

KRNU creates music options for UN-L Union

By Amy Edwards
Staff Reporter

Union Board officials met Monday with KRNU representatives to discuss complaints received about programming from various offices in the union.

KRNU is currently the only program source available in the union. The UNL College of Journalism, which directs KRNU, will be working with the Union Board to provide another music option. The Journalism College will provide equipment to aid the development of another program source.

Daryl Swanson, Union Board Director, said that KRNU has been "indiscriminately" piped into all areas of the union. Not all offices feel that KRNU offers appropriate

programming for business offices, he said.

Union Board member Hollis Heimboch, who attended the meeting with KRNU, said the radio station did not feel the adoption of another station's music was a setback.

"(KRNU) seemed very willing to work something out; they wanted to be there," said Heimboch.

Union Board also appointed four new members who were selected from 26 applicants. The new members are: Brian Sognefest, a freshman business major; Monica Hart, a freshman chemical engineering major; Patrick Wyatt, a sophomore marketing major; and Susan Potter, a sophomore engineering major. The appointments will not be approved until the ASUN meeting on Feb. 25,

UNL plant team stays up late to memorize those Latin names

TEAM from Page 1

Stan Boltz, a senior agronomy major who placed ninth in the individual competition, said it bothers him that the university doesn't support academic teams. He has attended Abilene Christian University and Chadron State, both of which supported the academic teams.

Boltz and fellow team members LaRene Mansfield, David Horak, Jim Pehrson, Mary Raymer and Michael Stec spent untold hours preparing for the meet and last semester's regional competition in North Platte. Since the first week of school last August, the team has taken timed plant-identification tests. The month before a meet, the team stays until 11:30 every night taking a 100-plant quiz to improve times and identification skills.

Boltz sees his experience helping in his future as a range-management specialist.

"If some cattle are found poisoned, most of the time it turns out to be some

kind of plant. So it helps to be able to identify the plant on site rather than sending it away to be tested. So it applies pretty good, unless you plan on being a janitor," he said.

Miller to leave after 15 years at Nebraska

MILLER from Page 1

"I have enjoyed working with Jack because he has given his employees a lot of responsibility and freedom to do their jobs. He has the attitude that nothing is impossible. He has great ideas, vision, and enthusiasm for a lot of projects, and we will miss him very much."

A native of Manhattan, Kan., Miller is married to the former Sharon Stock, who has bachelor's and master's degrees from UNL.

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'Platoon' misleads viewers in fog

KRAUT from Page 4

It is not just "Platoon's" Charlie Sheen who, closed in by the jungle, is confused and disoriented in firefights with a shadowy North Vietnamese enemy. As Keegan points out, the average soldier at Agincourt (1415) saw little more than the helmet and back of the neck of his fellow soldiers lined up in front of him before he was hacked to death. Wrote a young British officer at Waterloo: "Harassed and fatigued after two days' previous marching, fighting and starving" one saw nothing "much beyond the range of what was likely to affect himself and the few soldiers immediately about him." Even the victor in a glorious one-day "set piece" was wrapped in fog.

Such is the infantryman's experience of combat, at Agincourt as in Vietnam. It is misleading to imagine that fog was peculiar to the Vietnam War. And it is wrong — this is the other pseudo-lesson drawn from "Platoon" — to imagine that Vietnam was exclusively fog, that the confusion, the purposeless irrationality of strangers called upon to

kill strangers is all there was to the Vietnam war.

The obvious political message of "Platoon" is that the war was absurd. The message is all the more powerful because it is implicit. In "Platoon" hardly a political word, a political idea, is spoken. The war is portrayed as utterly apolitical. But any fighting devoid of politics — i.e., of purpose — makes for one thing only: absurdity.

To present combat without context is a classic anti-war technique. "Platoon's" contextlessness is broken only once and inadvertently; after the film ends. At the last of the credits, Oliver Stone thanks the government of the Philippines for letting him shoot the film there, finally, context. In those jungles today a guerrilla war of precisely the kind "Platoon" describes is being fought, no doubt in the same way. (New York Times, Feb. 17, front page: "Death in a Quiet Filipino Hamlet: 17 Civilians Caught in the Middle.")

Is the Philippine civil war, where a real-life "Platoon" plays every day, pure madness and waste? You cannot possibly answer that question by fol-

lowing a Philippine army platoon around, though Stone would have us judge the Vietnam War in precisely that way. You need context. You need politics.

You have to ask what the Aquino government now waging the war against communist guerrillas intends. And what does the New People's Army intend? What are the purposes of this fight and are they worth the human cost? Vietnam had its context too, most of it, alas, visible only post-facto and none of it visible in "Platoon": boat people by the tens of thousands, Khmer Rouge victims by the millions.

A filmmaker is not obliged to give context. It is perfectly legitimate to choose a narrow focus. But he should not then pretend to a cosmic message, such as the narrator's conclusion that in Vietnam the enemy was us.

War is hell and "Platoon" does hell well. That is a considerable achievement. What "Platoon" does not do, despite its pretensions, is tell us anything more than that.

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Krauthammer is a senior editor for the New Republic.

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Letter

Vard Johnson doesn't deserve the Huskers

I find it extremely ironic, almost hypocritical, that Sen. Vard Johnson of Omaha is so opposed to the UNL recreation center. In purely financial terms I wonder if he has any idea how much revenue pours into this state from the Nebraska Cornhuskers. And although I agree with him that football is just a game and a billion people in China have never heard of Turner Gill, it is the single rallying point that a million people in Nebraska escape from the day-to-day grind of jobs and budget cuts.

He may not be one of us on those Saturday spectacles, but there is no place like Nebraska seeing Tom Osborne showcase the finest college football program in the country. Furthermore, some 28,000 students, faculty and staff are in desperate need of a quality recreational facility that can do nothing but enhance the stature and morale of the battered university community. I don't see how we could stagnate any further if we pass up the opportunity to build a facility that everyone could use.

And finally, Sen. Johnson, I pity the day we "welcome" you to Lincoln on a December afternoon and the football team is forced outdoors on a bone-chilling day; jamming fingers on ice balls, pulling hamstrings on a frozen field and losing the national-championship game in warm Miami.

Rod Morrison
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