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Staff Photo by Craig Andressen

Dane Kennedy

Prof is in Nairobi during rebel coup

By Janet H. Chu

Fully aware of the growing political tension, Dane Kennedy, an assistant professor of history at UNL, went to Nairobi, Kenya, to do research for his book on white settlers in Rhodesia. Little did he know that he would find himself in the middle of an attempted coup led by Kenya's own air force.

On Aug. 1, fighting erupted near the United Kenya Club where Kennedy was staying, he said. Soon rebels had taken over an English-speaking radio station where they announced that the dictatorship of President Daniel Moi was being overthrown, Kennedy said. The rebel leaders declared that economic conditions were severe, making it difficult for the poor to survive. They also were opposed to a new constitutional amendment that officially made Kenya a one-party state. Before the amendment, a multiple-party system was allowable.

The rebels claimed that Moi's government had become increasingly authoritarian and had begun unlawfully detaining people and denying them trials, Kennedy said.

"When I first heard the gunfire, I thought it was a police shoot out with bandits, but it was so extensive and so much gunfire," he said. When people realized what was happening, they cheered for the rebels, Kennedy said. The poor people and the university students were especially pleased.

"The poor slum people weren't too disappointed. Some were clearly happy. Rebels encouraged them to loot stores — like Robin Hood style," he said.

The Kenyan economy has degenerated because the country imports most of its oil and oil prices have risen, Kennedy said. At the same time, prices of Kenya's primary exports, tea and coffee, have dropped.

Kenya also has one of the fastest growing populations in the world, with a 4 percent annual increase. He said these factors created public discontent and political pressures, building up to the coup.

The rebellion did not last long. By that afternoon, the army and General Service Unit surrounded the rebels, Kennedy said, and the Moi government regained control.

"One thing that was strange is that the air force would carry this (coup) out by themselves, without the aid of the army. I wonder if they were that naive or if they were double-crossed," Kennedy said.

As a result of the Aug. 1 events, Kennedy said Kenya's image as one of Africa's most stable countries has been shot down. Many of the country's Indian population now live in fear, as much of the violence was directed at them. Kennedy said he suspects they will start to leave the country, which is now suffering politically and economically.

Nigro resigns chief justice post

By Eric Peterson

ASUN President Dan Wedekind acknowledged the resignation of Joe Nigro as chief justice of the UNL Student Court at an ASUN Senate meeting Wednesday night.

Nigro sent a letter of resignation to Wedekind during the summer.

"I just decided there were more important things to do with my time," Nigro said.

Nigro's action followed a dispute between ASUN Electoral Commissioner Jennifer Fager and the Student Court last spring.

The court requested her resignation after she gave conflicting testimony about her rules regarding campaign posters. Fager in turn sued the Student Court, and the case is still pending before the University Appeals Board.

Fager refused to comment on the case.

Dolores Simpson-Kirkland, assistant to the dean of students and ASUN faculty adviser, said Fager still wants to be on the Student Court.

"I understand she wishes to remain," Simpson-Kirkland said. She added that as soon as the appeals board is set up for this year, the case will be settled.

"I don't think we need to continue to drag it out,"

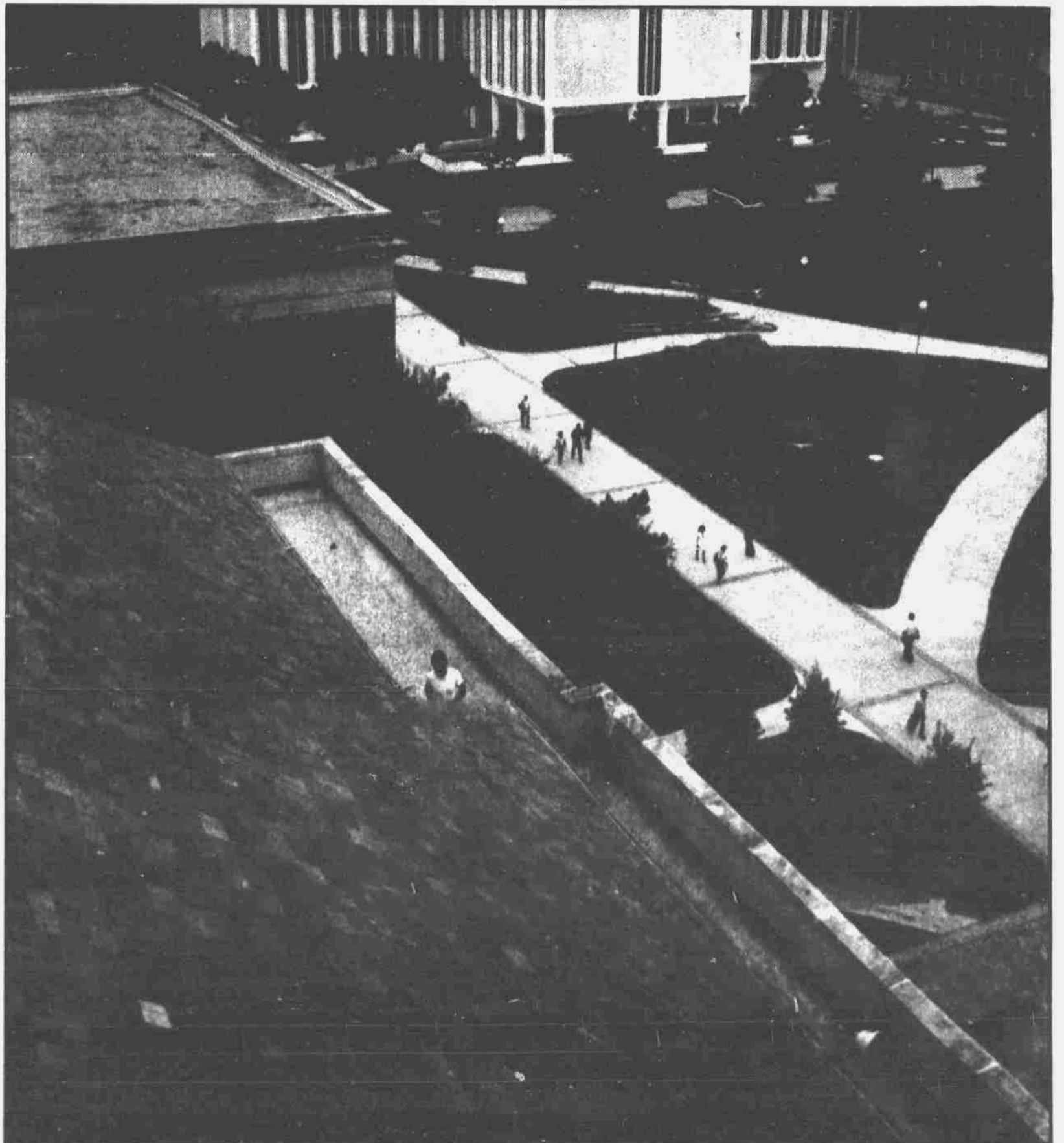
she said. "We've prolonged an unfortunate situation, and now we should deliberate the whole issue in a timely, fair and reasonable way."

The dispute started early last spring. Soon after Fager was appointed to the UNL Student Court for a term beginning this year, Mike Frost, STUPID II party candidate for the ASUN presidency, and Kathy Mach brought a complaint before the court that Fager had violated election rules regarding student campaign posters.

The rule said no posters could be posted before Feb. 10; however, Fager supposedly had informed some of the candidates that they could post material early. The rest of the commission, however, denied giving any such permission. In testimony before the court on the matter, Fager first denied suspending the rule, but later changed her statement.

On March 1, the Student Court asked then ASUN President Rick Mockler to remove Fager from her post. However, according to Simpson-Kirkland, Mockler felt the court procedures were inappropriate and refused to do it.

Later, the ASUN Senate asked Nigro to resign. The conflict went to the appeals board, and the end of the school year postponed the resolution of the issue until this fall.



Staff Photo by Craig Andressen

Roofer Bart Bosco's job takes him to high places. Bosco was perched on the roof of Love Library Thursday to repair some leaky spots.

State fair attractions bringing brisk ticket sales

All exhibition space for the Nebraska State Fair Sept. 3 through 12 has been sold, and advance ticket sales are at a record high, the fair's general manager, Henry Brandt, said.

He said the Sept. 9 show with country-western group Alabama is sold out. Only bleacher seats remain for the Rick Springfield show Sept. 10 and the Barbara Mandrell appearance Sept. 12.

Republican Gov. Charles Thone and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Kerrey will hold a candidates' forum Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. The debate will take place at the grandstand before a news media panel.

Agricultural Day also will be Sept. 9, Brandt said, and 100,000 free gate passes have been distributed for the day.

Other events include Veterans Day Sept. 4 and Senior Citizens' Day Sept. 8, with free admission for both groups on their respective days, Brandt said.

Murphy Bros. Exposition of Tulsa, Okla., will operate the midway carnival with a special "Sneak-A-Peak" planned for opening day.

Those 16 years old and younger can ride the rides for \$6 until 6 p.m. on Kids Day Sept. 3.

A "Last Blast," with all rides again for \$6, is planned for 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 9.

A new feature will be a fair shuttle system, with tractor-pulled trailers carrying up to 70 riders from parking lots to the fairgrounds and around the midway. Shuttle buses will run between the fairgrounds and Memorial Stadium Sept. 11, the day of the Nebraska-Iowa game.

Last year's state fair made about \$58,000. "If we break even, that is what it is all about," he said.

Fair tickets are \$1.50 in advance and \$2 at the gate, and tickets for shows at the Bob Devaney Sports Center are \$8.