

**Weather:**

Partly cloudy and breezy today. Winds southerly 10-20 mph with a high of 65. Partly cloudy tonight with a 20 percent chance of showers and a low of 35. Partly cloudy and cooler on Wednesday. High of 55.

**Violent Femmes tear down walls Sunday**

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**Wichita State connection helps Pool land Astro's job**

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# Daily Nebraskan

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## Y-Pals Youngsters find adult friendship

By Kim Schwartze  
Staff Reporter

About 200 UNL students meet weekly with a special pal, someone they can go for ice cream with, take roller-skating or play football in the park.

These students and their pals are part of the downtown YMCA's Y-Pals program, which matches interested volunteers with 7- to 14-year-old boys and 6- to 14-year-old girls who need a special friend. The program is sponsored by the United Way and the YMCA Partner with Youth Campaign.

"The children are primarily from a one parent or low income home, kids without regular contact with a divorced parent or a relative," said Barb Gaither, Y-Pals director. The children are referred to the program by their parents, their schools or other social work agencies. Each year information packets are sent to UNL fraternities, sororities and residence halls. An annual Y-Pal Week helps promote community awareness of the program.

"The student Y-Pals themselves sell the program to other students, and we ask all of the Y-Pals to tell their friends what they're doing," Gaither said. She said she feels students are drawn to the program because they miss younger siblings at home.

Anyone interested in learning about the program must attend a Y-Pals orientation. Volunteers are interviewed by a Y-Pals case worker who also helps match the volunteer with a child.

Y-Pals partner matches are based on how close they live to each other, what they enjoy doing and the volunteer's age preference. Once a selection is made, an introduction is set up between the two new Y-Pals and the child's parents.

Lisa Jackson, a UNL senior psychology major, said it didn't take long to get to know her Y-Pal. Jackson's Y-Pal comes from a one parent home.

Jackson and her Y-Pal, Schuyler Tafoya, 7, enjoy sightseeing in Lin-



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan  
Sampson and his Y-Pal, DeFreece.

coln and Jackson said she took him to visit her hometown for a weekend last summer.

"It's a learning experience for me. As a psychology major, I'm interested in figuring out what he needs. It's not really hard, time-wise. There's always two hours a week I can squeeze in," she said.

Harper Hall 4 has a trick-or-treat party every year on Halloween for children still unmatched, along with a YMCA Pals sponsored Halloween party and hayrack ride this year.

"We try to do something about three times a year for kids still waiting, but we don't have the money to do much more," Gaither said.

Joe Sampson, a sophomore English education major, met his Y-Pal, Curtis, two weeks ago.

"He's called almost every day. We went out for ice cream the first time, and this week we went roller-skating," Sampson said.

Sampson said he feels the program is personally rewarding.

"It gives me a sense of worth. I'm living off my parents going to school and here's this kid who needs someone. I want Curtis to know that I'm his friend and I'll be there for him," Sampson said.

John Yochum, a senior finance major, and Tim Anderson, a senior business administration major have the same Y-Pal. Their Y-Pal, Tony, comes from a single parent home.

Yochum said he got involved in the program because he missed children from his Lincoln neighborhood.

During Y-Pal Week last year the Y-Pal program had a Y-Pal for a Day. Several state senators and public officials participated.

"We could tell afterwards that we were getting more inquiries about the program because of it," Gaither said.

Please see Y-PALS on 6

## Math competition brings computers, prestige to UNL

By Kent Endacott  
Staff Reporter

A mathematics competition with headquarters at UNL has helped UNL obtain prestige and computers.

Recently, the American Mathematics Competition helped the university maintain top facilities despite budget cuts, said Walter Mientka, UNL mathematics professor.

Mientka, executive director of the AMC, writes exams that will be given to more than 400,000 high school students this year. The AMC uses the exams to determine the best high school mathematics students in the United States.

"Headquartering the mathematics competition gives the university prestige," Mientka said. "Recently I was in Washington to receive a grant from IBM. Grants are another way of saying that there is a good faculty at your university and we approve of what you're doing."

A \$107,000 computer and two micro-computers were given to UNL by the National Science Foundation to use in grading and evaluating the math exams. Mientka shares the computers with the

geology department. Last year's budget cuts left the geology department without a computer.

"It's a pretty good trade-off for the university, office space for the use of the best disc drive on campus," he said.

The AMC also brings economic benefits to the state, he said. The University Press does all AMC printing. The AMC also employs two UNL students and hires UNL faculty members to help evaluate exams, he said.

The AMC, which is funded entirely through grants and private donations, picks the six best high school mathematics students to compete on the U.S. team in the International Mathematics Olympiad that will be in Warsaw, Poland, in July.

The U.S. team is chosen through the exams that only allow the students receiving the best scores to continue.

Twenty-four students are selected to train intensively for the Olympiad. After three weeks of problem solving at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., six students are selected for the U.S. team.

## Residence Hall Week

### East Campus to be site of 'Floor Feuds' game

By Kirk Zebolsky  
Staff Reporter

UNL residence hall students can sign up now to participate in "Floor Feuds," a simulation of the TV game show "Family Feuds," during Residence Hall Week, Nov. 17 to 23.

The aim of "Floor Feuds," one of three events to take place on East Campus, is to help promote joint activities between East and City campus students, said Teresa Shimonitz, an RHA member.

"It shows that the RHA does care about East Campus and they would like to get East Campus more coordinated into their activities," Shimonitz said.

Other Residence Hall Week activities on East Campus include the 10-kilometer Celebration Run and two-mile Fun Run at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17, and Movie Night East at 7 p.m. Nov. 20.

Ken Libby, co-chairman of Residence Hall Week, said RHA didn't have any events on east campus last year.

"Floor Feuds" is scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 17 at the East Union TV Lounge, and 6 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Nebraska Union Main Lounge.

RHA will award \$200 to the winning team and eight passes to the Hot Tubbery to the second-place team.

Sixteen four-student teams will compete in the double elimination show.

## Cut in faculty travel budget will hurt research, officials say

By Karen Shoemaker  
Staff Reporter

**Editor's note: This is the last article of a five part series that examined how proposed budget cuts would affect some of UNL's programs. Gov. Bob Kerrey has proposed a 3 percent, or \$5 million, cut in state support for the university.**

NU President Ronald Roskens' proposal to cut \$50,000 from NU's travel budget will hurt development and

research, administrators say.

The present allocation from the state for travel expenses is about \$500,000, said Robert Furgason, vice chancellor of academic affairs. The amount averages to about \$75 to \$100 per faculty member, per year.

To cut \$50,000 would mean many faculty members couldn't attend various meetings and seminars and would be a great hindrance to faculty development, he said.

"It makes a bad situation even

worse," he said.

Because it reduces the opportunity for faculty members to participate in professional meetings, workshops and seminars, cutting the travel budget will have a long-term impact on the university, said Roy Arnold, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The majority of outstate travel for research is not paid for with state funds, Furgason said. Research grants pay the bulk of the cost.

State funds pay for most instate

travel including expenses of extension agents and administration, he said.

### The Cutting Edge

Travel expenses are an essential part of running any university, Arnold said. Cutting the travel budget will hinder the faculty's ability to conduct research activity.

There are five research centers statewide, he said. NU faculty are

involved at each center as extension agents and research scientists. Limiting travel between the centers and the university because of budget cuts will adversely affect the faculty's ability to do their jobs, he said. Because of the need to travel to research sites, travel expenses are an important part of research work, he said.

"Travel is an essential part of the extension program," Arnold said. However, all parts of the university will be affected, he said.