



DAWN DIETRICH/DN

**BETSY GABB**, head of the interior design program at UNL, shows a piece of handmade miniature furniture that was recently donated to the university. The pieces include a chess board, cigars, glasses and food.

## UNL receives tiny furniture

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reputation it will bring, represents a terrific recruiting tool," he said. "No other college in America is connected to a collection like this."

Gabb said the other three similar miniature collections worldwide are housed in museums: the Winterthur Museum in Delaware, the Chicago Art Institute and a miniature furniture museum in Kansas City, Mo.

UNL was chosen to receive the collection because Kruger wanted it to

remain in Lincoln and to be open to the public, Rohman said. Kruger also attended UNL from 1931 to 1934.

The collection will be housed in the Eloise Kruger Gallery in Architecture Hall West. The gallery, now under construction, will open March 1. The collection will be on permanent public display during Architecture Hall's normal operating hours.

"We think this collection will be a valuable asset not just for the college," Steward said, "but for the entire community."

# CFA shrinks UPC budget bid

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Assignment Reporter

The University Program Council did not get exactly what it asked for Thursday night from the Committee for Fees Allocation.

UPC submitted a request for about an 8-percent increase in its funding, the bulk of which would go toward multicultural programming. The council was granted only a 1.7-percent increase.

UPC asked for an additional \$8,000 for a multicultural fund, but that money will have to be taken from other UPC events such as concerts or lectures.

"There is a lot of fat in this bud-

get," said C.F. Simmons, CFA vice chairman.

Several members agreed and said UPC money had been "rolled over" from the fall semester and extra money may remain again this year.

Mike McQuistan, CFA member, said CFA was concerned that the same people were attending events and some of those events with low attendance had high costs.

"About 9,000 students attended events last year, but there are over 20,000 students on campus that all pay fees," McQuistan said.

But Dan Anderson, UPC programming secretary, said big spring events, such as MTV's Loveline and a co-sponsorship with the Lied Center for Performing Arts, would be costly projects.

CFA

Anderson said the vote was frustrating because UPC again may have to refuse groups that want help paying for events.

The UPC/Lied Center's request also passed at the requested 3 percent, for an overall budget of \$99,120.

Kendall Swenson, CFA chairman, said it is a tough year for allocations because of expected student fee increases to cover costs of the Nebraska Union project. The allocations given Thursday were "generous," he said.

"We need to be conservative and think of all the students that are paying money."

## Binders catch fire in truck wreck

BY JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

A potentially toxic cloud of smoke hung over Interstate 80 Thursday morning after two semitrailer trucks collided near the U.S. Highway 77 interchange.

A semitrailer truck loaded with beer from a Lincoln-based distributor was merging onto I-80 from U.S. Highway 77 around 8 a.m. when it was rear-ended by a Canadian-based semitrailer truck carrying school binders.

The beer truck was sent careening

across the westbound lanes before it jackknifed and came to rest, partially blocking the eastbound lanes, said Bill Jarrett, Lancaster County sheriff chief deputy.

As the truck from Canada slid out of control, the engine caught fire before finally coming to rest across the westbound lanes.

The fire spread quickly from the cab to the truck's cargo of plastic three-ring binders.

There was initial concern the burning plastic would create a hazardous cloud of smoke, and evacuation of the

area was considered, Jarrett said.

After unsuccessfully attempting to douse the fire with water, firefighters used foam, Jarrett said.

Firefighters were forced to use a backhoe to break apart the trailer to get at the fire, which was then quickly contained.

A passenger in the binder truck reported minor injuries, but she refused medical care at the scene.

Both the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-80 were closed all Thursday morning until the wreckage could be cleared.

Both directions were open by noon.

## Adoptees' safety at issue

BY JOY LUDWIG  
Staff Reporter

Children who have been separated from their parents — either those who have been adopted or who remain in foster care — may have a new system in Nebraska to protect them.

The state will make sure children in foster care will not be returned to their parents unless their well-being can be guaranteed.

If passed, LB1041 would make

Nebraska law meet the requirements set up by the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 passed in November, which would also give the state money to pay for a larger workload for social workers.

As financial incentives, the government plans to provide states \$4,000 for each adopted child and \$6,000 if the child has special needs, said Sen. Gerald Matzke of Sidney, who introduced the bill.

Matzke said the bill should be passed quickly to help provide safety to children dealing with foster care and adoption issues as well as help expedite courtroom processes.

"Most importantly, the purpose of this bill is to protect the health and safety of the children who have been neglected and to bring safety to those who have been adopted," he said.

Matzke highlighted a section of the bill that he said makes sure the courts don't reunite children with parents who may subject them to "torture, chronic abuse and sexual abuse."

In all, there are 3,508 children in state foster care homes. Implementation of the bill could make the adoption easier and quicker, thus reducing that number.

"The bill should allow 700 of those kids to find a safe home and be adopted," Matzke said.

Another proponent, Jessie Rasmussen, director of Health and

Legislature

Human Services, said she supported the bill because it would "insure permanency for children" who otherwise might not have a place to call home.

She said the bill would make it easier for judges to terminate the rights of abusive parents whose children may have been in foster care for long periods of time and make them available for adoption.

Doug Johnson, a juvenile court judge, said he wanted to see the bill passed because it would make the current judicial process easier.

He said he would like to see the courts "acting in the best interest of the child" when determining reunification with the parents or when putting a child in foster care.

"After all, we are in the children business," he said. "We must look beyond foster care and plan for the permanency of the child."

The discussion also brought up several concerns including how to quickly initiate the federally mandated timeline, hire additional workers to handle the increased workload and possibly hire separate juvenile judges to make the decisions.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacy also suggested selecting one to four people to serve as referees, as Omaha currently does, to help hear the cases and make decisions that a district court judge would approve.

If passed, the bill would take effect and start protecting children this year, Matzke said.

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