis was defeated in the Legislature last year.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, who has been an outspoken opponent of the proposal, said there currently is nothing keeping Nebraskans from using living wills, legal documents allowing terminally ill patients to refuse life-sustaining treatment. He said, however, that it is not the state's place to endorse death.



Joe Heinzie/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska Deputy Attorney General A. Eugene Crump speaks Monday during a program honoring Martin Luther King Jr. The program was presented in the Regency Suite of the Nebraska Union.

Deputy attorney general says 'walls' prevent total equality

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

About 130 students, administrators and others joined hands, swayed and sang "We Shall Overcome" in the Nebraska Union Monday. Earlier they had sung "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Negro national anthem.

The songs were part of a program com-

memorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s 61st birthday.

Nebraska Deputy Attorney General Eugene Crump told the audience that its responsibility "is to make King's dream your dream."

But, Crump said, "there are far too many walls" keeping blacks from becoming "equal

See CRUMP on 5