

Weather: Chilly this morning and cool today with a high of 55. Low of 33 tonight; warmer tomorrow with a high of 60. Warmer throughout week.

'Life is Hell'; humor is pain

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Fight Night: A whole lotta splatterin' goin' on

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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Daytime knights

Society for Creative Anachronism members Timothy Longwatcher (left), legally known as Tim Dolan, practices battle with Herr Volkmar Katzbalger, legally known as Eric Doerr, in front of Memorial Stadium on Sunday morning. The practice is for tournaments to come later in the year.

Plans for Lied revised Shortfall requires design changes

From Staff Reports

Reactions to design changes in the Lied Center for Performing Arts, made necessary by an \$8 million shortfall, have generally been positive, said an NU Foundation official.

Sheila Griffin said, "There are many people who feel that it will be a more intimate building."

However, the Lied Foundation is not as pleased, said Robert Pazderka, NU director of facilities.

"We had an agreement with the Lied Foundation that we'd be underway by now," Pazderka said, but now construction has been delayed until at least December.

Pazderka told the NU Board of Regents Saturday that a consultant to Omaha architecture firm Henningson, Durham and Richardson determined the project will cost an estimated \$8 million more than expected.

But to stay within the budget, he said, the consultant recommended reducing the size of the building.

The consultant's recommendations include:

- Cut the size of the building from 154,500 square feet to 105,000 square feet
- Replace the limestone exterior with concrete brick
- Use terraces to replace the atrium
- Combine a rehearsal hall and a chorus room

The change from limestone to concrete has upset several Lied Foundation trustees, Pazderka said.

"It's upsetting to them. I think it's upsetting to people who have contributed here. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder; some people will think the new building is good looking, some would have preferred the limestone," he said.

Even so, the Lied trustees reluctantly approved the changes, Pazderka said.

The \$20 million building, which will be built at the site previously occupied by the Nebraska Bookstore near Kimball Hall, will be funded with a \$10 million gift from the Ernst Lied estate, \$5 million in legislative appropriations and \$5 million in private donations. Griffin said the NU Foundation has received 98 percent of the funding for the Lied Center.

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff, who has opposed the project since its introduction, said the altered design is still too extravagant.

"The old building was certainly pretty extravagant," he said. "This is still total extravagance. I think you could build a good building with good acoustics for about \$6 or \$7 million."

The board Saturday approved the issuance of bonds, which will be used for interim financing on the project. Simmons was the only regent to vote against the bond issuance.

He said he opposed the Lied Center because it is a municipal project disguised as a university project.

"The city of Lincoln is dumping this project on the university," he said.

The board also approved a \$5 million endowment, which the NU Foundation is raising to use for maintenance of the Lied Center.

Construction bids will be accepted in September.

Study urges changes

The NU Board of Regents approved a study that evaluates NU's administration and directed NU President Ronald Roskens to research changes outlined by the study.

The report, conducted by the accounting firm Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, recommends that NU strive for greater cooperation among the three campuses — UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center in Omaha. But the report warned that each campus should maintain its separate mission.

The four-month study cost \$75,000 and was paid for by the NU Foundation's investment funds, which are separate from the university's general budget.

"We think the future is one university with three distinct campuses with recognition of the fact that each campus has a different mission," said Bob Linder, who helped conduct the study.

"But these recommendations must be done with care," he added. "The role of central administration has to be clarified. . . (NU) has no detailed plan. There are various mission statements, but there is no strategic plan."

Other recommendations include:

- Establish a university-wide task force led by NU's president to develop a strategic planning process.

See REGENTS on 6

Avery stresses belief in self; minority leaders honored

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

From a cowl-necked collar to pastel leather boots, Margaret Avery wore the color purple.

She spoke about overcoming obstacles. About believing in yourself. About the spirit of the movie "The Color Purple," in which she starred.

She shared the pain and prejudice that came before her success with an audience of about 100 at UPC American Minority Council's "Tribute to Excellence," Saturday night.

Avery attended a predominantly white high school in San Diego, Calif. Although she won several honors in speech contests, every time she tried out for a school play she got small parts. In those days, Avery usually played a maid with one or two lines.

Once after again being cast as a servant, Avery became upset. A friend, who had gotten the lead role, offered to switch. Avery remembers laughing.

"Could you just see me in the 1950s kissing the blue-eyed blond (male lead)?"

The divisions between blacks and whites are not as distinct today, but progress still needs to be made, Avery said.

Avery has come a long way from her days of playing the maid in high school plays.

Avery has starred with such actors as Clint Eastwood, Richard Pryor, Billy Dee Williams and Ben Vereen. Perhaps she is best known for her "Color Purple" role as "Shug," a fiery and flashy nightclub singer who helps the main character, "Celie," break out of her oppressive life.

Avery was nominated for "Best Supporting Actress" by the Motion Picture Academy, but lost.

That loss didn't matter, she said.

"Before I went into the building that night for the ceremony, I knew I was a winner and no award would change the feeling that I have here," Avery said, tapping her chest.

Ultimately, Avery said "The Color Purple" will be recognized as a classic. It will be seen over and over and some lines will be committed to memory much the same way as Clark Gables' last line in "Gone With the Wind": "Frankly, Scarlett,

I don't give a damn."

In Avery's last lines, she encouraged the audience to face challenges and believe in themselves.

"Strike 'I can't' from your vocabulary," she said.

At the end of Avery's address, everyone in the audience stood to clap.

What followed was the introduction of campus leaders who have worked to overcome obstacles faced by minority students at UNL.

Among them were Adrian Casillas, president of UPC's American Minority Council; Reshell Moore, of the Afrikan Peoples Union; Antonio Laravie of the Native American Student Association; and Thuy Lee of the Vietnamese Student Association.

Awards for organizational achievement were also given to Dennis Watkins, of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity; Lori Adams of Zeta Phi Beta; Wallace Dawkins of Alpha Phi Alpha; Reginald Moore of Omega Psi Phi; Arlett Brooks of Delta Sigma Theta and Cynthia McCroy of Alpha Kappa Alpha.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Avery