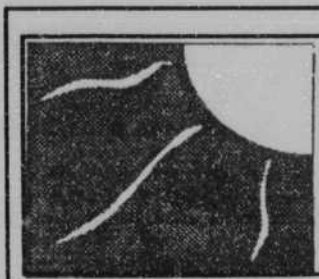


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TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny and warm today with the high around 70 and a south wind. Mild tonight with the low in the mid- to upper-40s. Tuesday, the high around 70 with a 20 percent chance of thunder-showers toward evening.

Research center top consideration

By Tabitha Hiner
Senior Reporter

The proposed George W. Beadle Center for Genetics and Biomaterials Research has moved to the top of the NU regents' list of capital construction priorities, according to Regent John Payne of Kearney.

Payne said the center was left off the priority list when plans were drawn up last summer because regents were unaware it would require \$6 million in matching funds from the state.

But, Payne said at an Appropriations Committee hearing before Spring Break, the regents now consider the \$6 million for the center their top priority, even if that would be the only capital construction money NU received this year.

Committee members questioned NU President Martin Massengale about the center's projected \$23 million to \$27 million cost, but he responded that most of the money for it was necessary.

Massengale said the center would help NU obtain three objectives — new discoveries, well-trained people and expert knowledge.

"If we're going to be able to compete . . . we must move forth with these kinds of investments," he said.

Steve Thomlison, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska senator from the Teachers College, said students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are "solidly behind the Beadle Center."

The committee heard testimony on six bills to allocate state cigarette tax money. Currently, NU capital construction projects receive 4 cents from every pack of cigarettes sold in Nebraska.

LB241, sponsored by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln, would continue to give that money to the university.

While the Legislature wasn't "duty-bound" to continue the aid, Landis said, senators should see the need for

it because it would let them "take our foot off the gas in the general fund knowing that the gas isn't there."

The other five bills would earmark cigarette tax money to other education programs, to a prison fund or to the state's capital construction fund.

LB647, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Lindsay, would create the Postsecondary Education Award Program, designed to stop the flow of students out of the state, Lindsay said. The bill would earmark 1 1/2 cents of the tax for financial aid to students at public and private colleges.

LB541, sponsored by Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, also would attempt to stanch the "brain drain" by allocating 1 cent per pack to scholarships for students at private Nebraska colleges. Two cents would go to the Cancer Research Fund.

If LB541 passed, Omaha Sen. Eric Will said, tax money would go to "scholarships and students, rather than brick and mortar."

LB799 would provide capital construction funds to state colleges.

Sen. Gerald Conway of Wayne, the bill's sponsor, said it would help finance projects that had been placed on the "back burner" at various state colleges.

Because the bulk of state college funding has gone to Kearney State College, other colleges, such as Wayne State, haven't built new classrooms in 20 years, Conway said.

LB848, requested by Gov. Ben Nelson, would direct tax money to a prison fund so that Nebraska would be prepared if it received a court order to take action on the problem of overcrowded prisons.

LB760, introduced by Sen. Scott Moore of Seward, would put cigarette tax money into the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund.

Arguing against other proposed uses of the tax money, Moore said passage of LB760 would show that the tax money "belongs to no one."



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Surf's up

Assistant professor of chemistry Carolyn Price spends Easter Sunday windsurfing at Holmes Lake.

Senators pass amendment to proposed gun bill

By Pat Dinslage
Senior Editor

Handgun control in Nebraska moved one step closer to reality when the Legislature approved an amendment Thursday to LB355, the handgun control bill now under consideration.

Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha said his amendment addressed the objections raised by opponents to LB355, the provisions of which the Nebraska Legislature has been debating for three years.

The amendment calls for the purchase of an annual permit to buy handguns, Chizek said.

Gun dealers, law enforcement personnel and people who sell guns to family members would be exempt from the permit requirement.



Legislature

He said permits would be obtained from local police or sheriffs' departments, and people wanting a permit would have to be 21 years old, provide identification and meet other federal requirements.

Other provisions of the Chizek amendment state that local police would run a background check on permit applicants that could be com-

pleted in minutes, Chizek said, but police would have up to two days to complete the check.

Chizek said this waiting period is shorter than the seven-day waiting period of the "Brady Bill," now under consideration by Congress. The Brady Bill refers to legislation advocated by the wife of former Press Secretary Jim Brady, who was permanently disabled in the 1981 assassination attempt on former President Ronald Reagan.

The permit would allow the holder to purchase any number of handguns within the one-year period, he said.

The LB355 plan is preferable, he said, to the proposed LB801, which would require a back-

ground check and registration of each gun purchased.

In presenting the Chizek amendment, Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha, LB355's sponsor, said, "Chizek is trying to carve out a Nebraska alternative to the Brady Bill. If you check with the Nebraskan people, they oppose the seven-day waiting period the most."

Sen. Carol Pirsch of Omaha said she opposed LB355 and LB801 "because I couldn't see how they would accomplish it — no more shooting with guns."

But Pirsch expressed her support for the

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Official: Job standards safe from rights bill

By Kara Morrison
Staff Reporter

The Civil Rights Act of 1991 probably would not involve the court system in basic college hiring standards, according to UNL's Affirmative Action officer.

Brad Munn said he views the legislation Congress is considering as intending "to help and not hurt."

Although some have alleged that hiring quotas will result if the civil rights bill is passed, Munn said such quotas are illegal and are not the intention of the legislation.

Munn said he thinks that if Congress passes the legislation, initial court decisions involving colleges will set precedents for other colleges. But he said he does not foresee the courts becoming involved in issues of standard hiring practices, such as requiring faculty members to obtain doctorate degrees or conduct research.

"Reasonable education requirements will not be considered discriminatory. If hiring requirements such as the requirement of a Ph.D. would be considered discriminatory, (colleges)

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MONDAY



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Professor says new law to improve student skills

By Lori Stones
Staff Reporter

A new law requiring all Nebraska accounting majors to complete 150 credit hours before taking the certified public accountant exam will improve students' skills, according to a UNL professor.

Bob Raymond, a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Accountancy, said the Nebraska Legislature's adoption of LB75, which passed in March and will take effect in 1998, means Nebraska accounting majors will have "better communica-

tion, interpersonal and critical thinking skills."

Currently, UNL accounting majors must complete 128 credit hours before taking the exam, said Raymond, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants that recommended the requirements for LB75.

The increase was mandated because "there is a growing awareness that four years of college isn't enough," he said.

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