

# ASUN recognizes Martin Luther King

## Senators also debate possible new grading systems for UNL

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

A senate resolution went before ASUN Wednesday night formally recognizing Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

Art and Sciences Sen. Jim Collura drafted the bill and said it would be better for this bill to be considered before King's birthday passed.

Engineering Sen. Jeff Krohn tried to amend the bill to include all national holidays. "We need to be inclusive of all groups and not just the group Martin Luther King Jr. represents," he said.

Collura opposed the amendment saying the purpose of the bill was to highlight King's birthday, not all national holidays.

Graduate Sen. Doug Oxley also opposed the amendment. King represented all people, he said.

The Krohn amendment failed unanimously.

General Studies Sen. Mark Byars amended the bill to say, "Therefore be

it resolved that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln should, and be it further resolved that Association of Students of the University of Nebraska does formally recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. to our society."

The Byars amendment passed without opposition.

In other senate action, Vice President Trent Steele encouraged the senators and all students to get involved with the proposed change in the UNL grading system.

Steele said the proposal would change the system from a letter grade system to a numbering system. The change would give professors more latitude in grading students, he said.

The change would set up a system with 40 grading levels, compared to eight in the current system.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said he opposed changing the grading system.

Griesen, who spoke to the senators about the change, said grading students with such small increments would cause errors. He also said the new system proposed was confusing to professors.

Of colleges and universities in the United States, the majority of schools

used the letter-grade method, Griesen said. He said Nebraska used what was called the half-step method. He said most schools used a letter-grade system pluses and minuses, with a .33-point difference between each grading level.

Griesen, who commissioned a study on the grading system, said most faculty members supported the eight-step method over systems using a five- or 13-step method.

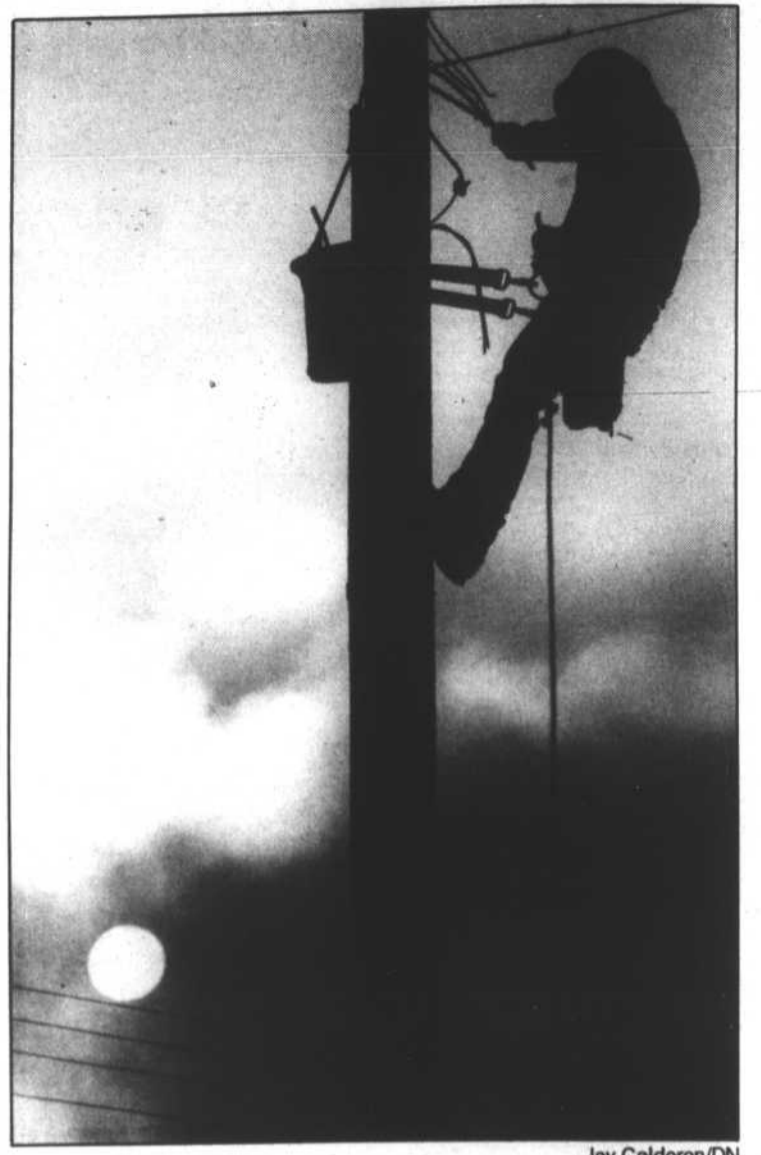
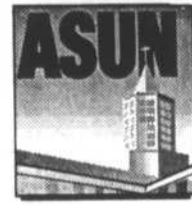
"We're kind of in the middle at eight and it is a good compromise," Griesen said.

An overwhelming majority of students, Griesen said, supported the eight-step method.

After the meeting, Griesen said faculty and student input was needed. Involvement is the only way to ensure everyone's voice is heard, he said.

Also in the senate, Government Liaison Committee Chairman Andrew Loudon announced a lobbying effort underway at the Nebraska Legislature aimed at improving tenant-landlord relations.

Loudon, who will hold a press conference today to formally announce the initiative, said the issue would affect the 17,000 students who live off campus.



Pat Goracke of Lincoln Electric System replaces wire early Wednesday morning near the Bob Devaney Sports Center, as the sun breaks from behind the clouds.

Jay Calderon/DN

You're smart enough to calculate the size of a Hydrogen atom. And you're still smoking?

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

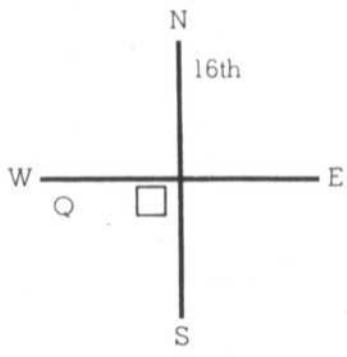
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## Commission

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Commission members have aired concern over the load of paperwork needed to complete their tasks, Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings said. And, intervention in universities' internal affairs by the commission has created a "turf battle," she said.

Blank said, "They're (the commission) totally involved in the entire budget in every institution, which goes beyond just coordination."

Blank said the commission needed to have its role redefined to what the Legislature originally intended.

"We need to avoid duplication and make sure they're following their role and mission," Blank said. "But it's gone well beyond that."

"We definitely need a clearer definition," he said.

Michael Mulnix, executive director of university relations, said confusion arose shortly after the commission's formation.

"Obviously the tension involves better defining what authority the commission has over the Board of Regents," Mulnix said. "It is a confusing thing for the university."

The formation of the commission

was worthy, Mulnix said, but its role was not well defined.

"It is confusing where the commission's authority begins and where it ends," Mulnix said. "Some clarification is definitely necessary. Some fine-tuning needs to be done."

Warner said because the commission is new, the problems may just be growing pains. The commission may misunderstand what the government anticipated of it, he said.

Before LB1063 was introduced, Warner said he had only general discussions with officials from the university.

Lee Rupp, NU executive vice president, who also directs legislative affairs for the university, said although all university officials had not seen the bill, they would most likely favor it.

Rupp said a public forum on the bill could alleviate some confusion surrounding the commission's authority.

"Sometimes discussion has a therapeutic effect," he said.

But, he said, the confusion could not be eliminated by the bill alone.

"Discussions are a large part of bills," he said. "This is, as the saying goes, not an event, it's a process."

## Telescopes to focus on Orion constellation

From Staff Reports

January is a stellar month for astronomical observation. Star clusters, planetary nebulas and colored stars are some of the sights Hyde Memorial Observatory telescopes will be focused on for the next few weeks.

The constellation of Orion, and nearby objects, will be the location of two special views this month. The multiple-star system Sigma Orionis will be visible just below Orion's belt and newly formed stars around the

constellation also will be visible.

The observatory, located at Holmes Park, is open to the general public every Saturday night during the month of January from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Weekday reservations can be made for groups of more than 20 at 441-7895.

Saturday Jan. 8 and 22 are the best days to view the moon this month. Telescope operators will be on hand to answer questions.

Admission to the observatory is free for all ages.

## POLICE REPORT

### Beginning midnight Monday

- 12:34 p.m. — Hit and run accident, parking lot east of Biochemistry Hall, \$400 damage.
- 12:59 p.m. — Hit and run accident, parking lot at 10th Street and Avery Avenue, \$1,000 damage.
- 3:26 p.m. — Jewelry stolen, 1545 S St.,

- \$3,800 loss.
- 4:25 p.m. — Wallet stolen, Avery Hall, \$50 loss.
- 5:09 p.m. — Injury accident, East Campus.
- 7:16 p.m. — Necklace stolen, 1545 S St., \$350 loss.
- 9:32 p.m. — Hit and run accident, Sandoy Hall parking lot, \$1,000 damage.