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Friday

WEATHER

Friday, sunny and mild, high 55-60, northwest wind 10-15 miles per hour. Friday night, mostly clear, low 20-25. Saturday, mostly sunny, high 50-55.

INDEX

News.....2
Editorial.....4
Sports.....5
Arts & Entertainment.....6
Classifieds.....7

Committee advances budget of \$6.6 million for regents

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee on Thursday advanced Gov. Kay Orr's budget bill and amendments to it that would give the NU Board of Regents \$6.6 million of the \$12.6 million it requested for 1989-1991.

The committee did not recommend the regents' emergency deficit requests of \$1.4 million for asbestos removal in Burnett Residence Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or any instructional equipment funds outside of those requested for the UNL College of Engineering & Technology.

The governor's budget bill, LB1031, makes additions to the biennial budget the Legislature passed last year. The Appropriations Committee recommended amendments to the governor's bill to add \$5.5 million in allocations for all state agencies.

State Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly,

appropriations chairman, said the committee found that Burnett Hall's immediate asbestos problem had been solved.

There probably was no need to "go in and tear out all the asbestos" because some of it wasn't active or harmful right now, he said.

Warner said the committee stayed with the governor's recommendation for instructional equipment and found there wasn't an emergency need for equipment outside of the engineering college.

The regents had requested \$750,000 for 1989-90 and \$1.7 million for 1990-91 for instructional equipment. The committee and governor's recommendations are for \$350,000 in 1989-90 and \$525,000 in 1990-91.

Other recommendations in the bill include \$1 million in 1989-90 for health insurance increases for NU faculty and staff and \$1.9 million in 1990-91. That's an increase of \$182,000 in 1989-90 and \$1.1 million in 1990-91 above the governor's recommendation.

The university had requested \$3.3 million to cover both years.

Solid waste reduction bill faces final reading after advancement

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature on Thursday advanced a bill to provide a comprehensive plan for reduction in solid waste after adopting an amendment to reduce the amount of support from the state treasury by \$1 million.

LB163 was on its second round of consideration, select file and now faces a third round, final reading.

The bill requires a \$1 tax on tires and a \$25 to \$50 tax on retail businesses depending on their amount of sales, along with \$500,000 in state treasury money.

The amendment, which cut \$1 million from the general fund appropriation, was offered by Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton. It cut Tecumseh Sen. Spence Morrissey's previous amendment which gave \$1.5 million from the state treasury to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund.

The Department of Environmental Control has the responsibility of contracting for a recycling plan under Johnson's amendment. Sen. Scott Moore of Seward attempted to amend the amendment to create a special committee of senators and other interested people that could contract for the plan, but his amendment failed.

Johnson said he proposed his amendment because senators were concerned about the amount of general tax money going to the fund. Morrissey supported Johnson's amendment.

"We're getting close, and I think we have a

really good program," he said.

Johnson agreed and urged senators to advance the bill, which he said would help small communities license their landfills and bring them up to standards.

"We can stick our head in the sand here but eventually the Environmental Protection Agency is going to make us do it," Johnson said. "It's not going to go away."

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge proposed an amendment to put a 10 cent per dozen tax on non-degradable diapers, which he said are a big problem in the landfills.

Hefner said his amendment would raise \$670,000 to \$800,000 or more for the fund and also would encourage use of degradable diapers. Degradable diapers, he said, are made from corn, which is grown in Nebraska, compared to non-degradable diapers, which are made from petroleum and often imported from other countries.

"I realize I'm swimming upstream on this amendment," Hefner said, "but I'm suggesting that we set policy here in this chamber and not listen to the folks behind the glass doors," referring to the lobbyists from diaper companies.

Johnson opposed the amendment, saying he thinks it would "bring the bill down and possibly kill it."

"The disposable aspect of this bill is that the bill ought to be disposed of," said Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln opposed the amendment, saying it hits the people who are the most financially vulnerable -- those with new babies and senior citizens who must wear

See LEGISLATURE on 3



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Andy Rodrigues of Omaha clings to a tree in Cooper Park on Thursday afternoon.

18 arrested in third day of protests at Cooper Park

By Ryan Steeves
Senior Editor

Emotions ran high Thursday as demonstrators again scaled trees at Cooper Park to protest their removal.

In the third day of protests, at least 18 protesters were arrested in the park at Sixth and D streets and cited for obstructing government operations, said Lt. Lee Wagner of the Lincoln Police Department. A few protesters resisted arrest, he said.

Contractors were felling the trees for, among other things, a soccer field and tennis courts. The recreational areas will be used by Everett Junior High School.

Everett, located at 1123 C St., will switch buildings with Park Elementary School, currently located across the street from the park.

Protesters and residents who live near the park said they were upset because contractors were removing 70 hemlock trees. They said the park should be pre-

See TREES on 3

Regent Fricke fails to file for re-election to board

From staff reports

Regent Don Fricke of Lincoln on Thursday said he will not seek re-election to his seat on the NU Board of Regents.

Thursday was the deadline for incumbent regents' candidates to file for re-election. March 16 is the deadline for new candidates.

Candidates for Fricke's seat are Dick Powell, Charles Wilson and Earl Scudder, all of Lincoln.

Fricke said the main reason he decided not to run for re-election is, "I just don't have the time."

Fricke said the high cost of running a regents campaign also was somewhat a factor.

The proposal to restructure the higher education governance system also was a factor, he said, but "not that much" of one. The proposal in the Nebraska Legislature would eliminate the current Board of Regents.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn also has announced he will not run for re-election. Hansen and Fricke's seats were the only ones up for a vote this year.

Sports agent bill fails in Legislature

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Jim McFarland of Lincoln failed Thursday in a last-ditch effort to pass his bill to require registration of sports agents.

McFarland proposed an amendment to include the provisions of the sports agent bill on a different bill senators wanted to indefinitely postpone.

McFarland's bill was considered earlier in this year's session, but was postponed. McFarland said Speaker of the Legislature Bill Barrett told him the sports agents bill would not get on the agenda again this session.

McFarland said he will not seek office again, so he won't be able to propose the bill again.

Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha told the Legislature that McFarland deserves a chance to get the sports agents bill passed because he has worked on the issue for four years and cares about it.

"Let's see if we can get this passed for Sen. McFarland and for the state of Nebraska," Ashford said.

An amendment to a bill cannot be considered if it is not

relevant, so McFarland moved to suspend the rules to permit consideration of his amendment to the unrelated bill.

Sen. Jacklyn Smith of Hastings said she opposed McFarland's motion and thought it was inappropriate. Smith and other senators had proposed an amendment to the bill senators were originally discussing, LB159. Only one senator said to withdraw the amendment.

Smith and Sen. Carol Pirsch of Omaha did not consent to having the amendment withdrawn, Smith said.

"I'm trying to figure out what in the heck is going on with this bill," Smith said.

Senators laughed loudly at that, but Pirsch did not think the issue was funny.

"I may not have red hair," the brunette Pirsch said, "but I am hot, too."

McFarland, who used to play football, said the importance of passing the sports agent bill should override the inappropriateness of suspending the rules. A lot of Nebraska athletes have come "dangerously close" to losing their eligibility because of unscrupulous sports agents, he said.

McFarland's motion to suspend the rules failed 17-24.