

Daily Nebraskan

Begin two-way: Mark
Baldrige begins the
breakdown of temporal
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Alisha Ingram takes
Nebraska by storm
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A Ragtime actor
speaks of the play's
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Tim Westerberg rearranges hemp hats at Solstice on 126 N. 13th St. Westerberg said he wants to stock his store with merchandise that can't be found at the mall.

Nate Wagner/DN

A new cash crop? Hemp could be legal

BY GWEN TIETGEN

The Agriculture Committee planted the first seeds of the industrial hemp debate Tuesday.

LB273, introduced by Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek, would provide for the licensed cultivation and commercial possession of industrial hemp.

After listening to hours of contradictory testimony, senators decided to hold the bill in committee until next week.

Industrial hemp would create another potential cash crop for Nebraska farmers, Schrock said.

"The Declaration of Independence was printed on hemp paper, and the first American flag was made out of hemp," Schrock said.

"The United States is the only industrial country where the growing of industrial hemp is illegal."

Industrial hemp, a species of *cannabis sativa*, has no more than three-tenths of 1 percent of tetrahy-

drocannabinol, or THC, Schrock said.

THC is the chemical in marijuana that affects the brain. The quantity in industrial hemp is not enough to affect the brain, Schrock said.

Marijuana is defined as all parts of the genus *cannabis* having more than three-tenths of 1 percent.

Proponents of the bill said industrial hemp and marijuana are completely different, and hemp can be a viable cash crop through the making of clothing, block construction, shingles, lotion and paper, among other things.

"If hemp and marijuana are the same thing, a Pekinese is the same as a Doberman pinscher," Schrock said.

Christian Elowsky, a student obtaining his master's degree in botany, explained to senators the difference between levels of THC in industrial hemp, marijuana and ditch weed — or pot that grows in the

"If hemp and marijuana are the same thing, a Pekinese is the same as a Doberman pinscher."

Ed Schrock
Elm Creek senator

wild.

Where industrial hemp has three-tenths of 1 percent THC, ditch weed has 1 percent of THC and marijuana THC levels range between 2 and 20 percent, Elowsky said.

"Industrial hemp is a high-yielding cannabis," Elowsky said as he passed out several pictures of

Please HEMP on 3

Please see FETAL on 3

Committee for
Fees Allocation

Chairman asks for 80% DN cut

BY CHARLIE KAUFFMAN

The Committee for Fees Allocation met Tuesday evening to decide the future use of student fees for ASUN, the Daily Nebraskan and the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

In the process, some members of the committee tried to cut next year's funding for the Daily Nebraskan by more than \$40,000 — a decrease of more than 80 percent compared to last year's student fees funding.

CFA Chairman Brian Lore proposed the decrease, which gave the Daily Nebraskan \$9,513 in student fees funding for the next academic year.

Lore proposed the smaller funding act as a subsidy to the Daily Nebraskan's annual profit.

Because the Daily Nebraskan made an unusually large profit last year, Lore proposed student fees be cut comparably.

Please see CFA on 3

Public voices opinions on stem cell research

BY JILL ZEMAN

About 50 people attended a public hearing Tuesday about research that may be conducted at NU that requires the destruction of an embryo.

Members of the NU Bioethics Advisory Committee met to hear a public response to embryonic stem cell research, which some think could lead scientists toward a cure for Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases.

The committee, formed last March by NU President Dennis Smith, is made up of faculty members, administrators and community

members.

Five people affected by Alzheimer's disease spoke in support of stem cell research at the hearing.

Rosalee Yeaworth, whose mother, brother and husband have battled Alzheimer's, said NU shouldn't ban the research.

"I don't pretend to know the personhood of an embryo, but I would like to think I could speak to the loss of personhood due to Alzheimer's," Yeaworth said.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center doesn't use stem cells in research, but the committee recommended in November that it can be conducted at NU if certain

guidelines are followed.

First, the research must be approved and justified by a scientific review committee.

According to the recommendations:

■ Cells cannot be cloned or obtained from in vitro fertilization done especially for the research.

■ Institutional Review Boards should review all research involving human embryonic stem-cell research.

Stem cells are the predecessors to all the tissues in the body, such as the heart, brain, lungs or liver.

The cells have the potential to develop into the cell types of the

body organs.

The research has drawn fire from anti-abortion rights activists because it requires the destruction of an embryo.

The bioethics committee will discuss the hearing at its next meeting and decide whether to send its recommendations on to the NU Board of Regents, said Deb Thomas, NU director of special projects.

If Smith and the regents approve the committee's recommendations, they will become university policy, she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

What's your sign: Today marks Chinese year of the snake

BY SHARON KOLBET

For people who have forgotten or broken their New Year's resolutions, there's a second chance.

Break out the noisemakers — for today begins another new year.

While followers of the Gregorian calendar start their new year on Jan. 1, cultures that follow the Chinese lunar calendar officially begin the new year on Jan. 24.

"This is the biggest holiday in China," University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Kun Lu said.

Lu, president of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, helped organize the upcoming Chinese New Year celebration to be held Saturday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom.

"In China, the holiday is about family," Lu said. "Most people spend the evening with relatives, and then at midnight they go outside for fireworks."

This year in addition to the traditional dinner and performances, the student organization has added fireworks to its schedule of events.

Lu said after the festivities in the Nebraska Union, the attendees will travel to 17th and Vine streets for a fireworks show.

The UNL celebration has grown over the years.

With the help of increased advertising and a new Chinese radio show on KZUM-FM, Lu said the 600 tickets that went on sale last Tuesday sold out in a mere 10 hours.

Only a few tickets remain for people who want to attend the event, Lu said. For tickets, people should call 742-5260.

While known to most Americans as the Chinese New Year, Le Nguyen, president of Lincoln's Asian Caucus, said the event is celebrated as the Lunar New Year by other Asian cultures.

"Vietnamese, Japanese and Koreans also

celebrate this day," Nguyen said.

Growing up in a Vietnamese family, Nguyen said her Lunar New Year festivities have centered on family.

"It is three days of celebration," she said. "We visit family, make food to place on the altar and receive lucky money from relatives."

Nguyen said the Asian Caucus has scheduled a Friday Lunar New Year program at the F Street Recreation Center, 930 S. 13th St. The event, which runs from 5 to 7 p.m., will feature a traditional lion dance, Vietnamese food and a costume fashion show.

Nguyen said like other Asian cultures, the Vietnamese tradition follows the 12-phase Chinese zodiac.

In the Chinese zodiac each new year corresponds to one of 12 animal characters, as well as one of the five elements (water, fire, wood, metal and earth).

For those who want to celebrate the new year, today is the day to say good-bye to the metal dragon and hello to the metal snake.

Snake 1941, 1953, 1965, 1976, 1988, 2000	Horse 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002
Dragon 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000	Sheep 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003
Rabbit 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999	Monkey 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004
Tiger 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998	Cock 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005
Ox 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997	Dog 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006
Rat 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996	Boar 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

Delian Lonowski/DN