

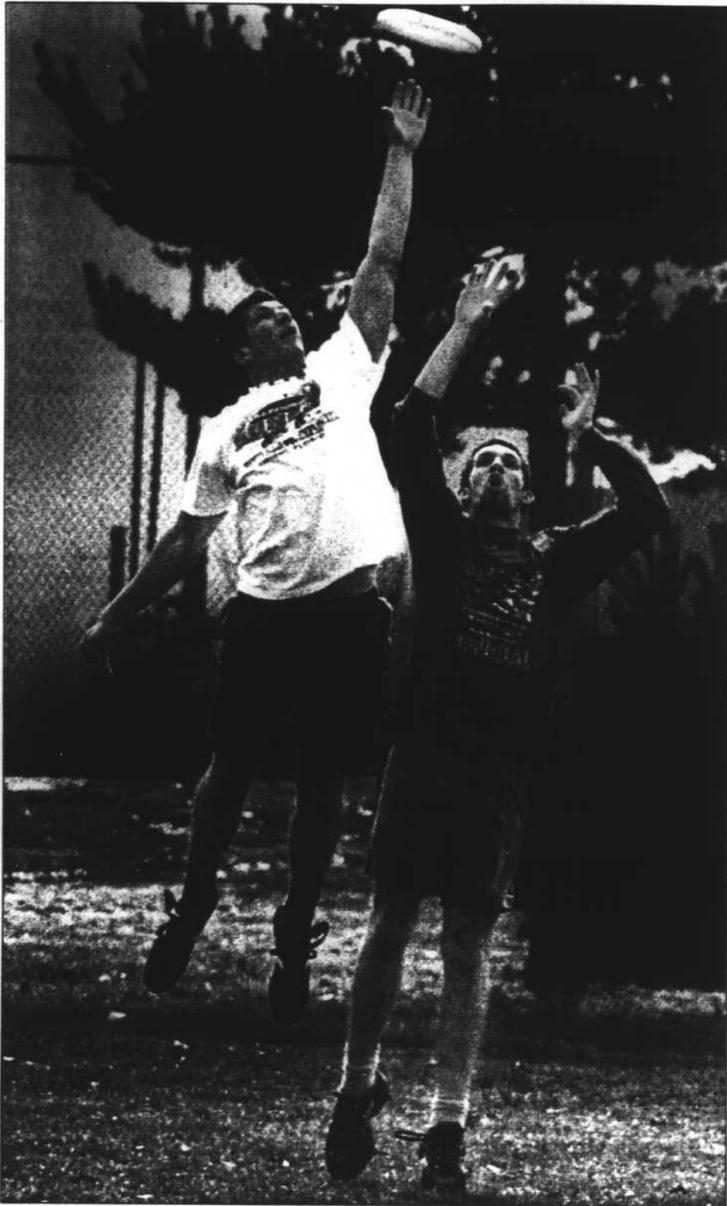
# Daily Nebraskan

**More than just drinking and sun:**  
**Students spend spring break**  
**building houses for low-income**  
**families**  
**In News/9**

**Bryan Snyder, not 2000**  
**champ Brad Vering,**  
**finishes highest at**  
**NCAA's**  
**In SportsMonday/12**



**Planet Butter, an**  
**eclectic jazz/funk band,**  
**will be at a music store**  
**near you soon**  
**In Arts/8**



**ULTIMATE FUN:** Brothers Adam and Andy Kafka play Ultimate Frisbee Sunday afternoon in Woods Park. They play twice a week with friends.

Jennifer Lund/DN

## Perlman drops 'interim,' named new chancellor

BY JILL ZEMAN

A year ago, Harvey Perlman had no idea he'd be sitting in the office he's in now.

In fact, he said, he was surprised he was chosen in July as interim chancellor.

But now, Perlman will drop the interim from his title, pending approval of the NU Board of Regents in April, NU President Dennis Smith said Friday.

"I'm still a little surprised I am where I am," Perlman said.

Apart from the excitement, Perlman, a Nebraska native, said he didn't feel much different.

"I tried to do what the university needed (as interim chancellor)," he said. "Now I can take a long-term look at issues on the horizon."

Perlman has found favor with leaders both in and out of the university community.

Political officials, such as Gov. Mike Johanns and Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely, commended the university

*"My dream is to be 95 years old and having to be wheeled into the classroom to teach."*

**Harvey Perlman**  
NU chancellor

Friday for choosing Perlman as chancellor.

Perlman said he was delighted he had the support of others in the state because UNL played an important role in all of Nebraska, not just the educational community.

Perlman will follow two chancellors who each spent four years at UNL — James Moeser, who left to become chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Graham Spanier, who became chancellor at Penn State University in State College.

But Perlman said he would stick around at UNL as long as his health was

good and the university was pleased with his work.

And Perlman said he wouldn't abandon the university after his tenure as chancellor was over.

He said he didn't know if he would be able to continue teaching at the College of Law while he was chancellor, but he hoped he could teach after he stepped down.

"My dream is to be 95 years old and having to be wheeled into the classroom to teach," he said.

"I'm not longing for a sailboat anywhere."

Perlman, 59, grew up in York and graduated from the UNL College of Law in 1966. One year later, he became a law professor at UNL.

Perlman left for eight years to teach at the University of Virginia Law School but returned to Nebraska in 1983 and served as dean of the law college for 15 years.

Please see **PERLMAN** on 9

## Willborn named new law dean

BY JILL ZEMAN

Newly-appointed Chancellor Harvey Perlman has a lot in common with Steven Willborn, UNL's new law college dean.

The two worked together in the College of Law — Perlman as dean and Willborn as a faculty member.

Both were promoted from interim leaders to permanent positions in the past week — Willborn's promotion was announced March 9 and Perlman was named chancellor Friday.

And both have nothing but the highest praise for each other.

Last month, Willborn said he couldn't have expected a better law dean than Perlman.

"He was a perfect dean, in my eyes," he said.

And Perlman said Sunday he was "very pleased" Willborn was promoted to law dean.

"He's been around long enough to know where the bodies are buried, but he's fresh enough to bring new ideas," Perlman said.

Willborn has served as interim law dean since last summer when former Dean Nancy Rapoport left to become dean of the University of Houston Law Center.

Willborn, who has served on UNL's faculty since 1979, will begin his term July 1.

He has been a Fulbright Scholar at

the University of London, a visiting professor at Oxford University, the University of Michigan and the Australian National University.

Willborn also has received three Distinguished Teaching Awards from the College of Law.

He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Northland College in Ashland, Wis., a master's degree in counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from the University of Nebraska Law School.

Before coming to UNL, he worked as a lawyer for three years in Cleveland.

Please see **WILLBORN** on 5

## Debates concern two bills

### Alcohol rights debated for minors

BY GEORGE GREEN

State lawmakers took a vacation of their own last week, but senators weren't pleased with the extra free time.

In particular, Sen. Mark Quandahl of Omaha didn't want to lay off his work.

A standstill rippled across the senate floor early last week when Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha stifled debate by filibustering a bill introduced by Quandahl to change minor in possession laws.

LB114, Quandahl's bill, would have beefed up MIP penalties and included a provision that would have let officers presume that a minor had been consuming booze if they were in the proximity of alcohol and exhibited signs that they had been drinking.

Quandahl said his bill would have closed a legal "loophole" in a state law that lets minors consume alcohol without risking getting a ticket.

Currently, cops can arrest minors for possessing alcohol but not for consuming it.

After the dust settled from the legislative showdown, a modified bill emerged that still punishes minors for consuming alcohol but doesn't let officers presume they were drinking if they are near booze.

The modified bill requires that a scientific test, like a breathalyzer, prove that a minor had been drinking.

The new version doesn't include the old proposal's hefty penalties, including one that revoked the drivers licenses of minors convicted of MIP.

Before producing the compromise bill, senators battled for four days over the concept.

"There was a little bit of a tussle over the issue," Quandahl said.

Chambers launched opposition to the bill when he started the eight-hour filibuster and continued the attack when he tacked on an amendment that would revoke the drivers license of any person — adult or minor — caught violating any part of Nebraska's liquor laws.

Chambers said he added the "nuclear" amendment, which was eventually withdrawn, to show lawmakers that they were

### Legislature

punishing minors "far more harshly than adults."

The senior senator said he immediately caught the attention of other lawmakers when he added the amendment because it would have revoked a slew of drivers licenses.

For example, if the amendment would have passed, adults caught selling alcohol to minors could lose their licenses for several months.

"I chastised (senators) for hypocrisy," he said.

In addition to beating back the harsh penalties and the presumption clauses, Chambers also challenged language he felt unfairly applied only to the Christian religion.

Both the old and new version of the bill allowed minors to consume alcohol if it's part of a religious ceremony.

But Chambers said the old bill contained language "unjustly peculiar to the Christian religion" using terms like "sacrament" and "wine."

Those terms were dropped in favor of more neutral language.

Quandahl labeled the religious amendment as "ancillary" but important and predicted the new version would easily pass into law soon.

While some senators suffocated under the standstill, Sen. Ron Raikes of Lincoln and his peers on the Education Committee hit the books and produced a proposal to increase teacher pay.

Nebraska ranks 45th nationally in average teacher salaries, and lawmakers have been struggling all session to rectify the problem.

The Education Committee's proposal, which hasn't passed, would alter teacher salaries in the three main ways, Raikes said.

■ In 2001, teachers still in their first four years of work would get a \$2,000

Please see **MIP** on 5

### Legislature

## Research on senators' minds

BY GWEN TIETGEN

As senators shift from committee hearings to all-day floor debate, one bill that will linger in the back of all senators' minds is the bill that would ban research using aborted fetal tissue.

Committee hearings end Tuesday, making way for hours upon hours of floor debate.

Sen. Dwite Pedersen of Elkhorn, the bill's sponsor, and its supporters are trying to keep the bill from a repeat of last year's defeat.

But history is repeating itself, as the bill is deadlocked in the Judiciary Committee again.

Four of the committee's eight members have said they would support a vote to advance the bill out of committee.

The other four senators have indicated they were against advancing the bill out of committee.

Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur, who was considered by many as the swing vote on whether the bill would be advanced, said last week he couldn't support the ban.

Connealy said while the bill was more constitutional than last year, it was still too vague for him to support the measure.

"This ban has been struck down in other states where it has been instituted," Connealy said.

With a "no" vote by Connealy, the bill would need 25 senator's votes out of 49 to

Please see **RESEARCH** on 5

## Scaffolding frames Capitol chamber restoration project

BY SHARON KOLBET

In the Nebraska State Capitol there is a small landmark used by those who frequent the Memorial Chamber on the 14th floor.

With two identical elevators on either side of the tower, it is not uncommon for visitors to get confused.

"It is easy to get a bit lost up here," Roger Frink said when asked for directions.

Frink, a member of the Capitol restoration team, gestures to an anomaly in the marble wall near the elevator lobby. He pointed to a small fossil embedded in the smooth marble surface near the narrow elevator door.

"You can always look for this little guy," he said gesturing to the fossil in the wall.

"When you see this, you know you are at the northeast elevator," he said.

The 14th floor has been a popular destination for visitors who want to view the murals or walk along the observation deck. Right now the deck is closed to the public, but small windows give visitors a view of the restoration progress.

Sections of the masonry wall along the observation deck are being removed as the conservation crew repairs damaged areas. Tom Kaspar, an architect with the State Building Division, said the project was more about restoration than renovation.

"We want to preserve as much of the original material as possible," he said.

The architects' commitment to maintain the original design of the building is demonstrated in the work being done on the tower windows.

Above the murals that grace the 14th floor's Memorial Chamber is a bronze framework that holds more than 500 tower windows. The windows need to be re-glazed, so the restoration team is busy removing them.

"We are preserving as many of the old windows as we can," Kaspar said. "New windows are being made to replace the broken ones. They are being custom made to match the texture and amber



Sharon Kolbet/DN

**Framed by scaffolding, the Capitol building is undergoing a massive restoration project. The tower scaffolding will be taken down next spring, but the entire project isn't expected to be completed until 2007.**

color of the originals."

The process of removing the tower windows is a delicate and time consuming job. In a narrow walkway hidden from the public's view, a stairwell winds its way up to the top of the tower between two walls of windows. In this small, cramped area, the restoration crew has very little space in which to erect a scaffolding.

"We are literally walking on glass up here," Frink said.

Frink isn't kidding. The floor of the walkway is made up of panels of glass seven-eighths of an inch thick. While this glass floor is stronger than a person might expect, the restoration crew is covering the floor with plywood to protect it from dropped tools and accidental chipping.

"The floor was made of glass rather than concrete to allow as much light as possible into the Memorial Chamber," Kaspar said.

With delicate historic windows on

Please see **CAPITOL** on 5