

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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**CAMPUS**  
Spanier wants values in education



**GAME COVERAGE**  
Nebraska rolls over Kansas



**MONDAY**  
57/40  
The clouds will part today and let in some sun. Tonight and tomorrow, drizzle cooler



## Regents unanimously support family leave

By Andy Raun  
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska faculty and staff will be able to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to deal with family matters as a result of a vote by the NU Board of Regents.

The regents Saturday voted unanimously to approve the new policy, which will not affect other leave policies already in place.

Prior to the vote, NU President Martin Massengale told the regents he thought the policy would help improve morale and productivity in the university workplace.

Under the policy, employees could take leave to deal with situations such as the birth or adoption of a child, a serious illness of a spouse,

### Personnel director calls policy fair

parent or child, or a death in the immediate family.

The leave could be taken in conjunction with paid funeral leave, accrued paid vacation time or leave granted under other university rules. The employee would not be paid during family leave but would continue to be covered by university insurance plans and would receive other benefits.

John Russell, university personnel director, told the regents that while attempts already were being made to work with faculty needing

leave, the new policy would make the handling of such situations fair, uniform and equitable.

Russell said he expected employees to make minimal use of the leave because it was unpaid. However, he said, the policy would help prevent employees from resigning because they could not get needed time off.

He said the university would incur little expense with the policy.

And Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said the cost of replacing faculty members who had resigned would be two to three times higher than allowing them family leave.

Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha and Andrew Sigerson, student regent for the Uni-

versity of Nebraska-Lincoln, said they feared the family leave policy would have hidden costs.

Sigerson proposed an amendment that would prevent such costs from being passed along to students in tuition or fee increases. But Massengale and others said that with the university's accounting methods, it would be almost impossible to enforce such a rule.

The amendment was defeated.

Russell said that whether the regents approved the policy, the federal government was likely to mandate something similar in the near future.

Russell said personnel directors on all NU campuses were willing to track the policy's usage and provide reports on its effectiveness.



### Changing her stripes

Jenna Vaughn, 9, paints her face at the Lincoln Children's Museum at 121 S. 13th St. Sunday afternoon. Vaughn said she wanted to resemble a zebra by the time she was done.

Julia Mikolajcik/DN

## Regents praise new standards

By Andy Raun  
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents is on track to approve tougher admissions standards for three University of Nebraska campuses at its December meeting.

A proposal to tighten admissions standards at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney was presented to the regents at their monthly meeting Saturday.

Regents, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education are at odds over capital construction priorities. See story on page 2.

Regents and administrators praised the proposal, which will likely be acted on next month after a series of public hearings are conducted around the state.

"I think it's going to be of enormous benefit," Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said.

Under the proposal, students would

See ADMISSIONS on 3

## Abortion opponents, advocates keep issue alive

### Wesleyan debate delves into dispute about human life

By Mindy L. Leiter  
Staff Reporter

An abortion-rights advocate and opponent tangled over women's rights and what constitutes the beginning of human life Friday during a debate at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Randall Moody, president of the Board of Directors for Lincoln Planned Parenthood, said he was pro-choice and pro-family, not pro-abortion.

"Whose choice will it be, the woman or the government?" he said.

Anti-abortion attitudes are a response of male-dominated government and religions, Moody said.

"If men could get pregnant, abortion wouldn't even be an issue," he said.

When faced with the difficult issues that surround abortion, Moody said, he came out on the side of a

woman's right to choose.

Helen Alvare, an attorney and spokeswoman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that although most people tended to use the "pro-choice" label, what they really meant was that they were in favor of abortion in cases of rape or incest or to save the mother's life. That means they oppose about 99 percent of abortions, she said.

The greatest defeat of the abortion-rights argument, Alvare said, is that a fetus is a living, developing human being from the moment of conception.

During the question-and-answer period following the debate, Rick Duncan, a professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, asked Moody to describe an 18- to 20-week-old human fetus and explain why it was undeserving of legal protection.

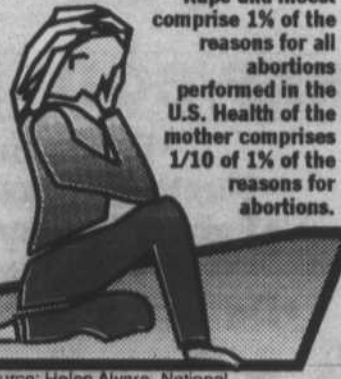
"I do not believe that is relevant to this discussion," Moody said, drawing boos from the audience. "I do believe in Roe vs. Wade and the right of a woman to make her decisions under that law."

See DEBATE on 3

**Abortion reasoning**

- not ready for the responsibility of having a child
- economic reasons
- feared how a child would change their life
- feared how a child would affect their relationship with parents or partners

Rape and incest comprise 1% of the reasons for all abortions performed in the U.S. Health of the mother comprises 1/10 of 1% of the reasons for abortions.



Source: Helen Alvare, National Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Scott Maurer/DN

### Official questions abortion support, citing ignorance

By Andrea Kaser  
Staff Reporter

Most Americans oppose 98 percent of all abortions in the United States without being aware of it, a spokeswoman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops told students Friday at the University of Nebraska College of Law.

Polls indicate there is a high correlation between the public's ignorance and its likelihood to support abortion, said attorney Helen Alvare during a lunch-hour speech, "Abortion: A Failed Societal Ethic." Alvare has co-authored legal briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in major abortion cases.

Alvare said most Americans would call themselves "pro-choice" but when asked what they meant, most said abortions should be protected in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the

mother was threatened.

This belief comes much closer to the "pro-life" stance when statistics are revealed, she said.

Rape and incest comprise 1 percent of the reasons for all abortions performed in the United States. Health of the mother comprises one-tenth of 1 percent of the reasons for abortions, Alvare said.

"American opinion changes when you ask about what their label is to what their stance is," she said.

Those people who are least aware of the actual numbers of abortions, the reasons behind them and the laws that protect them are more likely to support legal abortion, she said. The more facts people know about abortion, the more likely they are to be against it, she said.

The number of abortions has increased anywhere from six to 11 times the number of abortions before 1973, the year abortion was legalized, Alvare said. Per year, 1.6 million abortions are performed in the United States, or about 4,400 a day. Of those, 350 a day are performed between the

See ABORTION on 3