

Daily Nebraskan

September 20, 1990

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 90 No. 18

Thursday

WEATHER

Today, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of late afternoon thunderstorms, high in the mid to upper 70s, southeast wind 10-20 miles per hour. Tonight, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low in the upper 50s. Friday, partly cloudy, high around 70.

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UNL among 12 schools

Education compact weighed

By Anita Parker
 Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials discussed plans Wednesday for a proposal that would strengthen cooperative programs between 12 Midwestern universities, including UNL.

"We haven't reached any official opinion yet. We're in the exploratory mode to see what advantages might come from such an agreement," said Joe Rowson, University of Nebraska director of public affairs.

Under the compact, students would be able to participate in out-of-state programs that aren't offered at their schools without having to pay non-resident tuition, said Larry Scherer, aide to the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee.

"The student tuition issue is a good example because it's more of a reality, but the compact will accomplish other things," he said.

Three similar compacts already are in effect across the nation.

The Western Interstate Compact for Higher Education shares information from research projects with other states, said Phil Sirotkin, head consultant for the Midwestern compact.

One of the most productive aspects of the western compact is the development of positive relationships between schools, said Sirotkin said. "These compacts bring together

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Sirotkin
 head consultant for the
 Midwestern compact

key players in education in a neutral setting to examine key issues in education and take them out of adversarial positions in each state," he said.

State Sen. Lorraine Langford of Kearney, one of the officials studying the proposal, said she could find no disadvantages to the agreement.

"The state will write its own enabling legislation," she said. "We're

not forced to do anything by this compact. If something feels uncomfortable, we don't have to do it." Twelve Midwestern states are possible participants in the compact, but only five are needed to activate the agreement, Sirotkin said. Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri have passed amendments allowing participation in the compact, he said.

Illinois, Ohio and Nebraska are conducting studies about the proposition. The remaining states -- Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin -- have not made a decision yet, Sirotkin said. States have until 1994 to ratify the compact.

Public hearings will begin in Nebraska in mid-November to decide if legislation will be introduced in fall 1991, Scherer said.

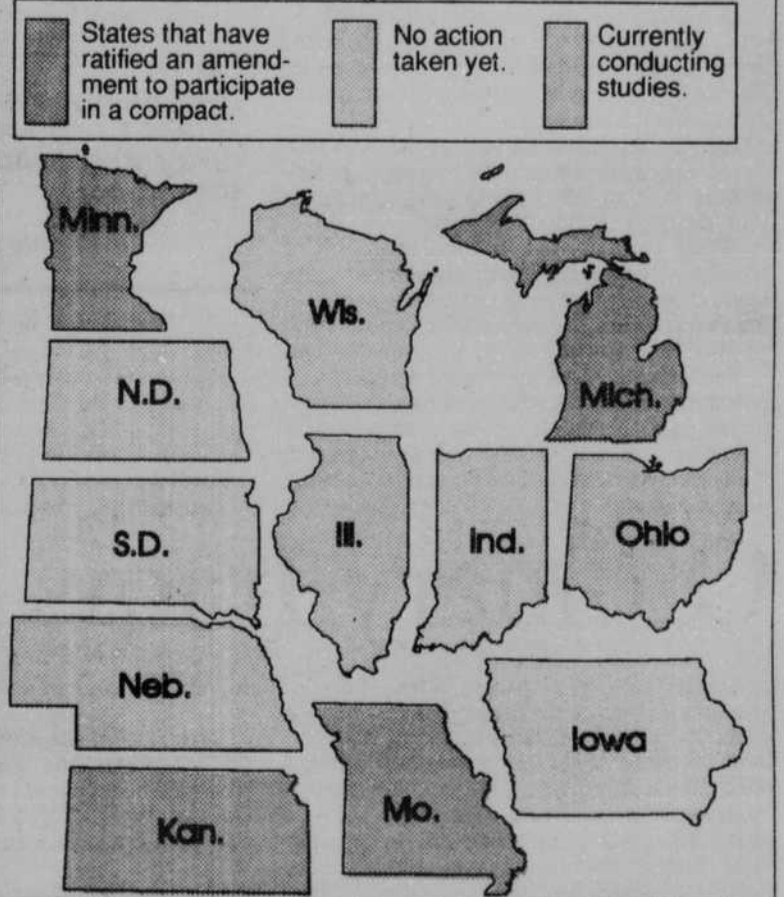
Scherer said three groups must support the idea for the legislation to be introduced.

"The people who operate the institutions, the legislators (studying the proposal) and the students must see some definite advantages," he said.

"I don't see this compact as a threatening thing. It won't take power away from anyone. It will just provide a service at the most reasonable cost to everyone."

Midwestern Higher Education Compact

Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan



Official says student shoppers shying away from downtown

By Michael Ho
 Staff Reporter

Student shoppers, once considered a "captured market" for downtown retailers, now are jumping in their cars and heading for Gateway Shopping Mall.

"Today, the students' shopping preferences are just like the general population's," said city planner Mike DeKalb.

Students are as mobile as other shoppers, he said, and won't hesitate to drive across town.

A recent study echoes that assessment, and states that night life is a big downtown attraction for students, while

retail shopping is, at best, secondary.

Consultants from Economics Research Associates of Chicago compiled the redevelopment study by interviewing six small focus groups this summer, including University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty and students.

Although some students do shop downtown, especially those who work in the area, most students go downtown for entertainment, the consultants' report stated.

In keeping with that view, the student group said a nightclub was one of their top priorities for downtown.

New clothing stores were relatively low on the students' list, according to

the report, because Gateway is more convenient for them.

Kevin Laws, a senior pre-med major who was in the student focus group, said he usually shops at Gateway. Downtown stores aren't in step with the campus community, he said.

Downtown could use "more stores that cater to college people, like Dillard's and the Post and Nickel," Laws said. The current retail lineup is "a little bit out of my budget range," he added.

Some faculty members in the focus group expressed boredom with Lincoln shopping and a wish for shops with more exciting products.

Robert Bergstrom, an associate professor of English in the faculty focus group, said Gateway and East Park Plaza are conveniently located but drab.

"I hate them both," he said. "I'd much rather be downtown."

But downtown shops are just as bland as the malls, he said.

"You're getting essentially the same kinds of stuff at different prices," he said. "There's no point in going downtown to find the same things that are in the shopping malls."

He suggested that downtown planners abandon talk of attracting another department store and start wor-

rying about aesthetics.

DeKalb said students have become more like other city shoppers in recent years.

"There used to be a saying that the downtown students were a captured market," he said.

Now, the Gateway exodus is leaving many downtown storefronts empty.

Free parking in downtown parking garages also was a high priority on the consultants' report.

The consultants said students seem unwilling to walk past P or Q streets to shop, but Laws said events at the Lied Center for Performing Arts might increase downtown shopping.

Program gives engineering students head start

By Tabitha Hiner
 Staff Reporter

Engineering students put away their calculators and whipped on their ties Wednesday for the first Technical Career Day.

Although the activities were open to all students, Sandra Knight, assistant director of the Career Planning and Placement Center, said the program was created mainly for engineering students.

She said she saw a need for the

program last year after Career Information Day.

"I felt that the business students were more comfortable through the types of courses that they take to go up and talk to recruiters," Knight said. "Traditionally, the engineering

students have not been trained to do that."

While "many engineering students are well-versed in interpersonal skills," she said not all were.

Representatives from 35 companies handed out information about their businesses in the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room, Knight said.

"The day was not really designed to place students with jobs," Knight said. "But a lot of résumés do cross the tables."

The students mingled among the tables in everything from suits to shorts while they talked to representatives.

In addition to meeting representatives, Knight said the day will give students an edge when writing cover letters. She said students could include names of people they met at the program in their letters.

Recruiters like Ida Anderson were pleased with the day.

"I feel that by breaking the days up, we are given a chance to talk to the students on more of a one-to-one basis," said the Federal Aviation Administration personnel staffing specialist.

Microsoft Technical Recruiter Whitnee Cox said she wanted to get people familiar with their company.

"We wear jeans and shorts to work, but people wouldn't know that unless they talked to us," she said. "This day gives us the opportunity to tell students things like that."

ValCom representative Julie Ebers

said a lot of students asked her questions.

"They would say, 'Tell me about ValCom.' 'Where are you located?'" she said. "A lot of people wanted career counseling about what they can do with their major."

Terry Fleck and Andy Wiest of the Kansas Department of Transportation were looking for résumés from civil engineers.

"The department just got \$2.65 billion in highway programs to be spent over the next eight years," Fleck said. "Now we have to find engineers."

Engineering majors like senior Todd Clatanoff said the day gave them an advantage.

"A lot of the people I'm talking to today are going to be the same ones who will interview me next month," Clatanoff said. "By meeting them now, I can kind of get an impression of how they feel about me."

Senior Myron Fendrick said the day allowed the students to concentrate their time talking to representatives in their field.

After the career fair, discussion groups were organized.

"The discussion groups allowed students to ask questions they may have been interested about, but may have been reluctant to ask," Knight said.

Company recruiters and consultants led the groups by talking for

See CAREER on 3



Butch Ireland, Daily Nebraskan

A lonely job

A cardboard likeness of Maytag's "Old Lonely" looks on as Maytag representative Rae Kirchoff, right, talks with UNL seniors Bill Weston, left, and Min Loh. Maytag was one of 35 firms that took part in the Technical Career Day in the Nebraska Union.