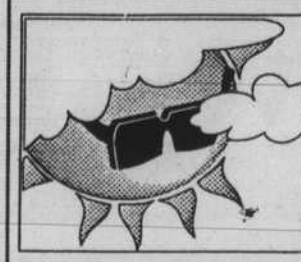


# Daily Nebraskan

February 7, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 91 No. 97



TODAY'S WEATHER

38/15

Today, mostly sunny, north-east winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight, clear. Saturday, mostly sunny with a high of 35 to 40.

## Bill seeks tax revenue for colleges

Cigarette tax would provide up to \$2.6 million in funds

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

**L**B1027, a bill introduced in the Nebraska Legislature by Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln, would make the University of Nebraska-Lincoln eligible to compete for up to \$2.6 million in public funding.

The bill, introduced Jan. 10, would use revenue from a proposed 10-cent cigarette tax to provide funding for postsecondary education, accessibility for the disabled and environmental preservation.

LB1027 would provide \$2.6 million, or about 2 percent of the proposed cigarette tax revenue, to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The money would go into an incentive fund for mostly short-term education expenditures.

The coordinating commission then would distribute the money to postsecondary schools



See REVENUE on 6

## Teleconference urges openness

By Therese Goodlett  
Staff reporter

**H**omework was the key word used Thursday by a panel of administrators, faculty and a student appearing on the nationwide teleconference "Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students."

"I want people to do their homework," and learn to respect people's sexual preferences, said Rosalind Andreas, vice president for student affairs at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

"We need to support people and help them be whole," she said.

About 100 people watched the videoconference in the Nebraska Union's Regency Room.

The purpose of the conference, televised live from Washington, D.C., was to find ways to break students' and faculty members' homophobia.

Members of the televised panel agreed that education was the answer.

"We need to create settings that are safe to learn in," Andreas said. "We need to study, become informed and learn to create safe ways of talking and discussing."

Safe places to openly talk about homosexuality and "be out of the closet" were concerns of two discussion groups following the tele-

See VIDEO on 3



Photo illustration by Michelle Paulman/DN

Joseph Luther, assistant dean and associate professor of community and regional planning at the College of Architecture, has focused on the survival of small towns and debated against the "Buffalo Commons" idea.

## Rural revival

### UNL professor makes plans to rescue small towns

By Sarah Scalet  
Staff Reporter

**J**oseph Luther lists the years he spent in Vietnam one by one: "1965, '66, '67 and '68."

The wartime destruction Luther witnessed has carried him into a career as an associate professor of community and regional planning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"You saw so much death and destruction over there, and you saw so many places being blown up," he said.

"I think the years I have spent working with communities to put things together is kind of a compensation."

During the war, Luther saved soldiers' lives. Now he has turned his focus toward saving the lives of small towns.

"In air rescue," he said, "I was the gofer. I was the guy that jumped out the door and ran across the field, picked (wounded soldiers) up, put them over my shoulder

and ran back to the helicopter."

Luther's redirection toward saving small towns began after he returned from Vietnam, when the Texas native had what he described as a "great revelation" while sitting in an airport in Seattle.

After being in the air force for seven years, eight months and two days, he decided to return to school. Once he started school, he said, he decided to teach.

His interest in applying national policy to actual design and development of the environment prompted Luther to become interested in environmental design.

Luther went on to earn his doctorate degree in environmental design at Texas A&M in College Station after studying physical geography and community and city planning at Eastern Washington University in Cheney.

Luther began teaching at Eastern Washington University in 1974. In 1983, he came to UNL.

For more than 20 years, Luther has been helping small towns.

"I believe in small towns," he said. Luther, 49, grew up in Kerrville,

Texas, which had a population of about 7,000 people when he was growing up.

One of his main involvements is with the "Buffalo Commons" debate. Developed by Frank Popper from Rutgers University in Camden, N.J., the "Buffalo Commons" idea involves parts of the Great Plains faced with declining numbers of people and farms since 1890.

Luther said Popper described the decline as a failure.

"What (Popper) advocates doing is taking a number of counties in Nebraska and other states and getting rid of the communities that are there, acquiring the property for the federal government and converting it into a reserve for buffalo," Luther said.

But the declining number of people and farms was caused by the changing nature of farming, Luther said.

"That doesn't mean that people of Nebraska have failed."

Because of Luther's experience, he was asked to debate Popper at a national conference in 1990.

See LUTHER on 3

### FRIDAY

The Huskers, fresh off their upset victory over Oklahoma State, look to continue their winning ways against Kansas State Saturday. **Page 7**

A military transport plane plunged into a motel and restaurant in Indiana, killing at least 16 people. **Page 2**

A television documentary tells the story of a forgotten chapter in U.S. history. **Page 10**

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## Native American skeletons to be returned

### Historical Society to study, connect remains to tribes

By Trevor Meers  
Staff Reporter

**T**he Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Commission for Indian Affairs will work together to identify about 300 Native American skeletons and return the remains to the proper tribes, an official said.

John Blackhawk, director of the Indian Commission, said prehistoric remains in the society's collection would be studied and returned to Nebraska tribes for ceremonial bur-

ial. John Ludwickson, a society archaeologist, said the remains presented an identification problem because some of the skeletons were more than 5,000 years old. He said the tribes they belonged to no longer existed.

"Who do we give them to?" Ludwickson said. "There's no existing tribe to claim them. The materials that we've got left are very largely unidentifiable."

Ludwickson said the society's collection was not made up of completely intact skeletons but individual bones that represented skeletons.

Blackhawk said the society and the commission would try to link each skeleton to one of Nebraska's four present-day tribes. The tribes are the Pawnee, Omaha, Winnebago and

Sioux. "You can't give a tribe remains if they don't belong to that tribe," Blackhawk said. "Usually tribes handle their burials as a distinct, sovereign nation."

Blackhawk said some remains probably would not be linked to any modern tribe. The tribes would have to decide as a group how to bury these skeletons, he said.

Before the remains can be turned over to the tribes, the skeletons must be counted and studied, Ludwickson said.

"We'll try to identify them to how many individuals we're dealing with and not just a mass of bones," he said.

Blackhawk said the society had estimated that the study and inventory of the remains would take two

years. However, he said, the commission is lobbying the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee for more funds for the society. He said the extra funds would go to hire more research personnel to speed up the process.

"We are trying to work with the society to expedite the process," Blackhawk said. "It would probably take less than a year if (state legislators) go along with our recommendations."

Ludwickson and Blackhawk both said the project was a friendly venture between the two groups.

"The society is concerned that they do this in the most appropriate way," Blackhawk said. "We will assist them in that."