

Concerns outlined

# Attorney announces candidacy for board

By Emily Rosenbaum  
Senior Reporter

Lincoln attorney and former UNL Parents Association President Earl Scudder announced his candidacy for the NU Board of Regents on Thursday.

Scudder, a partner in the national law firm Heron, Burchette, Ruckert and Rothwell, said his primary concerns for Nebraska's higher education are affordability and increasing graduation rates and careers within the state.

Calling himself "Nebraska's family regent," Scudder said the proposed changes in higher education governance are not the most important concerns of Nebraska families.

Instead, he said he would work to provide alternative financing for college students. He pointed out that tuition has risen more than 100 percent in the last 10 years, but state funding has not kept up with inflation.

Many faculty members and resources have been lost because of cutbacks, and the university already

is "cut to the bone," he said. Scudder said he wants to add motivational career counseling and a broader range of foundation courses to improve the current 40 percent graduation rate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"If we're going to let people come in, then we're going to do our best to see that they graduate," he said.

To keep students in Nebraska once they graduate, Scudder said he wants to develop existing research at UNL to create more careers in the state.

He added that the inclusion of Kearney State College in the university system should be done without placing it under the governance of the board of regents if the merger would "dilute resources available to UNL."

However, if KSC is placed under the board's governance, all state colleges also should be coordinated by the board, he said.

The proposals to change higher education governance through complex changes in the Nebraska Constitution are not needed, he said. The current system of electing the eight regents is the most effective

way of determining public opinion, he said.

The proposals would create seven boards of trustees for each NU campus and state college and a new board of regents to coordinate higher education in Nebraska. The governor, with approval of the Legislature, would appoint board of trustee members and five of the 11 regents.

The proposals lessen voters' power to select who governs Nebraska's higher education, he said.

"My concern is that we don't take the right to vote away from Nebraskans," he said. "I don't think that (55 governor-appointed members) creates the kind of accountability to the electorate that Nebraska needs."

Although students "ought to have the right to voice their opinions," he said he is "quite pleased" with the current system in which student regents have an unofficial vote on the board. Scudder said he is against giving students an official vote.

Scudder said a proposal made by State Sen. Scott Moore of Seward to provide a student-regent vote would give unequal representation because only one of the campuses at a time would have the vote.

air to meet new Environmental Protection Agency standards of smoke emission, keeping air pollution in check, he said.

"It's technically possible to do all this," Haas said. "The problem has been politics."

includes a \$1 tax on each new tire sold in the state.

The bill, advanced to the second round of debate in the Nebraska Legislature on Wednesday, also includes other provisions to raise money for recycling and waste management projects, Johnson said.

Haas said tires already are used for fuel at plants in Oregon, California and parts of the Midwest.

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company has built two plants in Des Moines, Iowa, and one in Decatur, Ill., he said.

A system of "scrubbers and baggers" take the smoke out of the

## Tires

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take up space and create health risks because mosquitos grow and breed in them, Haas said.

Thalken said planning for a plant at UNL is in the early stages. A feasibility study would be the next step, he said.

Money for that study could be made available by a bill proposed by state Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton, Haas said.

LB163, known as the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund,

## Federal farm bill draws criticism from farmers

Doug Isakson  
Staff Reporter

Farm subsidies, commodities prices, and environmental concerns were the main issues explored Thursday at UNL's East Campus Union when farmers and legislative representatives met to discuss the 1990 federal farm bill.

Several farmers were angered by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter's plans to eliminate all subsidies on U.S. grain exports.

Corky Jones, a farmer from Brownsville, said the change would hurt Nebraska farmers and was made without input from voters.

"In this country we have a representative democracy form of government," Jones said. "We elect people to make policy decisions. This GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) deal supersedes and does away with that process. . . . I don't think strong enough language can be used

here to explain how upsetting that is to me and lots of my friends and neighbors."

Several farmers also agreed that the farm bill needs to be simplified in order to be effective and should include government guarantees that commodities prices will cover the production costs.

Farmers expressed concern over the amount of research devoted to chemicals and fertilizers rather than environmentally-sound agricultural methods.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student group Farm Action Concerns Tomorrow's Society, sponsor of the discussion, also showed a slide presentation produced by the League of Rural Voters about the history and effects of farm subsidies.

The presentation said current trade decisions will determine whether farms will continue to be owned by families or be controlled by "absentee owners, speculators, and corporate farms."

## Faculty

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proposals is the question of crediting faculty members for membership in the Faculty Senate, Diffendal said.

According to Herbert Howe, interim associate to UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale, the proposals to overhaul the Faculty Senate first must be approved by the Association of Students of the University of Ne-

braska.

Then the proposals would have to be approved at a university-wide faculty meeting, followed by a faculty referendum by mail. The NU Board of Regents finally would have to approve the changes, possibly at its March meeting, he said.

The Senate Restructuring Committee, set up in May 1987 by the Faculty Senate, has been working on the proposals since that time, Wheeler said.

## Tuition

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is being acted on."

Although Nebraska presently doesn't have a law for tax-exempt college funds, the 1988 federal tax law contains a provision to exempt interest on U.S. Savings Bonds from federal income tax if they are used to pay higher education costs and if the parents' income is within specific limits.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said his office previously has looked into a tuition-installment plan that would spread tuition payments throughout the school year.

He said the current plan works because students do not have to pay tuition until five to six weeks into the semester, unlike other institutions that require payment upon registration. He said UNL's \$20 late registration fee "is not a very high fee."

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