

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday, November 29, 1983

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 63

Storm puts freeze on state activity

By James A. Fussell

Floomp! It arrived on our doorstep like an unwanted guest, a white outcast fleeing from the west. Without an invitation, seven inches of snow and ice blanketed the Midlands and caused untold problems at UNL.

Monday was a snow day at UNL, a day to recover from a bad early storm. The entire university was shut down, except for essential services, including the police, university operators, grounds crews and residence hall food services.

Classes resumed today, due to improved travel conditions, John Yost, assistant to the chancellor, said.

Yost said UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale decided Sunday at 9 a.m. to cancel Monday's day classes. The decision, Yost said, was made early to ensure the safety of students who had not yet returned to campus because of the storm. Later, Massengale canceled all other activities but the essential, Yost said.

It was a rare cancellation, indeed.

"I can remember very few closings during my 17 years here," Yost said.

While the snow put most of the university in neutral, it put Director of Grounds Wilbur Dasenbrock and his abbreviated crew into high gear. But trying to budge the white menace has not been easy.

"We just can't move it," Dasenbrock said. "It's giving us terrible problems... the worst ever. There is ice underneath it; it's wet and heavy. We're having poor progress against it."

He should know. He and his crew of 60 started

scooping away at it at 3 a.m. Monday. Dasenbrock said Monday the crew was operating 20 to 40 people short because many of the student employees were snowbound.

"We even have permanent people stranded," he said.

The grounds crew's first priorities are the emergency services, including the Health Center, the power plants, the food stores, the computer centers and residence hall docks where food is delivered, Dasenbrock said.

"At this time (3:30 p.m. Monday), we have all the emergency needs done," he said. "If we're lucky, we'll have it all cleared out by the end of the week."

The storm caused problems for the athletic department also. The Monday UNL basketball game against Texas Tech was postponed until 7:35 tonight.

The weather didn't leave student housing unscathed either. Douglas Zatechka, director of the Office of University Housing, said the residence halls opened up a day early, Saturday at 4 p.m.

"Our plan was to open Sunday about noon," he said, "but there were students who came back early saying 'Let me in.' We had to open; we weren't just going to let them stand outside and freeze."

"Everything's gone amazingly well," he added. "We fed 550 people for lunch on Monday." But, he said, "we usually feed 5,000."

The reason only 550 people showed up for lunch was that state roads were impassable. Dispatcher Arnold Liska of the Nebraska State Patrol described the roads at 3 p.m. Monday as ice covered with blowing and drifting snow.



Staff photo by Craig Androsen

UNL cornerback Neil Harris signs an autograph for a jubilant fan at the Lincoln Municipal Airport Saturday night. About 350 supporters greeted the Huskers when they returned to Lincoln after edging the Oklahoma Sooners in Norman, 28-21. Game story on Page 4.



Staff photo by Craig Androsen

Snow shovels, a four-wheel drive truck and some friends who were willing to push were necessities Monday morning if your vehicle was stuck in the snow like this one at 40th and Calvert streets. The car's owner, Anne Weaver, a University of Kansas student, got some help from Bruce Orwen, Jon Liebers, their truck and several other assistants.

Stores prepare for holiday rush

By Christopher Galen

Local retailers are dreaming of a bright Christmas in terms of sales this season and preparing for increased consumer buying with longer hours and more employees.

Charles Miller, general manager at K Mart, said he predicts bigger sales for this season than in the past several years, mostly because of the improved economy.

K Mart has hired eight additional employees to help with holiday-heightened sales, and the store also has extended hours so buyers will have greater opportunity to shop, Miller said.

As usual, toys will be the most popular items purchased this season, Miller said, but the toys are becoming more sophisticated and electronics items are more evident on the wish lists of shoppers.

Dennis Brantner, store manager at ShopKo, also predicts a better year for Christmas sales, because, he said, people are beginning to buy earlier in the season.

ShopKo has hired at least 35 more people, mostly

to work as cashiers. The store also will be open longer to accommodate the holiday rush, Brantner said.

Toys top the list of most popular items, he said with "Care Bear" and "Cabbage Patch" dolls in very high demand. However, he said, sales of electronic games, popular as Christmas gifts in the past, have tapered off.

At Sears (Gateway), things also are looking brighter this Christmas, said Wayne McCheaney, the store's manager.

"I think it will definitely be the best year we'll have since the past several years," he said.

Extra help and longer hours have been implemented to help Sears cope with this holiday season, he said, and the store is devoting more money to advertising to promote its products.

Items like microwaves, video cassette recorders, televisions, toys and computers are more popular holiday gifts this year, because of reduced prices, especially on home computers, he said.

McCheaney advises shoppers "to get in as early as possible for the best selection."

Alternative heating units potential fire hazards

When winter temperatures dip way down and icy winds begin to blow, rooms in the university's residence halls can sometimes get a bit chilly, prompting students to dig out their thermal underwear or look for other ways to stay warm. But alternative heating units, such as kerosine space heaters or other floor units, are not allowed on campus, a spokesman for the Office of University Housing said.

Glenn Schumann, assistant director of housing for maintenance operations, said such heating units are potential fire hazards and are used in emergency situations only. Students found with such devices in a non-emergency situation will be told to remove them immediately, he said.

Students having problems with university heating should fill out a maintenance slip at their hall's main desk, he said.

Schumann advised that students using a space heater for emergency reasons follow basic safety rules by keeping the unit away from loose drapery or other flammable materials and never leave it unattended.

Inside

• The Space Shuttle Columbia blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center Monday for its sixth flight — the ninth of the shuttle series Page 2

• Nebraska took another step toward the national championship Saturday with a 28-21 win against Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. Page 4

• The C.O.W.S. have come home to roost, so to speak, in this week's edition of "Lavender Moonlight" Page 6

Index

Arts and Entertainment	6
Classified	8
Crossword	3
Editorial	3
Off The Wire	2
Sports	4