

Weather:

Mostly cloudy and cool today. Winds northwesterly 5-15 mph with a high of 58. Partly cloudy tonight with a low of 40. Partly cloudy and breezy on Thursday with a high near 70.

Freshman end Thomas could start KSU game

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Nebraska artist Towater paints 'for the feel of it'

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Gotcha! TAG takes a deadly twist



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan
Jeff Kontos, assassin game coordinator, poses with his gun, an A-Team dart gun.

By Jen Deselms
Staff Reporter

He looks around the corner and notices his victim waiting for the elevator. He stalks slowly and places the gun inches from the victim's back. A dart explodes from the gun. It's a kill.

This has been a common scene around Cather Hall and other UNL residence halls since Friday, when student Jeff Kontos organized "The Assassination Game," or TAG.

TAG involves students and dart guns. Each player is assigned to "assassinate" another player. If a player kills before being killed, he is assigned another player to kill. This continues until two players remain. The remaining two players are pitted against each other in a battle to the death.

Kontos became interested in TAG during high school. He and some of his friends on Cather Hall's 11th floor began playing TAG this year and opened the game up to others.

Kontos said he had to design game rules that residence hall directors would approve. He said he tried to find safe, enjoyable rules.

TAG rules include:

- No shooting above the first floor of residence halls or in classrooms;
- Playing hours are from noon to 2 a.m.;
- Kills must be reported to Kontos in 24 hours;
- Game boundaries are City Campus;
- Only dart guns are allowed because water pistols promote rowdiness, Kontos said;
- All weapons must be inspected;
- A witness must be present for each kill;
- Players only can kill the person assigned to them or the person trying to kill them;
- A player only can kill their assassin in self-defense.

The game started at noon Friday with 260 players and the first assassination occurred four minutes later.

Knox uses a computer program to match assassins and victims. Although it gives him a slight advantage, the computer allows him to play, too.

Osborne says reductions could hinder recruiting

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

University budget cuts proposed by Gov. Bob Kerrey and the Legislature could cause problems throughout the state as well as in UNL's academic and athletic departments, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in the South Stadium lounge, Osborne said that reducing faculty and cutting programs would hinder athletic recruiting.

"Fifty to 60 percent of the players you talk to anymore in recruiting, the academic part of it is either a very important part or the primary factor in making their decision," he said.

For example, Osborne said Nebraska lost running back Spencer Tillman to the University of Oklahoma three years ago because Tillman wanted to major in petroleum engineering. Oklahoma offers a degree in that field. UNL doesn't.

"I'm not expecting us to add petroleum engineering," Osborne said, "but on the other hand, if we cut majors it's going to restrict the number of people we can recruit."

Osborne also said cutting existing programs, particularly agriculture research, endangers the future of the state.

"I think agriculture is in a state of flux and anything that takes away from agricultural research and the ability to

change patterns of agriculture is going to hurt our state," he said. "A lot of that has to do with the university."

Osborne said Nebraska needs more diversification within the state and diversification from technology and educated people. Both would be scarce if the university fails to adequately fund its programs, he said.

"I think to cut academics at the university would be counterproductive," Osborne said. "I may have vested interests and I may be a poor spokesman, but it's kind of like a farmer saying he'll make money by not planting seeds this year."

"If we begin to ignore agricultural research, technology and the education of our people and keep cutting these areas, we may find we're digging ourselves into a deeper hole."

Osborne said he wanted to discuss the budget cuts because he thinks many people in the state aren't aware how critical the situation is.

Cutting salaries and reducing the faculty's size makes the university less competitive with other schools, Osborne said. Faculty morale and the situation at UNL is the toughest it has been since he came here 23 years ago, he said.

"Having a faculty that's competitive is like having good football teams," he said. "Most of the faculty is here because they want to be. They could demand, and get better salaries in other places."

Hoch opposes cut of NU faculty pay

By Suzanne Teten
Senior Editor

NU Regent Nancy Hoch said Tuesday that she opposes faculty salary cuts.

Hoch said the resolution the NU Board of Regents passed Friday asking the Legislature for emergency budget-cutting powers had nothing to do with cutting faculty salaries.

"One of my primary efforts has been to improve faculty salaries, which are at an unacceptable low," Hoch said.

She said she voted for the resolution on the condition that faculty salaries

not be included in budget reductions.

Hoch said the regents did not intend the resolution "to indicate that we would cut faculty salaries."

"We've been working to bring ourselves to the mean (among peer institutions), and we're not there yet," she said.

Faculty quality directly affects the quality of education available at the university, Hoch said. Most of regents do not support cutting faculty salaries, she said.

Please see HOCH on 7

Cuts could cause library to close early at night

By Linda Hartmann
Staff Reporter

This is the first article of a five-part series that tries to examine how proposed budget cuts would affect some of UNL's programs. The Legislature has proposed a 3 percent, or \$5 million, cut in state support for the university.

To counter proposed budget cuts, the UNL library might reduce its hours and freeze hiring of personnel, said Kent Hendrickson, dean of libraries.

NU President Ronald Roskens said last Tuesday that NU might have to cut \$150,000 from the UNL library system's budget if the legislature approves a

The Cutting Edge

proposed 3 percent cut in state support for the NU system. The library's current budget is about \$4.7 million.

Hendrickson said it is too early to say specifically how the different areas of the library would be affected by cuts. He said hiring freezes and shorter

hours are speculations at this point, and nothing can be decided until exact figures are set.

Should cuts be made, the library would close, earlier, Hendrickson said. He also said some jobs now open probably won't be filled. In addition, some equipment purchases might be postponed, he said.

Laying off staff members would be the last resort, Hendrickson said. It would be difficult to cut from the library's operations budget, and he said he wants to leave the material budget intact.

"The staff works hard. It's the facili-

ties and materials they have to work with that aren't all that good," he said.

Hendrickson said plans to move periodicals in Love Library probably won't be affected because funds for the move would come from another source and costs would be minimal.

A study by the Association of Research Libraries for the 1983-84 academic year ranked UNL libraries last among 11 peer institutions. Budget cuts would exacerbate the problem, said James Ford, associate professor of English and chairman of the UNL Faculty Senate's University Libraries Committee.

Ford and Hendrickson said UNL administrators consider bringing the quality of UNL's libraries up to the mid-point of peer institutions a priority.

The fact that money must be taken from the library shows how desperate the university is, Ford said.

Hendrickson said it is important that students, faculty members and decision-makers at state and university levels become aware of possible ramifications of cuts in the library's budget.

ASUN plans to send a student representative to the UNL Faculty Senate's University Libraries Committee to show student support, he said.