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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny today with the high in the mid-to upper-40s with the wind becoming south 5-15 mph. Tonight, clear with the low in the mid-20s. Friday, sunny breezy and warmer with the high in the lower 50s.

ASUN creates two of four minority panels

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

ASUN failed on Wednesday to create four subcommittees to represent minority groups, passing instead legislation establishing two subcommittees for students with disabilities and international students.

Teachers College Sen. Steve Thomlison introduced the Bylaw U amendment that would have created four subcommittees subordinate to the Campus Life Committee.



been for disabled students, international students, racial affairs and sexual orientation.

The members would have been selected by the Appointments Board and would have had the power to vote and propose legislation to the Campus Life Committee.

The bylaws change was amended to remove the racial affairs and sexual orientation subcommittees from the legislation, leaving only the panels for international students and students with disabilities.

According to the senators who opposed the creation of the subcommittees for racial affairs and sexual orientation, Thomlison had no support for the subcommittees from the students to be represented.

Journalism Sen. Frank Forman said

Thomlison didn't ask students if the subcommittees were what they wanted.

"(Thomlison) wants to try to write legislation and doesn't even have (minorities') approval," he said.

College of Arts and Sciences Sen. Chris Potter said that despite the amendment's good points, the disapproval of the students it would affect might be a "fatal flaw."

College of Journalism Sen. Alisa Miller, who has been working with disabled students, said those students were in favor of creating the subcommittee to represent their needs.

Phil Gosch, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said the international students also approved.

"For many years, the international students have been seeking to have

any voice in ASUN," he said.

College of Business Administration Sen. Tim McAuliff said he thought the amendment was an attempt to lump all of the minority groups together.

Several senators said they thought the two standing committees created by ASUN last semester, but later ruled unconstitutional by the Student Court, could be fixed by amending bylaws. The amendment could exempt the committees from the constitutional ban on quotas in appointing members, the senators proposed.

Gosch said amending the bylaws would be in violation of NU Board of Regents bylaws that ASUN must adhere to, as well as Student Court.

"I will not sign any bill not in adherence to Student Court," he said.

In other action, the senate passed a bylaw amendment to restructure the Appointments Board.

Gosch said that although he thought the current Appointments Board has operated fairly, in other years all members were from the same election party.

He said students were frustrated with "three cronies sitting on the Appointments Board and . . . dole out positions to their friends."

The Appointments Board was composed of the speaker of the senate, the second vice president and one student-at-large.

In past years, Gosch said, the speaker of the senate and the second vice president often were from the same

See ASUN on 6

Parents' group discourages budget reductions for NU

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature should look for budget alternatives rather than cut the University of Nebraska's funds, a member of the UNL Parents Association said.

Earl Scudder Jr. of Lincoln suggested that the Legislature's Appropriations Committee be creative in its budgeting.

NU "is not like the Department of Roads where you can simply mandate that they not lay another 100 yards of concrete," Scudder said.

The Appropriations Committee suggested in a preliminary budget proposal a 4 percent across-the-board cut in state agencies, a 4 percent faculty salary raise and a freeze on the Nebraska Research Initiative at \$12 million.

Faculty salaries for the University of Nebraska had been increasing more than 10 percent in past years in an effort to compete with NU's peer institutions. The Nebraska Research Initiative is a five-year plan, now in its third year, to increase NU research funds by \$4 million a year.

Scudder suggested that cigarette tax revenue currently used to finance NU capital construction projects be earmarked for faculty salaries.

While the Legislature is looking at using the tax money to build prisons, Scudder said, the state could avoid construction costs by allowing an outside company to build prisons for the state to lease.

Another alternative would be to change the current form of personal property taxation, he said.

A Nebraska Supreme Court decision Friday declared that the state's current form of personal property taxation, which exempts certain farm and commercial properties, may be unconstitutional.

By reducing exemptions and broadening the tax base, Scudder suggested, funds for NU automatically would be increased.

While the change would produce an overall revenue increase, he said, it wouldn't escalate the taxes of those already paying.

In a letter to Seward Sen. Scott Moore, the Legislature's Appropriations Committee chairman, Scudder outlined other suggestions for the budget.

Scudder said the letter, which represented the UNL Parents Association, was an effort to show the Legislature that parents are "determined that we should have a class-one univer-

See PARENTS' on 5

Good learner

Counselor unravels problems for students

By Heather Heinisch
Staff Reporter

Helping students work through their problems is like unraveling a ball of twine for John Breckenridge. By patiently working and tugging the line, he can help solve any problem.

His slow smile and kind eyes give away his easy manner as a counselor. When a student comes in with a problem, the associate director of the Counseling Center said, he wants to be a good learner.

"I can't know enough about you that you already know about yourself," he said.

Then, he said, he shares what he's learned

from other students in similar situations, and together he and the student being counseled come up with a workable solution.

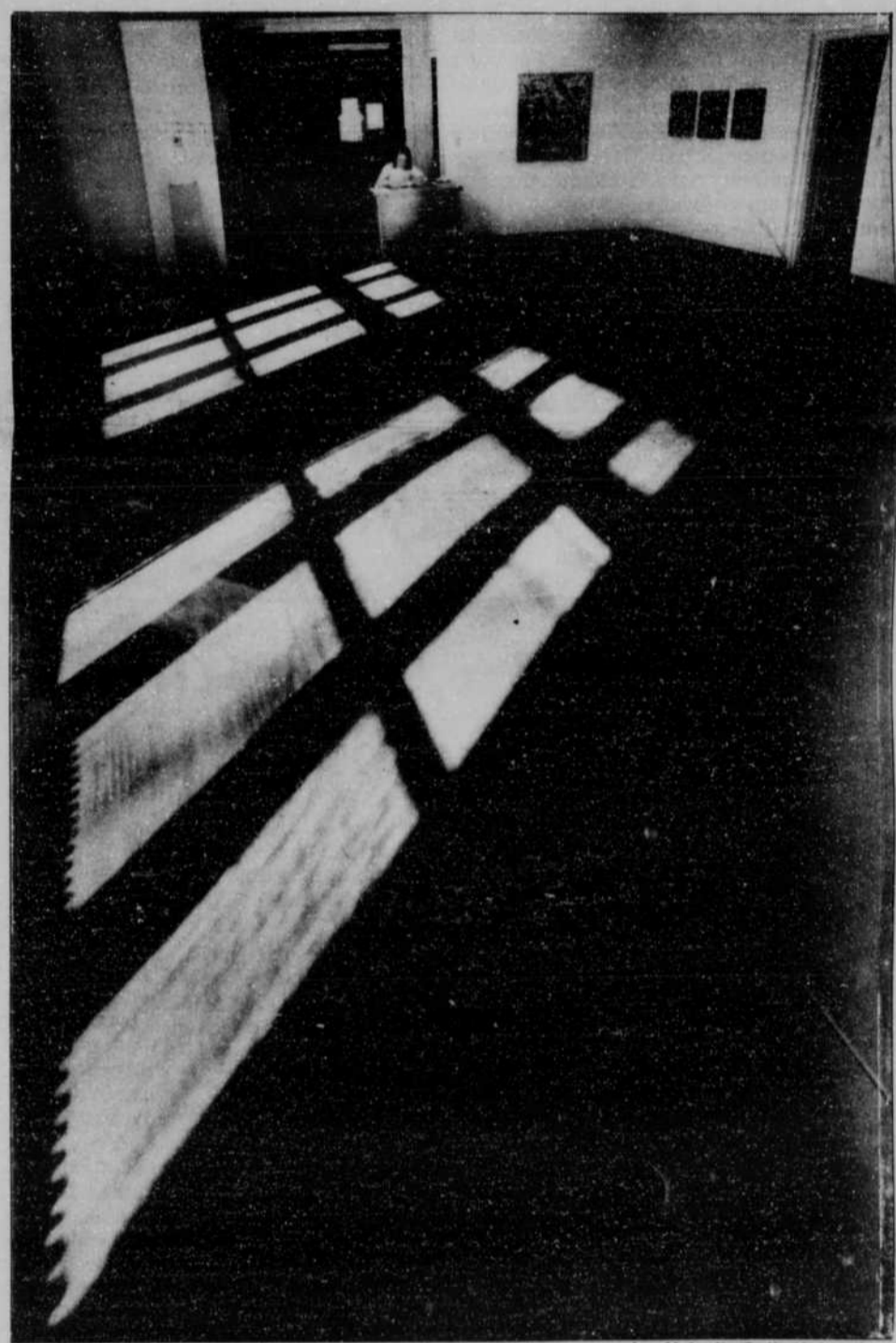
If the strands of gray running through his hair are an indication, Breckenridge has plenty of experience as a guide in helping students solve academic or personal problems. It's a job he's had at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the past 21 years.

Growing up on a farm in Kansas influenced his life more than anything else, he said. Because he was forced to spend hour after hour by himself doing chores, he had plenty of time to think.

"Most people don't have the opportunity to get in touch with something inside them," he said. That's what makes him different, he said.

Breckenridge's work shows his caring for

See COUNSELOR on 5



Joe Heinzie/Daily Nebraskan

Solar sculpture

The midmorning sun shines through the windows of the art gallery in Richards Hall as Cindy Caverzagie studies. Caverzagie, a sophomore art history major, works as a security guard in the gallery.

THURSDAY

Diversions rocks with local bands. Page 7.

Proponents, opponents clash over living will bill. Page 5.

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UNL employee arrested on charges of embezzling

By Alan Phelps
Staff Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln employee has been arrested on charges of embezzling \$10,000 from a UNL-based paleontology research group, officials said.

Ken Cauble, UNL police chief, said Judy Bell, business manager for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontol-

ogy at UNL, was arrested Feb. 26 and arraigned the next day.

Joe Kelly, Lancaster County deputy attorney, said Bell was charged with two counts of felony theft and is scheduled for a March 18 court appearance, when the court will decide whether a preliminary hearing is necessary.

Cauble said officials with the society found discrepancies in the books when Bell recently left her job on

maternity leave. After discussing the matter with university lawyers, they contacted UNL police, he said.

"We've got accountants looking at it right now to find out the amounts involved and how it was done," Cauble said.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology is an international society of paleontologists operating out of UNL. Kelly said Bell also worked at the

society's former headquarters in California, where the embezzlement allegedly began.

Kelly said the exact amount of money missing may never be known. "As with any embezzlement case, it takes the victim a long time to figure out how much money was involved and usually they are never sure," he said.

Bell could not be reached Wednesday for comment.