

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Mostly sunny and warmer today with a high of 44 (7C). Tuesday night, clear and not as cold with a low of 25 (-4C). Wednesday, partly cloudy and warmer with a high in the upper 40s (9C). Turkey Day forecast, mostly cloudy and warm with a high in the upper 40s (9C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

'The Boss' gives his best...Page 8

Coach still has praises for Huskers...Page 10

NU executive Ottoson closes 'brilliant' career of university service

By Gah Y. Huey
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

NU Executive Vice President and Provost Howard W. Ottoson talks glowingly about the academic excellence of NU. He has seen this excellence grow since the 1950s, when he began his career at UNL as assistant professor of agricultural economics.

He recalls back then that student enrollment at UNL was as low as 8,000; and fewer, smaller buildings existed on both City and East campuses.

A lot has changed since then. Yet, Ottoson, who will retire July 1 at 64, speaks modestly of the impact he has had on the growth of the universitywide system.

Ottoson describes his second-ranking administrative position as one in which he "makes recommendations" on the direction the university should take. Ottoson said he is a coordinator of programs — he analyzes the university's priorities and suggests the areas it should emphasize. It is a problem-solving position; he said.

While NU President Ronald Roskens agrees with Ottoson, he adds that Ottoson's performance as an executive administrator has been nothing short of admirable.

Ottoson has shown "almost brilliant performances of the responsibilities of vice president and provost," Roskens said. The departure of "an individual of such high caliber will always leave a tremendous gap...that will be difficult to fill," he said.

A special advisory committee has been appointed to name a successor to Ottoson.

Before his appointment as vice president and provost in 1982, Ottoson served as the interim vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1981.

In 1974, there was a lot of discussion to convert the College of

Agriculture to the Institute, said Ottoson, who was involved in the change.

Because Nebraska is a predominantly agricultural state, he said, it was important to give agriculture a greater status at the university.

Now, agriculture holds a more predominant place at the university. It is a "much larger and complex operation today," Ottoson said.

When Ottoson talks about his contribution to the development of the NU Agricultural Experiment Station and the department of agricultural economics, he again talks in soft, modest tones.

According to Roy Arnold, present vice chancellor of the Institute, Ottoson could understand a problem, sift through the available sources and find a reasonable, rational solution.

A faculty member and a department head when Ottoson was director of the station, Arnold said Ottoson had the ability "to get the job done."

Professor Glen Vollmar, who succeeded Ottoson as chairman of the agricultural economics department in 1966, said Ottoson was a catalyst in helping the department grow.

The department grew in size and the number of faculty and student members when Ottoson served as chairman from 1956 to 1966, Vollmar said.

Ottoson was partly responsible for the increased respect and appreciation of agricultural economics, he said. Today the department is one of the largest on East Campus, he said.

As Ottoson prepares to leave the university after more than 30 years of "enjoyable" work, he said he would like to see several of his major projects "move as far as possible."

Continued on Page 7



Frank Comito/Special to the Daily Nebraskan

Bunk beds in the 40-bed dormitory at the mission are covered with hand-made quilts from the Women's Auxiliary. Wake-up time is 6 a.m. and lights-out is 9 p.m.

Homeless, hungry masses huddle at Lincoln shelter

By Barbara Comito
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Who are Lincoln's homeless and hungry?

The stereotype of a drunken bum lying in the gutter is not an accurate representation of Lincoln's destitute — a large number of people who, without government or private assistance, would be without shelter, food and clothing.

This group encompasses unemployed, underemployed, disabled, elderly on fixed incomes, single mothers, runaways, transients, people down on their luck and people who have chosen drifting as a lifestyle.

Charlie Fox, 54, has been on the road since he lost his wife and three children in a car accident 14 years ago. Charlie says he is a "drunk" when he has too much free time. But as the cook at the

People's City Mission downtown, he works from 4:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and is sober.

Fifty percent of the men staying at the mission are under 30, said Steve Janovec, mission director. Most of them are transient, Janovec said.

The younger men may have never had a stable environment. They may be migrant workers. They may have had a problem with alcohol and lost everything. They may have started running from their problems and it became a lifestyle, Janovec said.

In 1928, at 14, Woodrow "Woody" Wulsch left home. His father was an alcoholic, and his mother burned to death in a fire Woody blames on his father. Woody has been on the road ever since — picking fruit in Washington, doing yard work

in Montana, and riding the rails.

In March of this year, Woody arrived at the mission with frozen feet. His freight train from California had a "layover" in Western Nebraska for about two days.

Social services cannot meet the needs of the disadvantaged, and private, non-profit organizations are picking up more and more of the slack. Most of these organizations depend on individual and church donations for survival.

Kathy Allen, 28, is about five to six months pregnant. Her children were taken from her in Kansas. In Lincoln, her husband put her out on the street because he had "found someone else." For the past week Kathy has been staying at the family shelter at the mission.

Continued on Page 6

Pi Kappa Phi sets goals

UNL fraternity takes reins from national officers

By Ann Lowe
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Two national officers of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are leaving UNL this week, satisfied with what they call "the best expansion effort ever for Pi Kappa Phi."

Peter Duguid and Jay Stuckel, leadership consultants for the fraternity, have been in Lincoln since October recruiting members for a new Pi Kappa Phi colony. The chapter folded in 1972 after 57 years at UNL.

After interviewing about 200 men students, Duguid and Stuckel recruited 65 associate members,

or pledges, to start the colony. The selection process went smoothly, they said.

"The only problem we had was turning people away," Duguid said.

Besides choosing members, Stuckel and Duguid have taught new members fraternity customs and are "turning over the reins" of chapter leadership, Duguid said. The colony has elected nine executive officers and eight committee chairmen.

"I think we've got a good bunch of guys in leadership," said Vice President Doug Perdue, 20, a sophomore architecture major. "A lot of them have goals they

want set."

The fraternity already is working on its social calendar, scholarship and service projects, Perdue said. But its biggest project is applying for a national charter. That charter could be granted in fall 1985, depending on the colony's development and recommendations from alumni and the university, Duguid said.

Members meet weekly in the Nebraska Union. The university has agreed to sell the old Tau Kappa Epsilon house, 423 University Terrace, to the fraternity, Stuckel said. The price still is being negotiated, he said.

Brian Tingley, chapter adviser, said the house is "not in too good of shape" now, but members probably will be able to move in next fall.

Lack of campus housing this year makes communication among members difficult, Perdue said. About 60 percent of the members live in university residence halls, Duguid said. Except for Monday meetings, it's hard to get the men together in one place, Perdue said.

Hindered communication and the inexperience of the officers could be obstacle for the colony, Stuckel said. But, he said, he is

confident in the colony's leadership.

UNL members also will learn from other chapters, Stuckel said. In January, all officers will attend a leadership conference in St. Louis. The colony also will be host of a regional meeting in February.

Tingley, a field supervisor for the Lincoln Transportation System, said he has "no doubts" that the new colony will survive.

"It's not going to be an easy job," he said. "There's going to be some problems, do doubt about it..."

"On the other hand, our guys have the skills they need to make it work," he said.