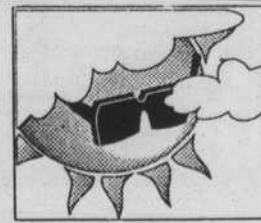


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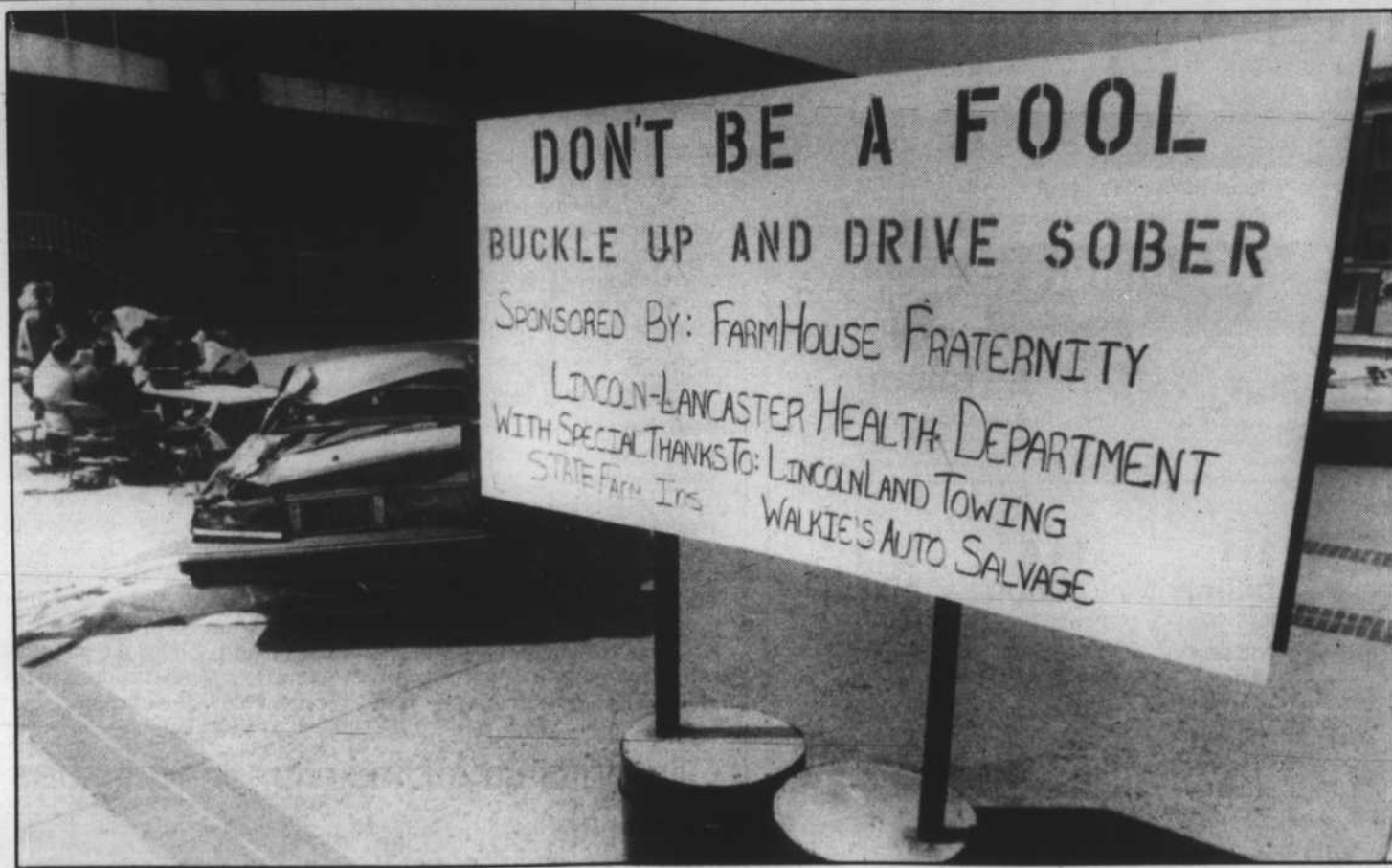
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TODAY'S WEATHER

55/35

Today, partly sunny and warmer with southwest winds at 5 to 15 mph. Friday, partly sunny with a high around 60.



Shaun Sartin/DN

Think before you drink

Members of Farmhouse fraternity and the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department display a wrecked car on Broyhill Plaza in an effort to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Bush targets UNL studies for cutbacks

Officials unsure why 3 projects selected

By Alan Phelps
Senior Editor

Officials involved with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's agriculture college projects appearing on the Bush administration's "hit list" of recommended rescissions said they were unsure why their programs were targeted.

The Bush administration recently released a list of budget rescissions that would save the federal government \$3.6 billion in the next fiscal year. While the bulk of the money saved would be in a submarine-building program the administration previously had said was to be slashed, other cuts dealt with a variety of lower-profile programs across the country.

The UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources' projects on the list were two wetlands research studies that totaled \$100,000, and a \$1.5 million joint water quality study between the University of Nebraska, the University of Kansas and Iowa State University.

James Merchant, an associate professor with the UNL Conservation and Survey Division, said the purpose of the three-university water project was to better understand non-point pollution sources and their relationship to water quality.

Non-point pollution sources, he said, are caused by water runoff from areas where chemicals have been applied, such as farm fields or

See HIT LIST on 2

UNL regains stolen books

From Staff Reports

Forty-five rare books, including a volume valued at \$1,000, have been returned to the UNL Libraries after they were stolen by an Iowa man and reclaimed by the FBI.

The books were stolen by Stephen Blumberg, who now is serving a five-year, 11-month sentence, the Lincoln Journal reported. Blumberg traveled the nation, stealing 21,000 rare books.

Joan Giesecke, associate dean for collection and services at the UNL libraries, said the most valuable of the stolen books, "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales," was valued by the FBI at \$1,000.

The volume was published in the late 1800s, Giesecke said, but most of the stolen books were published during this century.

Morality of death penalty debated

Ethical battle over deterrents, prejudice waged in city union

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

In a heated debate Wednesday, former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III argued that the death penalty was needed to protect innocent people from murder, while American Civil Liberties Union President Nadine Strossen countered that it was a barbaric and unconstitutional form of punishment below a civilized society.

The two clashed over the morality of the death penalty in the Nebraska Union. About 400 people attended the debate, which was sponsored by the University Program Council Talks and Topics committee.

Strossen said "the United States stands alone" among civilized nations in using the death penalty as a form of punishment. Among industrialized nations, she said, only the former Soviet Union and South Africa execute their citizens.

"There is no place in a civilized society for the death penalty," she said.

Meese said a majority of Americans — 79 percent, according to a poll he cited — supported the death penalty.

"The reason that there is this overwhelming majority of Americans who do believe the death penalty is necessary is because they indeed do believe in the sanctity of life..." he said.

Strossen said the ACLU did not support the death penalty because "state sanctioned killings give the lesson that the taking human life is a legitimate way of dealing with society's problems."

She said she favored life in prison without parole or restitution instead of the death penalty. In restitution, a convicted person would be required to work to provide financial compensation to the victim's family.

Meese said society was responsible for punishing those who had killed innocent people.

"The whole focal point of any nation's criminal justice system," he said, is to provide retribution for crimes.

Life imprisonment is not a sufficient deterrent to criminals, he said, because they can be paroled and released.

"Life in prison means in some states being

out in seven years," he said.

Strossen said the death penalty was not a deterrent to criminals.

"States with the death penalty do not have lower crime rates..." she said. "There simply is no evidence of a deterrent effect."

Meese disagreed.

"For most people, reason and logic would suggest that the death penalty is a deterrent," he said.

When the death penalty is used, he said, the murder rate goes down; when it is not used, the rate goes up.

The two also disagreed over whether the death penalty was discriminatory against minorities.

Strossen described the death penalty as "random at best and discriminatory at worst."

She also said the death penalty was almost exclusively assigned to the killers of white victims.

"The only possible explanation is that the justice system values white lives more than black ones," she said.

Meese argued that the death penalty actually discriminated against whites.

"All of the studies have shown that it is discriminatory toward white males as much as any group in our society," he said.

Outgoing senate opposes parking hike

By Kara Morrison
Staff Reporter

The 1991-92 ASUN Senate, an hour before its term expired Wednesday night, passed emergency legislation expressing its "extreme displeasure and disapproval" with a \$20 parking permit price increase.

"I've seen a lot of railroad jobs, but this tops it," former Business college Sen. Rob Broomfield said.

The meeting came before the inauguration of the 1992-93 Association of Students of the University of Nebraska executives and senators.

Senators said they were upset about the procedures the Parking Advisory Committee used to secure an extra \$300,000 in revenue that would result



New senate promises detailed plan to address price increase

from the increase.

The Senate's resolution urged the university administration to reopen discussion on the increase to "allow for student and other input through the appropriate channels."

Former law college Sen. Gene Collins said the Parking Advisory Committee excluded student input by meeting a week early without sufficient notice. The committee also failed to release its agenda until an hour before the meeting, he said.

Collins called the increase "crazy," especially after an increase in parking tickets earlier this spring.

Broomfield said it was ironic that

the university spent 140 hours in hearings this fall to cut more than \$2 million from its budget but "raised \$300,000 in ten minutes."

Susan Oxley, student life chairperson, said the committee stated the \$300,000 would be used for parking-lot safety, but said the committee's written proposal stated almost \$200,000 of the revenue would be used to pave several parking lots. One of the lots, Oxley said, is only for faculty use.

Former Journalism College Sen. Pat Jilek blamed University of Nebraska-Lincoln Business Manager Ray Coffey for the increase and for disregarding student opinion.

"Ray Coffey, last fall, said he valued student input, then kicked us in the face," Jilek said.

After the 1991-92 Senate's final meeting at the Wick Alumni Center, President Andy Sigerson and the new ASUN senators were inaugurated.

Sigerson, in his address, expressed his disapproval of the increase and the administration's failure to consult student opinion.

"Students are tired of being left out of important meetings and decisions," he said.

In the next 30 days, Sigerson said, ASUN will present a detailed plan as to how it will implement all of the goals on its platform.

State Attorney General Don Stenberg administered the Oath of Office to Sigerson, who assumed the new role of Student Regent, and Collins was named ASUN's 1991-92 outstanding senator.

THURSDAY

Clinton criticizes Bush's foreign policy. **Page 2**

Violence continues in the Middle East. **Page 2**

Spring Break Diversions. **Page 7**

SPRING BREAK '92

Creighton crushes Huskers 19-1. **Page 13**

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