

# Daily Nebraskan

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## UNL libraries to close during home games

By Jann Nyffeler

In attempt to save money, UNL libraries will be closed six Saturdays this fall, while the University Health Center may use more than \$2 million in bond funds for expansion, ASUN senators learned during their regular meeting Wednesday evening.

GLC chairperson Ruth Boham informed the senate that beginning Saturday, UNL's libraries will be closed on home football game days. The libraries are attempting to stay within the current budget and survive the 2 percent budget reallocation. Although the decision was made in July, the senate discussed alternatives to closing the facilities once a week.

Boham said that the whole community uses UNL library facilities, and not all people who have access to the libraries attend games.

"There's got to be something else to cut," Boham said.

In order to inform students of the closing, GLC has planned a Friday press conference at Love Library for 10 a.m.

ASUN President Matt Wallace told senate members the proposed health center expansion project has progressed more quickly than anticipated and is on the agenda for the NU Board of Regents meeting

Friday.

"A lot of students are totally unaware of what's going on," he said. "Our health center really does need additional space; they've got good plans for it," with emphasis on outpatient services, Wallace said.

Students probably will not carry the burden of funding the renovation — estimated at \$2.5 million — because there is a \$5.7 million bond surplus intended for such purposes. The health center also owns the property on which it plans to build.

The senate also passed a resolution supporting the Student Watch Group, a volunteer organization that plans to patrol and monitor potentially high crime areas of campus and improve relations between UNL Police and the university community. Student Watch Group President Troy Lair encouraged all senators to attend a public presentation 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Rostrum.

Second Vice-President Bill Buntain said 447 books were sold during ASUN's four-day book exchange last week. The sale generated more than \$4,100, 5 percent of which goes to ASUN. Buntain said that unsold books will be returned to their owners beginning Sept. 23. Books not claimed by Oct. 21 become ASUN property to be sold at their next book exchange.

## Risks necessary for economic growth

"Before you can have any kind of economic development program, some individual has to have an idea, an incentive, a skill; and that individual has to be willing to go to the bank and take some risks. Otherwise, there wouldn't be any economic development," Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey said at a national agriculture symposium on communications in Lincoln Wednesday evening.

Kerrey, addressing the topic "Information Needs for Modern Agriculture," said Nebraska has "very good potential in the communications industry," and that his communications task force, whose members were appointed in March, soon will be making recommendations concerning the industry.

The task force found great potential for agricultural communications in the Nebraska ETV Network

and in some service industries in the state, particularly those industries dealing with computer information systems, he said.

He said he also hoped to "promote and encourage individual people in these service industries."

Kerrey praised the American system of government, in that it "gives individuals a chance to do what they've chosen to do."

"We, in government, can take some credit for that, even though some people want to ask more about me and Debra Winger than I'm willing to tell 'em, I still enjoy the job," Kerrey joked.

Seventy to 80 people are participating in the three-day symposium that is sponsored primarily by the NU Foundation. The symposium is by invitation only and will conclude Friday.



Staff photo by Craig Andreen

### A fair stroll

Shalene Brecl, 3, carries the prize of a hard day's work at the Nebraska State Fair. Her grandfather, Fred Brecl Sr. (right), won the stuffed horse for her. Shalene's grandmother, Irene, is at the controls of the stroller while the girl's mother, Ellen Brecl, follows. The Brecls are from Omaha.

## Business to ride computer wave

By Christopher Galen

The day may be coming when an Apple replaces Fido as man's best friend.

Recent advances in microelectronics have opened up the commercial market for small computers of every shape and style and Americans have responded by spending billions on computers for office and home use.

"People are realizing what computers can do for them," said Harold Gesell, owner and manager of Alcom, a Lincoln computer distributor. "The business market has expanded at a good rate, and more and more computers are getting into schools."

The market for computer products is divided into two areas: hardware, or the computer machines themselves, and software, the various programs purchased for specific uses such as games or home finance planning.

Although many people had their first taste of home computers in the form of video games played on their televisions, they are now seeking more powerful and practical systems, Gesell said.

"Parents are saying, 'Johnny has a computer at school, and he needs one at home, too,'" he said. "All lot of these parents are buying for educational purposes. They don't want games anymore."

Many adults also are recognizing the need to educate themselves in new technology, Michael Stephenson, store manager of Computerland, said.

"They also want to introduce their children into it," he said.

Stephenson predicted big sales for the Christmas season, especially for less expensive models in the \$200 to \$600 range.

Kevin Brown, manager of the computer products division at Electronics Center, said the market was good at the present time, but the economy still is preventing many people from buying in-home computers.

"They're still pretty much a luxury. People see computers as a major purchase," he said. "When the economy's back at full swing, people will start buy-

ing more."

### Market saturated

In the last six months, the market has become saturated with smaller systems that some buyers are finding inadequate, Brown said.

"Software's kind of up in the air right now. People are looking for user-friendly items. They don't want to have to look through the manual; they just want to sit down and work with their machine," he said.

Much of the success of the home computer market is due to the exposure to computers students have received in the schools, Brown said. Young people often are asking their parents to buy the same machines they work with in the classroom. For example, Apple Computers gained school exposure by donating 5,000 units to schools in California, he said.

Even as home computer sales are picking up, the market for business-related hardware is increasing even more rapidly, said Frank Griebe, manager of Microlab, Inc.

"There's a lot of competition between hardware companies," Griebe said. "Software is booming and will continue to boom. But the market for software is increasing faster than for hardware."

Microlab does an in-depth needs study for prospective computer buyers, and its clients include insurance, advertising, real estate, construction and manufacturing companies, Griebe said.

"Many businesses are purchasing for the first time and are finding themselves with inadequate products," he said.

Although some businesses may be scared off by the number of computer packages now on the market, most will be forced to invest in one sooner or later, Griebe said.

"The quantity of information the progressive business will soon face will be so great, they'll need a computer to be competitive," he said.

### New breed of experts

The need for advice on the computer market has created a new breed of expert who can advise and instruct small businesses in computer terminology.

One such expert is Jim Payne, a former UNL student who helps to program computers for local companies.

"Things have really picked up in the area of small computer competition. It makes it difficult to decide what to get," Payne said. "Basically, they (the computers) all do the same thing. The difference is the software. It determines how good the machine is."

Payne, who has been in business for three years, has 16 clients, including banks, a trucking outfit, a garbage collector, and a ranching operation.

"One of the reasons they contact me is because I give them things they can't buy off the shelf," he said. "They have more specific needs."

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