

High flying

The NU women's gymnastics team starts a three-meet homestand with a dual against Denver Saturday. The Huskers are 8-1 this season. PAGE 9

Back in the Hole

KFRX disc jockey Andy Vaughn is back as host of "The Donut Holes in the Morning," and he couldn't be happier. PAGE 11

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THAT LOVING GLOW

Partly sunny, high 38. Cloudy tonight, low 17.

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Parking lot may pave way for new hotel

By KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

“... the project will enhance the UNL campus for football, the Lied Center and everything else ...”

MAYOR MIKE JOHANNIS

It's 250 parking spaces today, and might be 250 hotel suites tomorrow.

Lincoln Mayor Mike Johannis announced Thursday that Block 35, now used as a 250-spot parking lot between 10th and 11th streets and P and Q streets downtown, will become a 250-room Embassy Suites Hotel if negotiations go smoothly and it's approved by the City Council.

The announcement was originally expected for the week of Jan. 13, but the committee needed additional time to consider the information submitted by prospective developers.

John Q. Hammons, a Springfield, Mo., de-

veloper, was selected for the project.

The committee visited and approved an Embassy Suites Hotel that Hammons built in Omaha.

"This developer is a very seasoned entrepreneur," Johannis said. "He's indicated an ability to be flexible on the project."

Flexibility will be a necessary component,

Johannis said, as details are uncertain.

Considerations in constructing the Embassy Suites Hotel include: designing the building to attract interest, replacing the 250 parking spaces and possibly providing a first-floor market with shops and restaurants.

The effect of Block 35's development on the nearby UNL campus also was discussed.

"I believe the project will enhance the UNL campus for football, the Lied Center and everything else at the university," Johannis said.

UNL Chancellor James Moeser later commented on the announcement.

"I think it's a positive development," Moeser said.

While a developer has been chosen for the project, the detailed plans have not been developed for Block 35.

Johannis said the next stage is the negotiations with Hammons. Dallas McGee, community development coordinator, said the negotiations stage could take anywhere from weeks to months.

Johannis said the construction date could be pushed back to 1998. It was scheduled to begin this year.

KEG party taps into government

ASUN Elections

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Staff Reporter

It's a keg party, but instead of pouring beer, members of KEG pored over issues Thursday night.

KEG party President Scott Brauer said his party wants to bring student government to the students.

The party announced its candidacy and platform Thursday in the Abel Residence Hall ballroom in preparation for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elections in March.

KEG stands for Knowledge and Education through Government.

The main focus of the platform is to get the residence halls and more minority organizations involved in student government, Brauer said.

"For one, I am sick of being underrepresented," he said at the beginning of his platform speech.

One way the party plans on getting more students involved is through representation on each residence hall floor, Brauer said. The party plans on getting contacts not only for the upcoming election but to benefit the party in the future.

These contacts, Brauer said, will be a way to help educate more students on campus about the issues that face student government.

This will help increase voter participation on campus from the 8.4 percent of students who voted in ASUN elections last year, he said.

Listening to the concerns and wants of minority students and organizations was important to the party, he said. Brauer said it was the



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

FROM LEFT: CAMPAIGN Manager Ben Poole and Presidential Candidate Scott Brauer launched the KEG party's campaign for ASUN elections Thursday night in Abel Residence Hall.

party's responsibility as student representatives to speak for all students' views.

Brauer said the party had many concerns with the current representation in ASUN. He said it does not devote enough attention to bills that would affect a large percentage of students on campus.

Ben Poole, campaign manager, said the KEG party targeted centralized billing as one important student issue in its platform.

Brauer said students were confused by the new centralized billing plan, and needed more options. Some students, he said, could not pay because the bills were too large.

Brauer said KEG also is concerned about post-tenure review and

said it should include students' views.

Brauer also addressed the debate over the university's pending acceptance of a single-beverage company contract.

The beverage alliance, which would bring about \$10 million to the university, should be used to defray student fees, Brauer said.

He said it should be used to stop the rate of tuition increase, and said it would improve educational quality by decreasing what students pay.

And, even though it's a KEG party, Brauer stood by the university's policy of a dry campus by saying its stand on alcohol at the university should "be as dry as my sense of humor."

Legislature debates assisted-suicide bill

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Legislature

A bill heard Wednesday by the Judiciary Committee would allow physicians to assist terminally-ill patients in dying, making Nebraska the first state to legalize the practice.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who sponsored the Physician Aid-in-Dying bill, said the practice was already being done by doctors throughout the state. Although he said he didn't want doctors to use aid-in-dying frequently, the state needed laws to address it.

LB406 would ensure that doctors who helped patients in aid-in-dying would not be prosecuted.

Chambers urged the committee to advance the bill, so it could at least be discussed, rather than kill it just because people didn't agree with it.

"This (bill), literally a matter of life or death, should be advanced," Chambers said.

Under the provisions of LB406, an adult who was expected to die of a terminal illness in six months or less could sign a request for aid-in-dying (an advance directive). The patient could revoke the directive at any time.

The physician who gave the lethal injection or dose of drugs could not be charged with murder or assisting suicide, and the death would not be considered a suicide for insurance purposes, according to the bill.

If a physician declined to assist in dying, he would not be forced.

Opponents are worried that a patient who changed his or her mind would still be given a lethal injection of drugs, and that the bill did not require a psychological exam to insure that the person requesting an advance directive was able-minded.

Chambers tried to calm fears by stressing that the directive could be revoked at any time.

"You can be clearheaded as Einstein when you make it, but if the next day you're crazy as a bedbug and decide to revoke it ... it doesn't have

to be carried out," Chambers said.

Consenting fear

An opponent said the bill could open the door to Nazi-like practices.

Walt Weaver, a Lincoln cardiologist, said Nazis used "the same trick when they got rid of people in nursing homes" in Germany.

They would check the visitors list and kill patients who had no family visits — no advocates to protect them.

He also said doctors could not predict if a patient was near death. Some patients are expected to die and are taken off respirators, yet they live for months.

Jim Cunningham of the Nebraska Catholic Conference said his groups opposed the bill.

Chambers said the church supported removing feeding tubes and letting patients dehydrate if they or their families so chose.

Others who testified said shutting down feeding tubes was "passive euthanasia," while giving lethal injections was direct killing.

Teresa Wagner, an attorney for the National Right to Life, said the bill would let doctors kill patients who were not terminally ill, and doctors would have more reason to kill patients than develop better treatments.

"The dollar spent is the largest of considerations," she said. "Lethal injections will be the cheapest, always."

"The dependent and the sick lose. This could be called a prescription for their death."

Jack Kaufmann, a medical doctor from David City, said terminally-ill patients should live because pain can be controlled until they die.

"When my patients cannot get well, God's words, 'comfort ye my people,' always apply," Kaufmann said.

"Thou shalt not kill," he said. "To

Please see DYING on 8