



## Weight watchers

The Nebraska wrestling team is happy with the way it has adjusted to the NCAA weight-cutting regulations. PAGE 7.



## It still ain't Falco

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart would have turned 242 years old today, and the Lincoln Symphony is throwing a birthday party. PAGE 9

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MERCURY'S RISING

Partly cloudy, high 50. Cloudy tonight, low 26.

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## 'Brain gain' bill presented to students

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson introduced his plan to encourage the state's top students to attend college in Nebraska and contribute their skills to the state's work force upon graduation.

At a press conference Monday in Neihardt Residence Hall, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Honors Program Dormitory, Nelson outlined LB1176, dubbed the "brain gain" legislation.

The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Jon Bruning of Omaha, calls for scholarships for academically qualified students who attend college in Nebraska, complete an internship with a participating in-state business, and work in Nebraska for three years after graduation.

"The future of the state truly lies in our young people, and this is an investment in our young people and their opportunities," Nelson said.

Nelson said he and his policy advisers had talked to numerous youth around the state who said the proposed incentives would increase the chances they would go to school in Nebraska.

If more talented students stayed in Nebraska, the quality of the work force would improve, Nelson said.

making the state more attractive for businesses.

Nelson recently approached Bruning, who graduated with honors from UNL in 1990, about sponsoring the bill. Bruning said he was passionate about the issue.

"I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to match the ideas of keeping students in the state and helping businesses grow," he said.

The bill calls for about \$2 million, enough for 200 to 300 scholarships initially.

Scholarships would be distributed according to work-force demand, with a majority going to students in those fields most in need of employees, such as information technology.

Qualified students could use the scholarships at any accredited institution of higher learning in Nebraska. The scholarships, to be awarded annually, would pay half of tuition or up to \$5,000.

Scholarship recipients would be required to complete an internship with a participating business and work in Nebraska for three years after graduation. Students who fail to meet these requirements must repay the scholarship and pay extra penalties.

Please see GAIN on 3



GOV. NELSON DISCUSSES his new "brain gain" legislation at Neihardt Residence Hall Monday morning as Tip O'Neill, Michael Echols and Chancellor James Moeser look on. O'Neill was representing the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Echols was representing the Creighton Institute.

## Congressmen: Hold judgment

BY TED TAYLOR  
Senior Editor

As talks of a possible presidential impeachment or resignation begin to boil across the nation, cooler heads prevail with the Nebraska delegation.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, during a conference call from his Washington office Monday, said judgment against the president must wait for due process to take its course.

The Omaha senator did say, however, that he was concerned the crisis in the White House and the uncertainty surrounding it would dampen tonight's State of the Union address.

Instead of the usual uplifting, feel-good-about-America atmosphere, he expected only a "polite, somber and respectful" audience of politicians in the U.S. House of Representatives tonight.

"It will not be enthusiastic," he said. "There will be polite applause and civility, but not much beyond that."

On Monday, Clinton vehemently denied both his alleged affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and accusations that he forced the 24-year-old to lie about their relationship during her deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Hagel said he and every Republican

and Democrat on Capitol Hill hoped the situation would resolve itself quickly so the new congressional session, which begins Tuesday, could get started on the right foot.

"If this process goes on and on and on," he said, "the atmosphere (in Washington) gets more and more political."

Sen. Bob Kerrey, Reps. Doug Bereuter and Jon Christensen were out of their Washington offices on Monday, but their staff members said the three remained tight-lipped about the Lewinsky situation.

John Gruhl, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor, also agreed it was much too early and the circumstances much too different to begin thinking back to Watergate and the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

"Nixon was involved in a whole series of events that can be lumped under the heading of 'abuse of power,'" Gruhl said. "There was a much more pervasive pattern of events."

"Clinton may have a pattern of unappealing morals and interpersonal relations."

Hagel said he found it "alarming" the public has seemed to be so accepting of the interpersonal relationship Clinton

Please see CLINTON on 3

## Vaccine could help soldiers

BY ANN MARY LANDIS  
Staff Reporter

Heightened tensions in the Middle East have renewed concerns that Saddam Hussein could use biological weapons against U.N. and U.S. soldiers.

But some UNL researchers could save soldiers from the weapons' devastating effects.

Mike Meagher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate professor of food science and technology and biological systems engineering, is leading an effort to create vaccines for the deadly, easy-to-make biological weapons called "bot bombs," or botulinum bombs.

"We're under a lot of stress here," Meagher said. "The Pentagon wants this."

"They want it fast." Officials know Saddam has bot bombs, Meagher said. Though they are unsure whether he has used them, they know he used other chemical and biological weapons against the Kurds.

Bot bombs are based on botulinum, a severe type of food poisoning caused by the microorganism *Clostridium botulinum*, Meagher said. Seven types of botulinum exist, all of which can kill an unprotected soldier within three to eight days.

"It's one of the deadliest toxins in the world," Meagher said.

"The Pentagon wants this. They want it fast."

MIKE MEAGHER  
researcher

The toxin causes muscles to get progressively weaker and become paralyzed. The toxin often leads to death by respiratory failure.

Meagher's group of researchers already has developed a vaccine for one strain of botulinum, he said. Now, the group is working to find a vaccine for the next strain.

About three years ago, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases signed a contract with UNL researchers to create vaccines for biological weapons.

The contract, worth about \$690,000, expires in April, but Meagher said he expects an extension. Then UNL researchers could find the vaccines for four other strains of the toxin, he said.

Meagher said pressure to finish the vaccines has risen with the tension between the United Nations and Iraq.

Even with the increased stress, Meagher said he takes comfort in the possibilities of vaccines.

"It's kind of neat to think we will save lives in a combat situation with our work," Meagher said.

In order to make the botulinum vaccine, UNL researchers received a harmless part of the botulinum toxin from the U.S. Army. The researchers' first botulinum vaccine has been successful in tests on laboratory mice.

Last spring, 20 mice were injected with the vaccine and a booster shot. Then the mice were given a dose of a botulinum toxin. All 20 survived.

Human trials with the vaccines should begin within two or three months at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland. Unlike UNL laboratories, the medical center is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to use vaccines on humans.

During the human trials, the UNL vaccine will be injected into Army soldiers. Later, a sample of their blood will be tested to see how well it resists botulinum toxins.

If all goes well in the human tests and the Army rushes its usual testing procedures, Meagher said, the vaccine could be ready in six or seven months.