

Bill would give sponsor said. state judges more authority **By Chuck Green**

Senior Reporter

roposals introduced Wednes-day in the Nebraska Legislature would loosen restraints on state judges dealing with criminal cases involving the mentally ill, the bills'

Sen. Wesely of Lincoln introduced LB518 in an attempt to give the courts more authority over those found

Don

not guilty for crimes by reason of insanity. Wesely said his proposal was in-spired by the case of Andrew Scott Baldwin, a former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student and Cornhusker football player.

Baldwin was shot last Sept. 5 by Omaha police officers during what doctors determined to be his second psychotic episode in nine months.

"I'm hoping this legislation will prevent that scenario from ever oc-curring again," Wesely said. Baldwin, 23, from Roselle, N.J., was charged with the Jan. 18, 1992, assaults of Gina Simanek Mountain and Lincoln Police Officer Greg Sims. He later was found not guilty by reason of insanity when psychiatrists determined the attacks were caused by a psychotic episode.

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state senator

Baldwin was diagnosed as suffertient basis. ing from schizophrenia, and was or-

In September, Baldwin was paralyzed when a bullet fired by an Omaha dered by Lancaster County District Judge Paul Merritt to undergo psychi-atric treatment at Omaha's St. Joseph police officer severed his spinal cord.

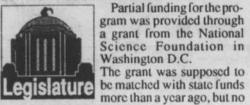
Money needed for program to stay afloat

The state of Nebraska has not kept promise, project director says

By Jeff Zeleny Senior Reporter

n effort to improve education in Nebraska's elementary and high schools has been underway for only a year, but it may be cut short if funds once promised for the project don't come through.

A program initiated by the Nebraska Mathematics and Science Coalition in 1991 was designed to improve math and science education in all Nebraska schools.



Partial funding for the pro-gram was provided through a grant from the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C.

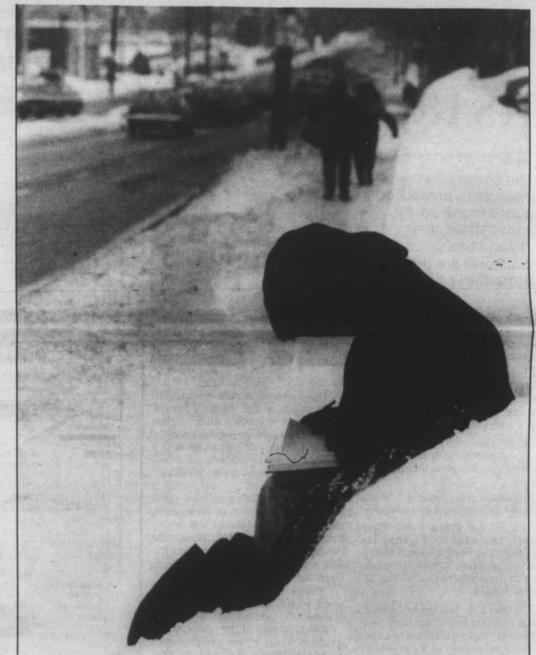
more than a year ago, but no money has been allotted yet.

"The state of Nebraska made the promise for significant support — it was a letter of good intent," Karen Ward, coalition project director, said.

"At this point all we have is good intent, we haven't gotten any money from them," she said.

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, chairman of the education committee, introduced LB649 Wednesday. The bill would appropriate legislative funds to pay for the state's portion of the grant

Withem's proposal would appropriate \$2 million for the project in the next two years. If Nebraska doesn't match the amount, the



Center for Mental Health on an outpa-See BALDWIN on 6 East Campus college plans big changes

By Mindy Leiter Staff Reporter

his semester the College of Home Economics will make some changes, including a merger, a new department director and an anticipated name change, a UNL official said.

Karen Craig, dean of the College of Home Economics, said the college was combining the Department of Human Development and the Family and the Department of Consumer Sci-ence and Education to create the De-partment of Family and Consumer Sciences

In addition, Craig said, the College of Home Economics is anticipating a name change, already approved by the NU Board of Regents and pending approval in March by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

The proposed name, College of Human Resources and Family Sciences, better suits the college's goal of finding new ways to serve families and communities, Craig said.

We want to move away from the cooking and sewing perspective that most people hold," Craig said, "The faculty wants to operate within a 21st-century framework."

Such a framework, she said, will include dealing with all aspects of modern family life.

'We need to help individuals and families and communities deal with critical issues in a responsible way, so they can act.'

Craig said those issues involved single parenting, youth at risk, financial problems and the lack of rural businesses in small communities. Streamlining departments is one way the college will deal with these issues, Craig said. Raedene Combs, a professor of consumer science and education, and

foundation will look down on giving future grants, Ward said.

"If the Legislature hasn't done something definitive, as far as getting us \$2 million for the first grant, there is no way the NSF will look favorably on requests."

See BILL on 3

Cool place to study

Wendy Freeman, a senior electrical engineering major, studies Thursday in a spot she cleared of snow near 16th and Vine streets. Freeman, who was waiting to meet a friend, said she enjoyed the winter weather.

See MERGER on 3

Changes considered to boost residence hall appeal

By Jeffrey Robb Staff Reporter

n an effort to stave off a decline in the number of students signing on for spaces in UNL residence halls, the Office of University Housing is considering several measures to draw in more upperclassmen, a university official said.

Doug Zatechka, university housing director, said residence hall population dropped 11 percent in the last six years because students were moving off campus earlier.

He said better communication was needed between students and housing officials to find out exactly what students, and especially upperclassmen, would value in the halls. Toward that end, a special workshop of housing administrators, residence directors and student assistants was held last Sunday to work through

Plans geared toward attracting upperclassmen

ideas and coordinate plans.

Zatechka said four main ideas were being considered to boost residence hall appeal:

· make parking lots larger and closer to the halls.

• configure meal plans so food service could be provided later in the afternoon or evening. Zatechka said many students suggested this because class schedules often run through meal times

hold costs down.

· designate halls housing only upperclassmen. These halls would provide more privacy, with mostly single rooms for occupants.

"We have upperclassmen who have a strong desire for privacy, like not having a roommate, for example," Zatechka said.

Tiffani Walvoord, a senior anthropology

major, has lived in an apartment throughout college. She said she thought residence halls were too crowded, noisy and expensive. Pri-vacy and freedom are the main advantages of her apartment, she said.

Jeff Haller/DN

Privacy is also a factor in why Justin Tumblin, a junior psychology major, lives off campus. He said his house offered privacy that residence halls couldn't give.

Zatechka said residence halls had been improved in the last five years to cater to students. Cable television, computer laboratories and 24-hour visitation have been added, but more is needed, he said.

Jim Hill, a Cather Hall student assistant, said another idea proposed was to take a portion of students' unused meal money and apply it to snack-bar use. Hill said a price discount for students who live in the halls three or more semesters also was discussed.

Zatechka said problems could arise in trying to fit such proposals into the housing budget. But he said if the plans were examined, and were found to be affordable and of student value, then the plan could move forward.

However, Zatechka stressed that possible improvements must be of student value. A survey was held last year to determine if 24hour visitation rules would influence students to staying in the halls. Many students said they would stay in the halls because of the new measure, Zatechka said, but residence hall population went down this year despite the plan.

"I don't want to spend a lot of money and a lot of time and find out nobody cares," he said.

Zatechka said there was no timetable for when any new plans may be implemented.