



Just chillin'

But only for more week. Then the NU baseball team takes its young pitching staff on the road. Part of the spring sports preview. PAGE 16



Sing us a song

From Japan to Lincoln, karaoke turns the average Joe into a jukebox hero. Lincoln offers a variety of clubs for discriminating tastes. PAGE 8

TURNING THE CORNER
Partly sunny, high 45. Cloudy tonight, low 28.

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Johanns' budget falls short of NU request

By IEVA AUGSTUMS
Senior staff writer

University officials said Thursday they still plan to seek higher salaries and technology funding, despite Gov. Mike Johanns' "fiscally conservative request."

Johanns, in his State of the State address Wednesday, proposed a 3.7 percent budget increase for the University of Nebraska. The NU Board of Regents requested a 6.8 percent increase.

"I'm not surprised," Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill said. "But it

does put the university in a difficult position."

In its budget request, the university would like to increase faculty salaries, fund technology and cover general inflation costs.

Faculty salaries are 5 to 6 percent below the midpoint of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's peer institutions.

Additional technology funding would provide increased distance-learning capabilities and improved research possibilities.

"It's not going to be easy, but it's a must," Hassebrook said.

NU President Dennis Smith said he was pleased with the governor's budget

but was concerned whether the university would be able to serve its students and faculty at full capacity.

"I think the governor has treated us as well as he could," Smith said. "But we still have major needs."

Smith said he was glad to hear Johanns has made higher education a priority during his term; however, providing full funding of faculty salaries still is a top priority.

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said that under Johanns' budget, faculty would receive a 3.8 percent salary and benefits increase.

"It's not what we requested, but it is something," O'Brien said. "I don't

think the governor's budget means the university will not ask for anything more."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser said if the NU system does not receive proper funding, UNL could face serious budget reductions.

"I think the governor is trying to be supportive in every way possible," Moeser said. "But we have to protect our core mission of teaching and research excellence."

O'Brien said if Johanns' budget is passed as is, the NU system could face substantial decreases in programming and significant faculty cuts.

"The most important thing, as regents, is that we have to be clear that we are trying to move the university forward, not backwards," O'Brien said. "But we don't want to stand still either."

Smith will present the university's budget to the Appropriations Committee in March.

"The burden is on us to be creative to find ways to reduce our budget," Smith said.

Hassebrook agreed.

"In spite of what we have before us, we cannot back away from enduring a quality education," he said. "We have to make this an accessible institution to all of our students."

Bills would limit convicts' appeals

Legislature



By SHANE ANTHONY
Staff writer

Courts, convicts and constitutional rights came before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee Thursday in the form of two bills.

The committee heard testimony on LB185 and LB186. Both bills - which would attempt to limit time prisoners can take in court - are part of a joint crime package developed by Gov. Mike Johanns and Attorney General Don Stenberg.

LB186 would limit the number of post-conviction proceedings available to prisoners. If the bill passed, prisoners would have one chance to file a petition for relief based on state or U.S. constitutional issues. The bill would require the petition

be filed within three years of conviction.

Stenberg, citing several death penalty cases, said constant appeals drag out the judicial process.

"This lack of finality breeds a lack of respect for the law," Stenberg said.

He did not cite the Randolph Reeves case, but Reeves' attorney, Paula Hutchinson, and a brother of one of Reeves' victims testi-

"This lack of finality breeds a lack of respect for the law."

DON STENBERG
attorney general

fied Thursday.

Reeves was scheduled to die in the electric chair Jan. 14 for the 1980 murders of Janet Mesner and Vicki Lamm, but the State Supreme Court granted a stay to hear motions filed by Hutchinson.

"The interest of finality should never trump the issue of justice when someone's life is involved," she said Thursday, testifying against LB186.

Greg Zessin, Vicki Lamm's brother, testified in favor of the bill. Reeves' appeals since his conviction in 1981 have dragged on too long, he said, preventing closure for the victims' families.

"It just goes on and on," he said.

Lincoln Attorney Alan Peterson said the bill was offensive to the U.S. Constitution and disrespected prisoners' rights. Versions of the bill from years past at least required competent counsel for the convicted, he said.

"This bill doesn't even wink at that kind of justice," he said.

During testimony on both bills, Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers questioned motions Stenberg has filed in several cases. The court dismissed several motions for lack of merit.

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SCOTT McCLURG/DN

DAY-CARE CHILDREN, FROM LEFT, Bridgid Rankin, Donald Washington and Kaitlin Fosler climb over a jungle gym Thursday afternoon at the YWCA. Ninety-four children are enrolled in day care through University Child Care.

Who Cares?

UNL students, staff struggle with child-care shortage

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer

During finals week more than a year ago, UNL graduate Emily Elowsky had something else on her mind besides cramming.

Mother to an infant son, Elowsky had to find a person to take care of him after her daycare provider had emergency surgery the week of finals.

Elowsky had to make arrangements to get care for her infant child quickly. With her finals during the day, taking him to a

working friend's or parent's house was out of the question.

Calling on a new daycare provider was out of the question as well because Elowsky had previously interviewed more than 30 people before finding one she trusted to care for her son.

She was left with one option: toting her son along to the tests.

Fortunately, professors were flexible. One allowed her to take her final in the hallway so she could keep an eye on her son without disturbing the other students.

The challenges of finding daycare for her son did not begin or end there, howev-

er.

The lack of child care sponsored by the university is a problem that Elowsky is familiar with. Wanting to put her child in University Child Care since he was 6 weeks old, the UNL graduate now covets the spot her son holds at the center on 14th and N streets.

That is because it took a year and a half on the waiting lists before she could secure a spot for her child.

"You have to know before you are pregnant anymore to get on the waiting

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