

## Employees' health tests negative

By Chad Lorenz  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Press employees were relieved Friday when they learned they tested negative for infection of three respiratory diseases.

"I think morale took a giant step forward today," said Dan Ross, the company's interim director.

University administrators reported to Nebraska Press staff that the three diseases associated with "sick building syndrome" — Histoplasmosis, Mycoplasma and Legionella — were not detected in their lung and blood tests, Ross said.

Employees had their blood and lungs tested after many complained of upper-respiratory symptoms such as coughing, sneezing and severe headaches, Ross said. The outbreak of symptoms caused concern over the building's air quality, he said.

But Phyllis Larsen, director of public relations at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the tests showed a higher rate of abnormality than usual. Some tests indicated exposure to Legionella but not infection, she said.

James Main, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance, said more testing would be done until those unusual results could be explained.

"Until we get hard-core facts, we don't know whether to go right, left or turn around or where to go with this," he said.

Main said the building's air also was tested for contamination.

Biologists took 12 to 15 samples from the air-handling system and tested them for bacteria cultures, Main said. Those test results will not be available for two weeks.

The air-handling system will be cleaned or replaced when the cause of the problem is pinpointed, Main said.

## Regents delay computer, raise coaches' pay

Engineering super computer gets tabled

By Jeffrey Robb  
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents tabled a measure Saturday that would have approved the purchase of a \$400,000 super computer for the College of Engineering and Technology.

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion said he would like to see more information and have the college prove its need before spending the money.

Miller said the computer may not even be necessary as other universities allow their equipment to be used for free.

In other business, the regents approved \$19,000 worth of salary increases for four athletic coaches. The increases took effect last October.

Francis Allen, director of the gymnastics program, will make \$62,000, up from \$58,952.

Cal Bentz, director of the swimming program, also will make \$62,000 after making \$56,506.

Robin Krapfl, coach of the women's golf team, will make \$30,000, up from \$23,475.

Gary Pepin, coach of the track and field team, will make \$62,000 after having a salary of \$58,142.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said the coaches were reviewed in the fall. The changes are based on performance and by the need to provide competitive salaries, Spanier said.

The board also approved the issuance of bonds that would finance the surfacing of parking lots, the acquisition of the Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity house and two apartment buildings and the addition of air conditioning to Neihardt Hall.

The bonds for the parking lot project, amounting to \$2.55 million, will be used to cover lots on City and East campuses. The bonds for the other projects will total \$2.85 million.



UNL Student Regent Shawntell Hurtgen, left, and UNO Student Regent Justin Peterson congratulate UNL history professor Patrice Berger, who received a creative teaching award during Saturday's NU Board of Regents meeting.

Travis Heying/DN

## Regent

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Zatechka, the former director of housing who spoke in favor of the policy, said the policy wasn't a perfect solution, but it would help.

"I don't have the perfect solution to guns on this campus, in this society. I just don't know," Zatechka said. "But I think this is a step in the right direction."

Zatechka said UNL was not insulated from the danger that guns pose, pointing to about seven firearms violations in residence halls in the past two years, a failed attempt to shoot a semi-automatic rifle into a classroom and the shooting of a UNL Police officer.

Hunters who keep their guns on campus aren't reckless, Zatechka said, but even they aren't protected from accidents.

"It's going to take one time ... when we could have somebody dead," Zatechka said.

Zatechka said driving a few miles

to the police station was a minor inconvenience. The university was being generous by allowing the guns at all, he said; other Big Eight schools and the University of Nebraska at Kearney ban all firearms.

Those universities have had no trouble enforcing their policies, Zatechka said. If UNL makes the policy clear and shows the consequences of breaking the policy, he said, students would follow it.

Philip Cilliers, president of the Residence Hall Association, spoke at the meeting against the policy. Students will ignore the new rule, Cilliers said.

"What will happen, we think, is that instead of storing them with the police, there will be more guns in rooms," he said. "That's less control than we have now."

Regent Drew Miller of Papillion, agreed with Cilliers, saying he had heard similar student complaints.

Miller offered an amendment, which failed, that would have kept the weapons policy the same.

## Union

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ing student fees raised \$40 a year when students already faced stiff costs to attend school. Tuition and fees come out of the same pocket, he said.

But James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said student fees would remain low compared to other Big Eight and peer schools, despite the increase. Besides, he said, students favored the expansion by voting for it in the March election.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln, agreed.

"If the students are the ones that use it, if the students are paying for it and if students want it ... I don't understand why we should intervene to stop it," he said.

The university now must hire an architecture team to design the project and gain the approval of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

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