

# Daily Nebraskan



TODAY'S WEATHER

50/28

Today, cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers, cooler, south wind changing to the northwest at 15 to 45 mph. Tonight, a 30 percent chance of evening showers.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Legislature advances terminal illness bill

### Two living will bills reach final reading

By Cindy Kimbrough  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature advanced Friday the second of two bills that would recognize Nebraskans' right to direct their own medical treatment.

LB696, introduced by Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha last session, would give legal recognition to directing medical treatment through "durable power of attorney" if a patient became terminally ill or reached a persistently vegetative state.

The durable power of attorney, rather than instructing a physician, gives a third person the power to make decisions regarding treatment.



The bill advanced after about 25 minutes of debate on an amendment intended "to make it easily accessible for those who wish to appoint someone to make health care decisions on their behalf," Lindsay said.

The amendment was adopted. LB696 was accompanied last session by a similar bill, LB671, introduced by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln. LB671 would recognize the use of a "living will" if a patient was in a similar incapacitated state.

A living will gives the attending physician specific instructions on what medical treatment will be allowed or acceptable.

With the advancement of LB671 Thursday and LB696 Friday, Nebraskans are one step closer to being able to determine medical treatment if they become terminally ill or in a persistently vegetative state.

The next step for both bills will be final reading. If passed and signed by Gov. Ben Nelson, they will become Nebraska law.

## Proposed arts college could be established by fall, Spanier says

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier said Saturday that he supported the proposed College of Fine and Performing Arts and hoped it would be in place by the 1992 fall semester.

The music, theater, drama, art and art history programs — which now fall under the College of Arts and Sciences — would be transferred to the new college if it is approved.

Spanier said he planned to go ahead with the proposed college.

"We have a modest amount of money set aside to implement that," he said.

Spanier said he had approved \$150,000 to establish the proposed college, and that commitment had given the project new life.

The proposed college was approved by the NU Board of Regents a year ago following a controversy in the Nebraska Legislature over its creation.

Funding for the college was proposed for elimination in the budget-cutting recommendations forwarded in the fall by the Academic Planning Committee. Spanier rejected the APC cut and restored the funding to establish the college.

But Spanier said he had restructured the way the \$150,000 would be spent.

“This is principally an administrative reorganization, not the creation of new programs.”

Spanier  
UNL Chancellor

"Originally, the thought was to use the money for administrative costs, but I have rejected that," he said.

Instead of creating new administrative positions, Spanier said, the money will be used to improve the college's programs. Instead of hiring new administrators and staff, he said, current ones will be transferred to the proposed college.

"There may not be any new administrators (hired)," he said.

Spanier also said no new degree programs or majors would be created if the proposed college was created.

"This is principally an administrative reorganization," he said, "not the creation of new programs."

UNL is consulting with the Nebraska Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education to see what role it would play in creating the proposed college, Spanier said. The statewide commission coordinates all institutions of postsecondary education in Nebraska and makes recommendations to the Legislature.



Jeff Haller/DN

*This is February?*

Bob and Julie Tallichet, 2240 S. 47th St., make the most of the warm weather Sunday and take their son Jacques biking in Municipal Park, near 23rd and N streets.

## UNL tradition

### Program teaches history of groundhogs

By Virginia Newton  
Staff Reporter

Children and their parents celebrated Groundhog Day Sunday at Morrill Hall as part of the weekly "Sunday With a Scientist" program.

The children were able to touch a mounted groundhog and learn about the groundhog's history and habitat from Patricia Freeman, curator of zoology and an associate professor of museum studies.

"Sunday with a Scientist" has been an ongoing program for three years at UNL, said Peggy Hunt, education coordinator of the museum.

The public is welcome at informal gatherings in Elephant Hall of Morrill Hall every first Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., she said.

"Lately we've had a lot of drop-ins, people who are just coming in the museum and don't know that

it's going on," Hunt said. "Many times they are so interested they will stay for the whole two hours."

Hunt and a co-worker established the "Sunday with a Scientist" program three years ago.

"In the history of the museum, they used to have lectures by various scientists, primarily the curators that worked for the museum," she said. "We're really trying to get away from lectures, so this is more of an activity, hands-on kind of thing."

Several activities may be going on simultaneously each Sunday, such as a video, a slide show or a scientist identifying fossils for the public, Hunt said. But all of the activities are related, she said.

In conjunction with Sunday's gathering, Freeman spoke on the groundhog myth and its natural history.

Freeman told about 25 children and adults that most groundhogs were located in the eastern part of

Nebraska. A southeast American Indian tribe called them monax, which is where part of the scientific name for the groundhog, *Marmota monax*, was created, she said.

Although using a woodchuck for Groundhog Day is an American tradition, Freeman said, the myth of the groundhog is not rooted in America.

In Europe, there was a religious celebration called Candle Mas to mark the preparation for spring and the planting season, Freeman said. In connection with Candle Mas, Europeans started looking for a hibernating animal that would come out of its hole to predict the weather.

"In Germany, they looked for a badger, England and France looked for a bear and there seems to be some sort of correspondence between Candle Mas and the animals," she said.

## Black Homecoming Week begins

Black Homecoming Week  
Schedule of Events

**Monday, 8 p.m.**—"Jungle Fever" shown at the UNL Culture Center. Discussion to follow.  
**Tuesday, 3 to 4 p.m.**—Panel discussion on Afrocentricity and political correctness at the Culture Center.  
**Wednesday, 8 p.m.**—Singer Soullan, Afrocentric rapivist of Public Enemy to speak on "Black Pride" in the Nebraska Ballroom.  
**Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**—Panel discussion on affirmative action and campus relations at the Culture Center.  
**Friday, 7 p.m. to midnight**—Films demonstrating ways African-Americans have been portrayed by Hollywood at the Culture Center.  
**Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.**—Dance at the Nebraska Union.

Scott Maurer/DN

By Sean Green  
Senior Reporter

UNL's celebration of Black History Month will begin today with Black Homecoming Week, an event designed to celebrate black culture and raise campus awareness about African-American issues, a member of UPC's African American committee said.

Angela Green, a sophomore political science major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Black Homecoming Week was created partially because homecoming activities in the fall usually involved only members of UNL sororities and fraternities.

However, Green said, Black Homecoming

Week is not just for African-American students.

"These activities are for the whole campus," she said. "We will be celebrating black culture and helping people understand our point of view."

Activities for Black Homecoming Week begin at 8 p.m. in the UNL Culture Center with the showing of "Jungle Fever," a movie that deals with interracial dating, Green said.

A discussion about interracial dating at UNL will follow the film, she said.

A panel discussion about the concepts of Afrocentricity and political correctness will be

See **HOMECOMING** on 6

### MONDAY

**Correction:** In Friday's edition of the Daily Nebraskan, an article on the parking open forum incorrectly identified the forum as being sponsored by the Parking Advisory Board. The forum was open to students to address their parking concerns.

In addition, the 5-percent reduction would not displace 3,000 students, but would limit overselling of lots by 5 percent. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

Musician El' Zabar performs at Carson Theater. **Page 12.**

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