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Flags at half-staff Tuesday

REACTION from Page 1

Nelson said he thought the explosion was caused by an oversight during the final security check.

"It's amazing that it (the Challenger) got through the safety tests," Nelson said.

Ice had formed on Challenger

Digest

Band Scholarship

Mrs. Florence Leon of Clayton, Calif., has established a memorial scholarship for the UNL marching band in memory of her husband Dr. Tim D. Leon.

The fund will be endowed to \$25,000 over five years to a \$2,000 annual scholarship. A supplemental gift will allow the initial scholarship to be presented this year.

Women for Sobriety

A group for women with drinking problems will meet at the YWCA Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. The group will learn and practice the New Life Program from Women for Sobriety, a national self-help program for women. For more information call 475-2694.

caused by cold temperatures in Florida overnight, AP reported.

Statehouse reacts

When news of the explosion broke, state senators were considering a bill that would establish a termination date for groundwater conservation districts. Lt. Gov. Don McGinley, presiding over the Legislature at the time, told senators what had happened while Farnam Sen. Tom Vickers had the floor.

"Then Vickers said, 'After that message, these things are very unimportant,'" McGinley said. "I said, 'That's right.'"

Because the Legislature was scheduled to recess at noon, senators finished business, said Scottsbluff Sen. William Nichol, speaker of the Legislature. But after McGinley's announcement little else was accomplished, he said.

"If we had it to do over again, I might have suggested closing up shop," he

said. Legislative committee hearings continued as scheduled because many people had traveled to Lincoln to attend, Nichol said.

UNL officials followed Gov. Bob Kerrey's request that flags be flown at half-staff. The announcement came early after confirmation that all seven crew members had died.

Despite the explosion, UNL Professor Leendert Kersten said NASA should put even greater effort into the space shuttle project.

Kersten worked with NASA in 1974-75 designing a remote control manipulator to be transported to space by the space shuttle.

"I have a tremendous amount of confidence in mankind," Kersten said. "It was an accident and a great tragedy, but I'm sure that the friends and relatives of the victims right now, they'd say, 'Let's go forward with extra effort.'"

Debate waged over Neihardt voting site

By Kent Endacott

Senior Reporter

Adding Neihardt Residence Center as an ASUN voting site is a "political maneuver" that will not increase voter turnout, said ASUN Sen. Jon Stick.

Stick made his comments Tuesday at an open forum, which was scheduled after Residence Hall Association members submitted a proposal last week to include Neihardt as a voting site. Current polling sites are at the Nebraska and East unions and Nebraska Hall.

"Because Neihardt is so close to the Union, it's more political than anything else," Stick said. "I believe that there is not a voting problem."

Brian Noonan, president of the Neihardt/Cather-Pound residence complex, said an election site in Neihardt would increase voter turnout without giving the residence halls an advantage.

"The Greek system feels that (a Neihardt voting site) would give the resi-

dence halls an advantage," Noonan said. "That claim is unsubstantiated."

"The big problem is apathy," he said. "If we had a residence hall polling place, I'm sure it would help voter turnout. A high voter turnout would certainly outweigh any disadvantages."

Also, there are a number of Greek houses in the area, he said.

In 1985, 3,256 people voted in the ASUN elections, an increase from 2,350 in 1984.

David Edwards, a former president of the Nebraska Association of Residence Halls, submitted a petition with 150 signatures supporting a Neihardt election site. He said he gathered the signatures in three hours.

"There is an actual tangible concern to alleviate the voting problem for all UNL students," he said.

Greg Smith, ASUN election commission president, said the six member commission will vote on the proposal later in the week.

Stadium vandalized

UNL police are looking for the person who vandalized Memorial Stadium during the weekend, said Corporal Tim Tolle of the police department.

"We have some leads," he said, "but nothing concrete."

An unidentified person drove a vehicle into the stadium and spun the vehicle's tires on the 50-yard line, leaving three-foot burn marks on the artificial turf, said Bill Shepard, groundskeeper for the UNL athletic department.

The marks were discovered Monday morning, he said.

The stadium was open all weekend so football recruits could look at the field, Shepard said, but the gates were not open overnight.

Shepard said a gate may have been

left open after the usual closing time of 6:30 p.m., but it would have been locked at 9 p.m. when campus police check the stadium.

No one can explain how the vandal got in, Tolle said.

Workers have brushed some of the burned plastic out of the turf, Shepard said, but he is not sure whether they will have to patch the field.

If the burned areas are patched, Shepard said they would not match the rest of the turf.

He said it would cost at least \$27,000 to replace a 5-yard section of turf the width of the field.

"We're not going to do that," he said.

Tolle would not release any other details, pending an investigation.

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