

Weather: Mostly cloudy this morning with clearing skies this afternoon and a high of 67. Tonight, temperatures falling into the mid-40s. Wednesday, sunny with a high of 60.

Sun Devils take individual titles

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Reno's guide to 'Good Sax!'

Arts and Entertainment, page 5

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Bill will ensure construction, safety of UNL buildings

By Kent Endacott
Senior Reporter

Passage of a bill that will lengthen the time given to pay for new university construction, including the Lied Center for Performing Arts, is expected, officials said Monday.

"We've been proceeding on that basis all the way along," said Tom Ash, NU foundation director of annual giving and publications. "We've done all our legwork on that basis. This is the confirmation to a commitment that they made earlier."

Senators gave second-round approval Wednesday to LB 1251, which assures funding for the Lied Center and includes appropriations from the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund to pay for long-range improvements of NU

buildings. Last year, senators appropriated \$5 million for the construction of the Lied Center.

Ash said the foundation has 98 percent of the targeted \$15 million in private donations for the construction of the Lied Center. The foundation's funds will be coupled with a \$10 million gift from the Ernst Lied Foundation.

John Janovy, interim director of Morrill Hall, said the \$4 million appropriated to the museum will be used to improve climate control and provide better handicapped access to the building. The improvements in air conditioning, lighting and humidity control are necessary to maintain rare specimens and improve tourism, he said.

"One improvement will have long-term effects, and one will have short-

term effects," Janovy said. "The short-term effect is our increased ability to use the building as a teaching and tourist attraction. And on the long-term, it helps us maintain our specimens, some of which are very rare."

Harley Schrader, director of the UNL physical plant, said the \$2.5 million appropriated to NU to improve building safety will be used primarily to place emergency lighting in UNL buildings and improve corridors for easier exit in case of fire. He said improving the safety of UNL's buildings has been going on since 1973 when the state fire marshal found some buildings in violation of safety codes.

But, he said, safety requirements have been lowered since the fire marshal's report and most major safety improvements already have been made.

Roskens seeks more 'friends'

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

Because of the continuing pressure of budget reductions, NU officials have started looking for more friends — 750 of them.

NU President Ronald Roskens recently sent out letters to 750 alumni, identified by the Alumni Association as being interested in actively supporting the university.

In the letter, Roskens encouraged those alumni to call legislators and others to "put in a good word for us."

Roskens encouraged alumni to support four bills:

- LB 1250: a salary bill for an increase of 3 percent for all state employees.

- LB 1251: general fund appropriation for NU of \$161,922,346 — a \$50,000 increase over last year.

- LB 1252: a capital construction bill that gives about \$325,000 to NU for safety projects. Also included is \$350,000 for the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

- LB 842: funding for two approved construction projects.

Roskens also encouraged alumni to join NU's network of friends.

Since the letters were sent March 26, about 24 alumni have returned application blanks to join the "friends" network.

"Friends of the University" is a support group that was created about three years ago. The group includes about 250 Nebraska residents —

alumni, parents and other NU supporters. "Friends" receive updates on legislation and other matters concerning the university about three times a year, said Joe Rowson, NU public relations director.

The recent move to expand the group membership grew out of increasing concern about budget battles, Rowson said.

As Roskens wrote: "The past several years have been most difficult for the University because of repeated budget reductions. We have been forced to reshape the institution, and if our budget situation does not improve, further cuts and program curtailment will be forced upon us."

Roskens, in keeping with the letter's "friendly" theme signed it "Ron."



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Sandy Wacker, grounds area supervisor, prunes the trees in front of Avery Hall.

Grounds department learns to live with decreased funding

By Diana Johnson
Senior Reporter

Caring for campus landscapes is much like operating a medium-sized farm or an average-sized business, says UNL's grounds department director.

But Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock must contend with more than rainy planting seasons, climbing temperatures and campus litter.

Like nearly all other UNL departments, the grounds department has cut back because of decreased state support. This year the department lost \$8,000 in state aid. Next year,

hiring professionals is only one method for improving the department's efficiency. Dasenbrock and his crews also use time in the off-seasons to grow their own plants from cuttings and to build benches and needed machinery.

Without building its own equipment, the department would probably have to pay 2 1/2 times as much, Dasenbrock said.

The grounds department also supplements its budget by working for self-supporting organizations at UNL.

For example, removing trash from residence halls, working for the

For the last 10 years, Dasenbrock said he has hired fewer employees, but those hired have had more experience and expertise.

Dasenbrock will face an additional \$20,000 cut.

But the loss of money has not harmed the quality of service, Dasenbrock said.

For the last 10 years, Dasenbrock said he has hired fewer employees, but those hired have had more expertise and experience.

"We don't expect to be immune to cuts," Dasenbrock said, "but we offset that with more proficient people."

Nebraska unions and other extra projects account for about 30 percent of the department's total budget.

From the total budget, Dasenbrock said, the grounds department guarantees that the campus is functional, safe and pleasing to the eye.

Currently, department crews are in the midst of planting thousands of flowers. Workers are also trying to finish a campus cleanup campaign that began during spring break.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Tome home open

The new Nebraska Bookstore, 13th and Q streets, opened its doors Monday after a one-week delay. Amy Carver, who had been working at the store all day, said most shoppers seemed fascinated with the ceiling skylight and exposed beams. "Most people come in just for sightseeing tours — with the cameras and bermuda shorts," said Carver, a junior English major.