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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Monday

WEATHER

Monday, increasing clouds, 20 percent chance of showers, high 60-65 at noon, becoming breezy and cooler in the afternoon with a 30 percent chance of light rain, north wind 15-20 mph. Monday night, low in the upper-20s. Tuesday, mostly sunny and cooler, high in the low-50s.

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Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Sgt. L.G. Olson of the Lincoln Police Department instructs Marcia Anderson of the Greater Nebraskans Animal Welfare Society to stop impeding traffic by handing out pamphlets in front of the Nebraska State Fairgrounds south entrance gate Saturday. The participants were protesting animal cruelty during the University of Nebraska-Lincoln college rodeo.

Speakers argue safety of radioactive disposal

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

Two speakers agreed that the disposal of radioactive waste is an economic issue, but disagreed about how it should be approached.

Lynn Mooror of Concerned Citizens of Nebraska told about 25 people at the Nebraska Union on Saturday that Nebraska may have gotten more than it bargained for when it entered into a low-level radioactive waste disposal compact for economic reasons.

Larry Grimm, radiation safety officer for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said low-level waste disposal is both an economic and a safety issue.

But Mooror said US Ecology, the company contracted to build the Nebraska site, has had a "56 percent record at best" of building sites that don't leak.

"I don't know how many of you would go into business with someone with a 56 percent success rate," she said.

But "Nebraska is at the head of a line" of states in which a site might be located, she said.

Grimm said radiation has some positive aspects, though.

"Is radiation something that benefits us?" he asked. "Yes, it does."

As a nuclear medicine technologist, Grimm said, he injected people with radioactive material that lengthened their lives.

Using radioactive materials also helps to better the quality of life by reducing hydrocarbon emissions, he said.

"It's very much a pro-environment issue," he said.

Mooror said Nebraska could become the site for waste from all over the United States.

"If we have a dump," Mooror said, "we have no defense from all of the nation's waste coming here."

Nebraskans do not know how much

hazardous waste would be brought to the state by having the site here, she said.

"Let's make the generators responsible," she said.

Grimm said disposing of low-level waste has become a political issue, but it's not a technical one. He said the public can be shielded from radiation.

Disposal sites are constructed to prevent water from entering, he said, to detect any moisture that might enter them and to trap any such moisture so it can't leave the site.

Disposal sites also are located in arid areas to keep the chemicals from moving, he said.

Interstate compacts reduce the number of sites, which helps to control waste, he said.

Besides, there is "not that much waste out there," he said. Sites in Nevada, Washington and South Carolina each occupy about 200 acres of land, he said, although the Nevada site uses only about 100 of those acres.

Grimm said most man-made radioactive waste goes away more quickly than natural radioactivity.

Cobalt 66, for example, has a five-year half-life and iron 55 has a 2 1/2 year half-life, he said. Within 100 years, he said, 90 to 95 percent of the man-made material at the waste site would be converted to non-radioactive material.

Some radioactive materials are even necessary to sustain life, he said. Potassium chloride, a salt, contains 0.012 percent of a radioactive isotope, Grimm said.

The legal amount of radiation allowed to leak from a site is one-tenth of what a person in Nebraska receives naturally each day, he said.

Mooror and Grimm's speeches were part of the Nebraska Symposium on Waste Management, a seminar sponsored by the International Association of Students in Economics and Business Management.

Professors theorize on candidate increase

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

The lack of incumbents running for re-election and the attention higher education has received in Nebraska seems to have multiplied the number of candidates running for regent, three UNL professors say.

More candidates than in past years are running for the two open seats on the NU Board of Regents. In fact, the seven candidates running in Douglas County (District 2) are the most to run in a district since 1982. Four candidates are running in Lancaster County (District 1).

In 1982, seven regent candidates ran for the District 6 seat. Two years

earlier, nine candidates ran in the same race. Statistics are not available for races before those.

Susan Welch, a professor of political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said she thinks part of the reason for the high number of regent candidates is that higher edu-

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Regent candidates discuss higher education issues

Editor's note: The following is the first of a two-part series on the race for the NU Board of Regents. Candidates answer questions about three of the most important issues facing higher education in Nebraska:

Q1: Do you support the higher education restructuring passed by the Nebraska Legislature on April 9? Why or why not?

Q2: Do you think there should be a voting student member on the board(s) that governs Nebraska's higher education?

Q3: As regent, what would you do to keep the cost of financing a college education from growing? Would you try to reduce costs? How?

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

Earl Scudder

Hometown: Chicago. Lived in Nebraska since 1960.
Job: President and owner, Scudder Law Firm.
Age: 47
Education: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, B.S. Business Administration, 1964. Graduate of UNL College of Law, 1966. Degree: Doctorate of Jurisprudence, Drake University, Corporate Finance, 1966-67.



Scudder

Q1: Scudder said he opposes LB1141 as passed

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Charles Wilson

Hometown: Lincoln
Job: Cardiologist of the Nebraska Heart Institute
Age: 51
Education: Mayo Clinic, two-year fellowship, specialty was internal medicine and cardiology, Rochester, Minn., 1968-1972. Northwestern University Medical School, 1964 graduate, M.D. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1960 graduate Bachelors of Arts

Q1: Wilson, former chairman of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, supported the Legislature's proposal to give the commission power to govern NU and Nebraska's state colleges.

Nebraska's coordinating commission is one of the three weakest systems in the country for tax-supported institutions, he said. But it represents many more institutions than those in Delaware and Vermont, the other two states with weak commissions, he said.

The new commission could formulate a strategic plan for the university and approve academic programs that fit into it, Wilson said, instead of reacting separately to each issue in the Legislature.

LB1141 as passed April 9, he said, was "almost to the word" the



Wilson

See WILSON on 5

REGENT Lancaster County RACES

Trevor McArthur

Hometown: Lincoln
Job: Staff Assistant at Sheldon Film Theater, Telephone interviewer for Telephone National Research Corporation.

Age: 23
Education: Senior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Teachers College

Q1: McArthur said Tuesday that he hadn't had time to study the proposal.

He said it might be wrong for him to take a stand of the issue because Nebraska voters will decide what kind of system will govern higher education.

"It's quite possible that all of this higher education restructuring is not necessary," he said. "The only thing that is necessary is to get a better group of people into the board of regents."

He opposes the regents being relegated to daily affairs under LB1141. Regents should be concerned with



McArthur

See MCARTHUR on 3

Dick Powell

Hometown: Sidney. Raised in Benkelman, about 40 miles west of McCook.
Job: Self-employed optometrist (1970 to present)
Age: 44
Education: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, one semester, 1963. McCook Junior College, pre-Optometry, B.S., 1964-68. Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, Tenn., 1968, Doctorate of Optometry.

Q1: Powell said he is not sure if he supports the Legislature's proposed changes in Nebraska's higher education system.

The current system has existed for more than 100 years with some modification, he said.

"I am just not comfortable with our leaders in state government proposing this constitutional amendment without any real public hearing or debate on that particular issue," he said.

Powell said he favors a stronger post-secondary coordinating commission that has power over planning, definition and coordination of role and mission, and power over academic programs.

But he said he's not sure he would support increased bureaucracy that the proposal might bring.



Powell

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