

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Mostly sunny again today, with a high of 34 (1C). Clear tonight, with a low of 7 (-14C). Sunny and warm again Thursday, with a high in the mid-30s (2C).

Bob Brubecher/Daily Nebraskan

**Colorado squeezes
past Huskers...Page 15**

**For your heart's
delight...Page 12**

'Heart City' celebrates Cupid's holiday

By Jim Rasmussen
Staff Reporter

For some, Valentine's Day provides a brief respite during the winter months, a chance to send and receive messages of love and friendship. But in Valentine, a north-central Nebraska town of about 2,800 residents, Valentine's Day means much more.

"We've been celebrating for at least a week," said Connie Bachelor, secretary of the Valentine Chamber of Commerce.

The week's celebrations have included a coronation, music contest and dance at the Valentine Senior Citizens' Center; a coronation and dance at Valentine Rural High School and a coronation at Pineview Manor nursing home.

With all those coronations, several residents received royal Valentine's Day titles. At Pineview Manor last Thursday, Howard Lamoureux, 92, and Mae Kellogg, 96, were crowned Valentine king and queen.



Lamoureux and Kellogg rank as the oldest residents at Pineview.

Sunday at the senior citizens' center, David Foster and Joy Vaughn were chosen King and Queen of Hearts. Their coronation was made even more special, Foster said, by the fact that he and Vaughn will be married next month. Foster, 75, and Vaughn, 69, said the wedding will take place at the senior center.

The celebration at the center featured an old-time music contest. The 250 people in attendance later danced to the music of the Heart City Heartwarmers, a local band.

"We had a ball," Vaughn said.

"Valentine really gets up for Valentine's Day."

At the high school Monday, seniors Kevin Pettigrew and Melinda Harms took King and Queen honors. Tommy Combs, a retired cleaning store owner, received Valentine's outstanding citizen award at the ceremony. Combs has won the award three times for his contributions to

local community service projects.

It's been a busy week in Valentine, but nobody's been busier than the employees at the U.S. Post Office. People from all over the world send their Valentines to Valentine each year, to be postmarked and mailed from the "Heart City."

"It's just like the Christmas rush for us," Rick Bordeaux, a supervisor at the post office, said. "We work together with the Chamber of Commerce to stamp all these. I'd estimate we've done between 20,000 and 30,000 this year."

Bordeaux said the post office has received Valentines from Japan, England, Ireland and Australia in the last few weeks, as well as the usual requests from people in the United States. Each Valentine is mailed and stamped with a special heart cachet like the one here that reads: "Nebraska's Valentine, Crossroads of the Sandhills."

Since the Chamber of Commerce helps with the envelopes, Bachelor has done a lot of stamping lately.

"I get help from my kids, and from people in the neighborhood," she said. "The post office does the biggest share, really."

Several Valentine business owners do their share, too, decorating their windows and offering Valentine's Day specials. One store owner offered 20 percent off on red or white items, another advertised two pairs of shoes for \$14, another sold merchandise for 14 percent off.

The week of celebrating will end today, but not without one more ceremony. Jimmy Valentine, an iron rigger from Landsdowne, Pa., will marry his Philadelphia bride, Lori Davidson, at the Cherry County Courthouse. Valentine is getting married in Valentine on Valentine's day.

"We were going to get married in Valentine, Texas, but we found out nobody lived there," Valentine said.

What made him decide to get married in Valentine? "I'm famous for unusual things," Valentine said. "I'm usually the star of the party."



Legislature Briefs

By Brad Gifford
Senior Reporter

● An ASUN official will testify today against the super board concept of governing the UN system and state colleges at the Legislature's Constitutional Revision and Recreation hearing at the Capitol, room 1019.

The committee has scheduled three resolutions for debate:

LR36 would place state colleges, UNL, UNO and the UN Medical Center under a 13-member board, designated as the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Colleges. The governor would appoint five members to six-year terms. The Legislature would divide the state into five regent districts in 1987, and people would elect up to eight members, depending on the state's population.

LR38 would bring technical colleges into the alliance to be governed by a nine-member board. Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh, who sponsored the resolution, favors letting the Legislature decide the method of selection, terms, powers and name of the board.

LR32 would allow the governor to appoint a six- to nine-member board that would govern UNL, UNO and the Medical Center, as does the current Board of Regents. Of the first appointed regents in 1988, two would serve two-year terms, three would serve four years and three more would receive six-year terms to stagger future appointments. The governor would choose one member from each regent district, which would be established by the Legislature. All appointments would be approved by the Legislature.

Only three non-voting student repre-

sentatives would serve on the boards of the three proposals. That is the major fault of each resolution, according to Andy Carothers of ASUN.

Carothers, who as Government Liaison Committee chairman takes care of legislative lobbying for ASUN, said there should be a seat for a student representative from each campus under the board's jurisdiction.

Carothers said ASUN opposed the concept of a super board altogether. The student organization objects to the decreased size of the board. The current Board of Regents and the State College Board of Trustees have 17 members total.

ASUN also disputes one of the purposes of a super board, as outlined in a report by the Citizens Commission for the Study of Postsecondary Education. The Commission concluded that such a board could eliminate "unnecessary duplication" in colleges and universities. Carothers said ASUN considers that term too ambiguous.

If the committee decides to back one of the proposals and send it to the Legislature, Carothers said he would ask for an amendment calling for one student regent from each campus ruled by the board. The chances of winning that amendment are poor, he said, but no more so than the chances of having the Legislature and voters approve the whole package in 1986.

● Senators voted unanimously Wednesday to send a bill to the governor that would value agricultural land in 1985 at 1984 rates. LB30 was passed with an emergency clause, so it will take effect as soon as Gov. Kerrey signs it. The lower valuation will be used to assess property taxes until a Revenue Committee task force devises a new, permanent method.

Writer says death penalty discriminates against blacks

By Eric Dodds
Staff Reporter

They are not monsters, said Doug Magee of the men he has interviewed who are now on death row. They committed murder — an act Magee said he has realized everyone is capable of committing.

Magee, a New York journalist, said he had little interest in the death penalty until he met John Spenkelink, a convicted murderer who was on death row in Florida, who claimed all the way to the electric chair that he was innocent.

Magee said he had set, preconceived notions about prisoners on death row — until he met Spenkelink.

Magee, then on assignment for US magazine, said he was outside the Florida prison when Spenkelink was executed. There was a surreal quality in knowing the man he had corresponded with for eight months was strapped to a chair with 22,000 volts of electricity running through his body, Magee said.

Through a series of slides, Magee showed an audience at the Nebraska Union a behind-the-scenes view of the world of death row.

The life of inmates on death row is terrible, Magee said. They live alone for as long as 12 years in a small cell, he said, with no reading material and little human contact. There is great pressure on death row inmates who never know whether tomorrow will be the end, he said.

Magee, who has written a book on death row and another on the families of murder victims, said new evidence exists that shows the death penalty is being applied arbitrarily and is racially discriminatory.

In Georgia, he said, a person is 33



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Magee

times more likely to receive the death penalty for the murder of a white man than for the murder of a black man. Of thousands of people convicted of first-degree murder each year, he said, only a handful will be executed. Magee said most prisoners on death row cannot afford lawyers and must rely on public defenders.

In some cases, an executed prisoner later was found innocent. Florida's Jerry Banks spent eight years on death row before evidence was found that proved he was innocent, Magee said.

Magee said it is more expensive to execute a person than it is to keep the person in prison for life. He cited a New York study that estimated it would cost \$1.7 million to go through two years of death sentence appeals alone. To keep a person in

lion, he said.

Magee said the death penalty is used now because of the heightened crime rate of the 1970s. This frightened people, he said, and they began to see the death penalty as a remedy to crime. Yet, no evidence exists to prove that the death penalty deters murderers, Magee said.

While society is concerned about the murderer, Magee said, a murder victim's family often is forgotten. A community may ostracize a victim's family, he said, forgetting its psychological and emotional problems. A victim's family needs to talk about the murder, he said, yet friends and neighbors don't ask questions for fear of hurting the family.

The structure of the criminal justice system does not allow for the victim's family to have much input in a murder case, he said. One such person who wants to add input but can't is Camille Bell, Magee said. From the start of the Atlanta child murder investigation, he said, Bell disagreed with the way it was conducted. Magee said Bell does not think prisoner Wayne Williams is guilty of killing her son. But, because of media and political pressures, all cases were closed after Williams was found guilty of two murders.

Thirteen men currently wait on Nebraska's death row. Magee talked with some of them and found that their living conditions are much better than at many of the other prisons he has visited nationwide.

The Legislature soon will consider a bill which would eliminate the death penalty in Nebraska and substitute a 30-year sentence. Magee said putting a man behind bars for 30 years is an extreme sentence.