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DIVERSIONS

WOMEN'S ISSUES

THURSDAY



35/20

Today clear and slightly warmer, partly cloudy tonight. Tomorrow clear with high near 40.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Bill Splinter, vice chancellor for research, holds a calculator with solar panels like the ones he once used in an experiment to dry grain with the panels. Splinter has won many awards in his 25 years at the university, especially for his agricultural research.

Regents may have warned Massengale

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska President Martin Massengale was told at a private meeting in November that he probably did not have enough support to receive a contract extension, one regent said.

In a copyrighted story in the Wednesday edition of the Omaha World-Herald, Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha was quoted as saying, "the best of my knowledge is that (they told him) he did not enjoy the full support of the board. I'm pretty sure they gave Martin a kind of picture of the future, which was not too rosy."

However, in an interview Wednesday, Skrupa would not comment any further on what occurred in the meeting, saying she did not recall exactly what she was told by another regent who attended the meeting.

Skrupa did not attend the meeting in Regent Charles Wilson's Lincoln home on Nov. 15.

"The meeting happened almost a month ago and I was told about it a week later," Skrupa said. "But that was so long ago I couldn't say for sure what was said."

Skrupa would not name the regent who told her what happened at the secret meeting.

Massengale announced Jan. 8 that he would not request an extension beyond his three-year contract, which expires at the end of 1993.

According to Joe Rowson, director of public affairs of the University of Nebraska, Massengale wanted to end the ongoing speculation in relation to his contract.

"He (Massengale) wanted to get the issue off the table," Rowson said. "He found the situation distracting the university from getting on with important work."

Last week, NU Board of Regents Chairman John Payne of Kearney suggested that Massengale be asked to stay on through June 1994 so that NU would not change presidents in the middle of a school year. This also would give the board more time to seek a replacement.

The suggestion is expected to be considered at the regents' meeting in February.

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See REGENT on 3

Reflections of a researcher

Years of service may be hard to leave behind

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

When Vice Chancellor for Research Bill Splinter retires from UNL on June 30, he will leave with memories of many years of service and an enhanced research program, which he hopes will continue to grow without him.

Splinter has spent 25 years as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. But his position as an administrator was not his first contact with UNL.

He grew up in Hershey, west of North Platte, and got his undergraduate agricultural engineering degree from UNL in 1950.

Splinter served as chairman of the department of agricultural engineering from 1968-1988 and was associate vice chancellor for research for the next two years. He was appointed interim

vice chancellor for research in 1990.

When he recalls his years at UNL, Splinter is reminded of countless awards and honors his research and dedication have earned him.

Among his more treasured honors, Splinter said, was his election into the National Academy of Engineering. He is the only Nebraskan to be elected, and served as president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

"But of all the awards, one of the top ones was being named 'Boss of the Year' by . . . (the University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association) in 1990," Splinter said. "I was pleased with that."

Looking to the future of research at UNL, Splinter said there was more to come.

"This university does need to get itself back into its role as a research university," he said.

Splinter said most research at UNL was being done by agricultural programs. A balance was needed throughout the rest of the university, he said.

Splinter's emphasis on research is based on more than educational exploration.

"We don't really conduct research to

satisfy our curiosity," he said. "But one of the key changes we've made is to use our research base to broaden the economic base of Nebraska."

When Splinter returned to the department of agricultural engineering at UNL — 18 years after his graduation — to serve as chairman, the department made research developments in alternative energy sources. These included research in sunshine converted to electricity, wind energy, sorghum fuel sources and the conversion of soybean oil into fuel.

"We were one of the national leaders at the time in research in alternative energy sources," he said of the department of agricultural engineering.

Splinter also served as director of technology transfer, patent administrator and director of sponsored programs, overseeing applications for research grants by faculty and staff, from 1988-1990 while serving as associate vice chancellor for research.

"We made major progress in (the patent) area," he said.

Tajik academics visiting campus

Free enterprise will be focus of 90-day study

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

Three scholars from the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan have come to UNL to learn about free enterprise and to study American business management.

Kasim Islamov, director of the Tajik Center for Entrepreneurship, Said Karimov, chancellor of Khojand State University and Olim Juraev from the Khojand State English language department, arrived in Lincoln Monday.

Their mission is to soak up American business knowledge and take it back to their homeland, Karimov said Wednesday in an interview through a translator.

In the three days they have been at UNL, Karimov and his associates have spoken to classes and met Chancellor Graham Spanier, Dean Ronald Hampton of the College of Business Administration, and several professors in different departments.

Karimov said he found a lot of similarities between UNL and

Khojand State.

"The most noticeable similarity is the friendliness of the people," Karimov said. "I'm glad I've gotten to see this campus with my own eyes."

Karimov returns to Tajikistan today. Islamov and Juraev will stay at UNL for 90 days to study the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship, 1237 R St., which they hope to replicate at Khojand State. They also will try to grasp other American business concepts as well.

Tajikistan is a small republic near Russia, Karimov said. The 60-year-old Khojand University, one of two universities in the country, has an enrollment of 12,000 students and offers courses in 14 departments, ranging from medicine to history.

Lincoln and Khojand are sister cities in an international cultural exchange program that was established in 1990. The United States Information Agency awarded a one-year grant to UNL to bring the delegation to Lincoln to study business, Karimov said.

Karimov stressed the importance of establishing a strong business department at his university.

"We have an economics department and a Soviet-style management class, but we know very little about

the free enterprise system," Karimov said. "It's critical to the survival of our republic for people to understand the concept of free enterprise."

Karimov said the biggest problem facing Tajikistan was that the country didn't have a large number of econo-

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Khojand State University

mists and businessmen to implement a full free market economic system.

"We simply don't have the people to implement these practices right now," Karimov said. "With the help of UNL and the center, we hope to change that."

Robin Anderson, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, said the visitors would be kept busy during

See VISITORS on 3

Bill to benefit athletes

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Revenue from proposed collegiate license plates would be distributed to athletes on scholarship through a bill proposed in the Nebraska Legislature Tuesday.

LB474, introduced by Sens. Kurt Hohenstein of Dakota City and Ernie Chambers of Omaha, would create new license plates promoting Nebraska universities and state colleges.

The proposed license plate would cost \$50 more than the standard fee. Profits would be divided between highway trust funds and athletic scholarship funds, Hohenstein said.

The scholarship fund would be established by each college or university to provide funds for athletes who lost their scholarships and were continuing their education, the senator said.

Al Papik, assistant athletic director for administrative services, said Wednesday he hadn't been contacted by any senators about the legislation yet.

The bill was first introduced in 1991. This year the athletic-scholarship aspect of the bill was included.

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To keep production costs down, a minimum of 500 license plates from each institution would have to be purchased.

"We tried to find out at what level it would be cost effective to make the plates," Hohenstein said.

Fred Zwonechek, department of highway safety administrator, said his office hadn't taken an official position on the legislation, but the added revenue would be beneficial.

"In these economic times, any additional source of revenue for funding infrastructure improvement is needed," he said.

Similar plates have been popular in Florida, North Carolina and Missouri, Zwonechek said.

Bryan Van Deun, president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Alumni Association, said the proposed plates would be a good idea.

"It would be beneficial to the alumni and the university by allowing citizens to show pride in the university through their license plate," Van Deun said. "It would show commitment."