

## NU Florida corn crops frozen

By Barbara Lutz

Below freezing temperatures during the last week of January froze UNL research corn crops in Florida.

William Compton, UNL agronomy professor in charge of a two-acre test plot in Florida for two years, said two generations of test corn crops were frozen in the cold weather.

"If I had more money from the university," he said, "I could have saved the crops."

It would cost double the land rental for additional frost protection, he said. Other crops near UNL's two acres did not freeze because of a warm water sprinkler system, Compton said.

The two-year-old winter corn nursery is the only out-state winter test crop, Compton said.

### Crossing genes

He said the winter corn nursery is used to develop breed crossing and recurrent selection of genes. When crossing a gene into another line of corn, Compton said, disease-resistant genes can be identified. These genes can be cross-bred into another line, he said.

However, the crossing process can only be done over a period of three corn generations, he said. Three years of growth in Nebraska can be completed in two years in Florida, he said.

Therefore, if it takes six crosses to transfer one gene, it takes six years in Nebraska, but only three years in Florida, he said.

The nursery in Florida "should be, but is not supported by the university," Compton said. The research is supported by donations from seed companies, he said.

Compton said the land in Florida is rented for \$700 an acre. The farmer who owns the land sprays the crop with insecticide every four days, prepares the land and cultures it.

### Lives in van

Compton said he bought a \$300 camper for a university van, drives it to Florida in November to plant the corn and lives in the van while he is there, saving the university hotel costs.

Compton leaves the van in Florida and flies south at Christmas to pollinate the corn. In March, he returns to Florida to harvest the corn; returns to Lincoln, and plants the corn in university fields near 48th and Holdrege Sts.

Compton said he does not know if there will be a winter nursery next year, because there is not yet a funding source.

"Just because corn is 60 per cent of the economy in the state of Nebraska doesn't mean the state wants to support a winter nursery," he said.

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## Construction requests defended

By Theresa Forsman

NU's defense of its capital construction budget for 1977-78 submitted to the Nebraska Legislature in September, was outlined by NU administrators and two members of the NU Board of Regents business affairs subcommittee Friday.

NU administrators will appear at the Legislature's Appropriations Committee's public hearing at 2 p.m. today on LB89, which would allow construction of a Health, Physical Education and Recreation Bldg. (HPER) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The university has asked for \$7,389,000 for the building. LB89, introduced by Omaha Sen. Glenn Goodrich specified \$6.7 million. Gov. J. James Exon has recom-

mended \$4 million.

Robert Pazderka, NU Capital Construction coordinator, told the group that interim NU President Ronald Roskens will tell the Appropriations Committee that if appropriated \$4 million, the HPER Bldg. would have to be redesigned.

Roskens also will say that anything less than the university request would be inadequate to meet the needs of UNO for a physical education building, Pazderka said.

Omaha Regent Kermit Hansen, subcommittee chairman, said the university should refute the comparison between Creighton University's gymnasium in Omaha and the proposed HPER Bldg.

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## They could have danced all night-and they did

**Editor's note:** Daily Nebraskan reporter Janet Lliteras participated in the Chi Phi fraternity-KLMS Radio dance marathon for muscular dystrophy. After completing 30 hours of dancing, she wrote this account.

Guitars and drums set the pace and tired feet kept the beat. The smell of warm bodies hung in the air.

It was the third annual Chi Phi fraternity-KLMS 30 hour dance marathon for muscular dystrophy in the Nebraska Union Ballroom Friday and Saturday.

Lights were turned low at 6:05 p.m. Friday. Sixty-one couples set out to dance for 30 hours.

As time passed, the temperature soared and clothes were shed. Tennis shoes, sandals, socks and bare feet were stomping the wooden floor as songs from the '50s, '60s and '70s filled the Ballroom and echoed down the halls.

Couples were dancing the bunny hop, jitterbug, polka, two-step and bump—during the same song. By Saturday morning they were doing anything to keep awake. Groups squared off and played "Red Rover" and "Leap Frog."

The favorite game was a modified version of follow the leader and crack the whip to break the monotony of dancing. Every now and then a frisbee would whiz by.

## Students win trip

Sandy Dauphin, a UNL junior from Lincoln, and Gary Albee, a UNL senior from Grand Island, danced their way to an expense-paid trip to Las Vegas to be on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day telethon.

The dancing couple raised the most money in the Chi Phi Fraternity-KLMS Radio dance marathon Friday and Saturday.

Other couples raising the most money were: Karen Trook, sophomore, Weeping Water, and Brad Cromwell, junior, Genoa, second place; and Rosann Spilker, sophomore, Lincoln, and Tim Baker, Lincoln, third place.

Organizations raising the most money were: Chi Phi Fraternity, first; Lincoln Junior Achievement Club, second; and Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, third.

Dancers could, according to the rules, do anything as long as couples were "on their feet and in constant motion" while the music was playing.

Fifteen-minute restbreaks were given every three hours with four hours of sleep allowed from 2 to 6 a.m. Saturday. Dancers watched cartoons during breakfast.

During the breaks, magicians Steve Huntington and Bob Kenney baffled the audience with their illusions. Dave Castle and his dummy partner demonstrated ventriloquism.

Volunteers taken from the dance floor, swallowed goldfish. Some fish required bigger chasers of orange drink than others. At least one fish refused to remain swallowed.

Dancers took advantage of every break. As soon as the

music stopped, they dropped to the floor or plopped into chairs along the wall. Sore backs were massaged. Tired feet were rested.

At 11:55 p.m. Saturday, dancers found enough energy to grab hands and circle the room at a run, weaving in and out among the people. At midnight, fireworks exploded, arms waved and a loud cheer went up.

"We made it."

Bruce Harmon, board member of the state chapter for muscular dystrophy and coordinator of the Lincoln marathon, congratulated the dancers.

"It's been 30 hours of blood, sweat and fun," he said. Fifty of nearly 70 couples made it to the end.

Money raised from pledges and the \$1 admission price collected at the door totaled \$16,680.85. The amount exceeded last year's total by \$5,000, Harmon said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Screaming crowds seem to be commonplace in Lincoln this week. The state girls' high school basketball tournament ended Sunday and the boys' tourney begins Thursday.

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