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Speech team wins award

By Donna Sisson

UNL's speech and debate team won the sweepstakes award at the Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Conference Sunday.

The sweepstakes award is given to the team with the highest overall performance points, said Jack Kay, UNL Director of Forensics.

Points are assessed for performance in debate, student congress and individual speaking events, Kay said. The award represents all 14 UNL competitors involved, he said.

The most impressive aspect of winning the award, Kay said, was that UNL students not only competed in the tournament but hosted it. They helped the administration and hospitality of the tournament, Kay said.

Individual awards won by UNL students include:

- Chris Wallace, a junior broadcasting major, won first place in persuasive speaking.
- Roger Aden, a senior broadcasting major, placed second in persuasive speaking and impromptu speaking, third in communication analysis and fourth place in extemporaneous speaking.

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Dave Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Lincoln city maintenance crews remove snow on 12th and O streets Monday.

Officials encourage tornado preparedness

By Mike Weibel

Spring approaches — believe it or not — and Lancaster County officials have declared this Tornado Awareness Week.

According to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Services, most tornadoes occur in Nebraska between early April and the middle of August. Peak activity occurs in May and June. Most tornadoes develop in the late afternoon and evening, but they can occur at any time of the year or any time of the day, and can move in any direction.

"Lincoln has never had a full damaging tornado," said Norman Francis, emergency services coordinator. "But we're just as liable as anywhere else."

Myths exist that Lincoln is "immune" from tornadoes. Myths stem from Indian legends and special land features of the city, Francis said.

Emergency Services said the terrain has no effect on a tornado's direction or length of time on the ground. A tornado's moves are determined by the rest of the storm cloud as well as the entire storm system.

The last "close call" took place June 14, 1982, when a small tornado touched down about one mile east of Branched Oak Lake, Francis said. There have also been radar tracks of funnels passing directly over Lincoln, he said, but they did not touch down.



Artwork by Nita Mickelson/Daily Nebraskan
Skywarn symbol

Nebraska has averaged 31.4 tornadoes per year since 1950, the fifth highest total in the United States.

Tornadoes that people actually spot cause tornado warnings to be issued, Francis said. A tornado

watch is issued when a storm with tornado potential is predicted.

Emergency Services recommends the following actions during the tornado season:

- Plan ahead during a tornado watch. Find out what to do and where to go for shelter in case the watch becomes a warning.
- Listen to local radio stations during a watch for up-to-date information on the approaching storm.
- Take a battery-operated radio and flashlight to the shelter to know when danger has passed. If the power fails, use the flashlight.
- Use an interior bathroom for shelter in a basementless house, or use an interior hallway.
- Use chair cushions, pillows, folded blankets, folded coats, hard hats or helmets to protect your head.

More than 90 percent of all serious injuries in tornadoes are head injuries inflicted by flying debris, Francis said.

UNL Risk Manager Roy Loudon said the \$1 billion worth of university property on all campuses, including buildings and their contents, are covered by Royal Insurance of New York in the event of a tornado.

"We are covered for most everything except animals and crops," Loudon said.

To report a tornado, call 911.

Latin American Week activities include call for ceasing intervention

By John Meissner

Posters, films, discussions and a rally calling for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America are highlights of Lincoln's first Central American Week.

The seven-day seminar, which opened Sunday afternoon and ends with the rally March 24, gives people the opportunity to join together and voice their opposition to U.S. policy, LASCO member Ann Aldrich said.

LASCO, the Latin American Solidarity Committee, and Nebraskans for Peace, a human rights group composed of clergy and lay people, are sponsoring the event.

The week of activities is part of a nation-wide drive to introduce North Americans to Central American society. A LASCO spokesman said impetus for the seminar came from church organizations.

A poster exhibit will be displayed in the Nebraska Union during the week, and a "lunch and learn" series featuring mini-courses on Central American countries runs during the noon hour today through Friday.

Tonight, two films on the Nicaraguan struggle are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Union.

An ecumenical service will be Friday evening to commemorate the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. The Witness for Peace delegation will be commissioned at the service. The delegation is traveling to the Nicaraguan border next week to keep a peace watch. Sasul Antonio Solorzano, a Salvadoran refugee, will speak at the service.

An 11 a.m. march from the Federal Building to Centennial Mall, followed by a rally featuring Solorzano, will cap the week's activities.

"We want people to become more knowledgeable about what's going on in the world," Aldrich said. "The issue is not just helping poor people in Central America; it's bettering our society by opposing injustice."

"Present U.S. involvement affects the political, economic, and social welfare of the Central American society, and that's wrong," Aldrich said. "We're working for more understanding between the countries."

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