

WEATHER: Today, mostly sunny with a high in the mid 80s. Fair tonight with a low near 60. No rain expected until Sunday.

**Ponderous pachyderms!
the circus is coming**

Arts & Entertainment, Page 6

**X-tra, X-tra wins
UNL softball tourney**

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Schroeder joins NU Ag 2001 project

By Colleen Kenney
Senior Reporter

Chuck Schroeder will end his job as the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's director Sept. 1 to enter a newly-created job as the University of Nebraska Foundation's vice president of the Ag 2001 project.

The Ag 2001 project is a UNL Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources plan to improve Nebraska's economy and quality of life by the turn of the century. Donations of up to \$25 million are hoped to be obtained for funding of agricultural projects and programs at UNL, said J. Robert Sandberg, NU Foundation vice president of gift planning.

Sandberg was the coordinator of the Ag 2001 project in addition to his duties involving gift planning. Now that a new vice president has been hired, Schroeder will be able to give the Ag 2001 project "full time leadership," Sandberg said.

Schroeder said he was approached

by NU Foundation officials earlier this year about the job possibility.

"It was an opportunity that in good conscience I couldn't walk away from," said Schroeder, a farmer from Palisade and a partner in the Schroeder Cattle Co.

Schroeder graduated from UNL in 1973 with a major in animal science. He has been the Dept. of Agriculture director since March 1985.

Schroeder said the Ag 2001 committee, which in 1984 researched and then recommended areas that the institute could improve, was the "most significant citizen-based program in Nebraska in years."

The committee was comprised of 150 experts from across Nebraska in agriculture-related fields, from farmers and ranchers to bankers and agri-business people.

Sandberg said the committee was not a "rubberstamp" for UNL. From its recommendations, NU Foundation and Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources officials decided what areas needed outside funding to meet pro-

jected goals, he said.

About \$5.5 million in donations and pledges have already been awarded to the institute, Sandberg said.

They include:

- The Energy Conservation Education fund, \$600,000, a program to help farmers and ranchers learn how to keep costs down by conserving energy.

- The Water Quality Research fund, \$1 million, a program to research the preservation of underground water in Nebraska.

- The Outstanding Scholars fund, \$1.5 million, a program that will provide scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students at UNL to keep outstanding students in Nebraska.

- The Adult Leadership Programs fund, \$1.25 million, which will promote UNL programs and provide special programs for adults on agricultural topics.

Out of the 18 broad-purpose funds yet to be received, Sandberg said some of the more important funding will go towards:

- A new food processing center, \$2 million, which will add to Nebraska's

economy by giving more value to processed raw materials, Sandberg said.

- The Distinguished Professorship fund, \$1.9 million, which will pay competent professors higher salaries and provide them with supplemental research funds.

- The Faculty for the Future fund, \$1.8 million, which will give grants to junior and intermediate level instructors to upgrade their skills.

- The extension staff fellowship, \$1 million, which will enable extension staff members to take time off for research to improve their knowledge and skills.

- The General Research and Equipment fund, \$1.8 million.

- Farm and Ranch Management fund, \$1.5 million, which will develop programs to help farmers and ranchers manage farms more effectively.

- The Youth Leadership and Awareness Programs fund, \$1.5 million, which will try to make high school students more aware of agriculture-related jobs available in Nebraska.



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan
Charles Schroeder raises a symbolic toast to his past, with the State Department of Agriculture, and to the future, as vice president of the NU Foundation, effective September 1.

Grant lets UNL link with super computer

By Colleen Kenney
Senior Reporter

A \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation will link UNL computers with those of seven other midwestern universities by next spring, a UNL official said Thursday.

Douglas Gale, UNL Computing Resources Center director, said the new "super computer" network would provide students, faculty members and researchers easy access to information from other computer-linked universities.

The system called MIDnet will be linked with a national computer network of Supercomputing Centers, recently established by the NSF to provide scientists throughout the U.S. access to high-tech computers.

MIDnet will replace the present computer link up system, BITNET, Gale said. The old "cumbersome" system connected UNL with 800 colleges, he said, but was not as sophisticated as the MIDnet system.

Other universities in the MIDnet system include Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, the University of Kansas, Washington University of St. Louis, the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Oklahoma.

Most of the \$1 million grant will pay for expensive high speed digital communication lines, much like telephone lines but more intricate, said Gale, who will serve as director of the MIDnet consortium.

Small interface boxes will be set up on both UNL campuses, he said.

See **COMPUTERS** on 5



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

A long way down. . . .

Lincoln firefighters pull Henry Greenwall, 66, into an eighth floor office at Lincoln's National Bank of Commerce, 13th and O St., after he dangled on a safety line for about 50 minutes Wednesday afternoon. Greenwall, an NBC maintenance engineer, had been inspecting the building for cracks along with an NBC vice president, Maurice Lange, 43, Bud Trotter, 42 of Walton and his 17-year-old son, Jeff, when a cable supporting the scaffold on which the four were standing broke loose about 4 p.m. Greenwall fell two stories before being caught by his safety rope.

Finding Cather letter 'a thrill,' says worker

By Colleen Kenney
Senior Reporter

Willa Cather cared about relationships with friends, at least that's what a recently discovered, handwritten note by Cather emphasizes, UNL English professor Susan Rosowski said.

Rosowski, a Cather expert, said she has no doubt that a letter uncovered July 22 in a Lincoln home was written by the famous Nebraska author.

Cather was 23 when she wrote the letter to her Lincoln friend Mariel Gere in 1896. In the letter, Cather inquires about a friend named Katharine in Montana who seems to be ignoring her. Cather writes that she is becoming impatient with that friend, who had slighted her before, and asks for her whereabouts.

The letter was signed "Willa." The contents of Cather's personal writings cannot be printed because of stipulations in her will, Rosowski said.

Greg McClure found the letter in a box among newspaper articles written in 1967 about Willa Cather. McClure, an employee of Lincoln's Ficke and Ficke Auctioneers, had been going through boxes at the Grace Bolan residence, 2228 So. 15th St., when he found the letter.

Don Ficke, a partner in the company, saw the letter next.

"It was a thrill," Ficke said. "I've seen a lot of things in this business but this is the first Willa Cather letter we've found."

Ficke said the letter was on unlined paper, yellowed from age, and in poor condition. All the words but one were legible, he said.

The Cather letter will be auctioned

Friday afternoon at the Grae Bolan residence. The Bolan estate auction begins at noon and the Cather letter will be put up for bid around 3 p.m., Ficke said.

The letter, matted and framed for protection, will probably sell for \$200 to \$400, Ficke said.

Rosowski said the short note will not make a significant difference in understanding Cather's life.

"It's just one more piece in understanding Willa," she said. "But the question is raised: How many other pieces exist?"

Rosowski said the letter is clearly Cather's style and handwriting. The letter had a Pittsburgh return address. She worked there as managing editor for Home Monthly magazine at that time.

Katharine's last name is not known, but many letters from Cather to Gere exist, Rosowski said.

The correspondence is well-documented and stems from their friendship while Cather attended UNL from 1890 to 1895.

Ficke said the letter probably came from an auction in the early 1960s of a direct Gere family descendant. Parts of the Gere library were bought then by the late Gladys Gere, Grace's sister.

Mariel Gere was the daughter of a Gere who owned the Lincoln Journal where Cather worked as a drama critic and essayist during her college years. Cather was good friends with the Gere family, Rosowski said.

The letter had no envelope but was dated October 4, 1896. Rosowski said that in Cather's youth she usually wrote such a date line but as she grew into midlife she left it out or only wrote the day or the month.

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