

WEATHER: Wednesday, considerable cloudiness with a 40 percent chance of showers. High around 50. Southeast wind 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday night, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Low in the mid- to upper 30s. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers. High in the lower 40s.

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AT&T donates \$1 million computer

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Dedication ceremonies were held Tuesday morning at UNL's College of Engineering for a \$1 million state-of-the-art computer system donated by AT&T Communications.

UNL was one of 150 universities chosen from 1,000 applicants to receive

the powerful new system.

Tom Thomsen, president of AT&T Technology Systems and a UNL alumnus, said one reason UNL was chosen to receive the computers was the company's use UNL's product.

"And that product is their graduates," he said. "Our universities have to be on the leading edge. You want them up to speed with the world-class

competition." Thomsen said more than 325 UNL graduates work for AT&T.

The computer system will help coordinate research and integrate all systems in the sciences, engineering and mathematics departments at UNL, UNMC and UNO.

Until the donation, a researcher had to access different computer terminals if they wanted to call up information.

The new system will help researchers compute, analyze and share research data. The system can be used by 40 researchers at the same time.

NU President Ronald Roskens said this is the first time a major company has made such a donation for the complete university system.

Thomsen said AT&T wants UNL stu-

dents to know the next generation of technologies.

"We see pragmatic values, not only to AT&T, but to other industries," he said.

Ed Hirsch, NU Foundation president, said, "We can credit this donation for academics and not for buildings. And in this particular climate, we are very pleased."



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Mike Stec, a member of the Plant Identification Team, studies a patch of switchgrass.

Plant identifiers ear highest finish

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

UNL has a team that recently placed fifth in the nation, their best-ever finish amongst "rough" competition. This team also has one member who placed ninth of 87 in the first year of competition. No, this team isn't as well-known as the football team, the basketball team or even the wrestlers.

They're not even as well-known as the much-praised livestock- and meat-judging teams. They're the Plant Identification Team, six students coached by Kelly Roberts, a research technologist in UNL's agronomy department.

The plant-identification team takes little explanation. They identify 200 varieties of plants from North America, Roberts said.

The team returned Feb. 15 from the Society for Range Management meetings in Boise, Idaho, where they beat last year's best ever seventh-place finish by placing fifth out of 22 schools from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Roberts said, "The people who compete put in a lot of work. Fifth is really good. Most of the teams like Texas have big programs and lots of money."

The plants are taken from a list of the 200 most important in North Amer-

ica. They're dried, pressed and mounted, and each competitor has one minute to identify the plant with its Latin scientific name, longevity (annual or perennial) and its origin (native or introduced).

The members of the team come from all departments, Roberts said. Agronomy, biology and natural resource majors are all represented.

Unlike sports teams, the Plant Identification Team gets no money from the university. Expenses were covered this year by donations from Natural Resource Districts, seed companies and team alumni, Roberts said.

See TEAM on 5

Bus bust evidence OK'd

By Jen Deselms
Senior Reporter

Evidence obtained after buses chartered by the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity were stopped will be allowed in the test case of Ryan Kennell, Saunders County Court Judge Everett Inbody said Tuesday. Evidence included numerous cans and bottles removed from buses.

Kennell, charged with minor in possession, was among 135 people ticketed for alcohol violations Sept. 13 after buses carrying Phi Psi members and their dates to a beach party in Valley were stopped by police.

All passengers on the four buses were ticketed for minor in possession or procuring for a minor. But in October the Saunders county attorney decided that no charges would be filed against 74 of the passengers. The fate of the remaining 60, minors whom police said had alcohol on their breath, hinges on the Kennell test case.

In a written decision, Inbody said the evidence presented by both sides in a Dec. 3 hearing led him to decide that Investigator Thomas Nesbitt of the Nebraska State Patrol had probable

cause to stop the Phi Psi buses. The judge ruled that evidence obtained from the search of the buses, information from the defendant and observations of the defendant will be allowed in court.

During the December hearing on the motion to suppress, Kennell's attorney, Kirk Naylor, tried to prove through witness testimony that police had no reason to stop the buses. Charles Wagner, Saunders deputy county attorney, said after the hearing that police had cause to stop the buses because they had information that members of an Omaha fraternity would be drinking on a public roadway. Officers were investigating a possible crime and came across another one when they stopped the Phi Psi buses, Wagner said.

Naylor said police did not check to see who actually had been drinking, but ticketed and detained everyone. He said that was unreasonable and unfair to those who hadn't been drinking.

A pre-trial conference on the matter is scheduled for March 25.

Naylor said pre-trial conferences are uncommon in misdemeanor cases, but this is an unusual case because of the more than 60 people cited.

Alumni Association vice president resigns to take job at Ball State

John H. (Jack) Miller, executive vice president of the NU Alumni Association, has been named vice president for university advancement at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

University president John Worthen, announced Miller's appointment, which begins July 1.

Miller managed all of the Nebraska Alumni Association's programs, activities and publications as its vice president and chief executive officer.

He founded an alumni legislative liaison program during his 15-year administration. Miller has been responsible for the planning, funding and building of the \$4 million Wick Alumni Center at UNL and has been involved in the National Merit Scholarship program and general student recruitment.

Miller said that his 15 years at UNL have been very enjoyable.

"UNL is a good university with good alumni, great alumni support, and great faculty and student support," he said.

"It has made the ideas and programs workable."

Miller said he is leaving the university because of the good opportunity Ball State University has given him.

"After 15 years it is time for a change," Miller said. "I've done the things I came here to do, the alumni program is doing well, and I'm ready to expand professionally."

Andrea Kransford, director of alumni communications for the Alumni Association, has worked with Miller the entire time he has been at UNL.

"We have experienced drastic growth since Miller came to UNL," Kransford said. "From a staff of seven and a few programs, Miller has added the Scarlet and Cream Singers, Student Alumni and individual colleges' alumni association programs. He was almost solely responsible for the planning, fundraising, and actual building of the Wick Alumni Center."

See MILLER on 5

First-round approval given to UNL R Street boundary

State senators voted 30-0 Tuesday to give first-round approval of a bill that would allow area businesses to continue serving alcohol on the south side of Q Street.

Under current law, no liquor licenses can be issued within 300 feet of any college campus. But Lied Center construction at 12th and Q Streets would extend the campus boundary and jeopardize the liquor licenses of five area businesses, such as Chesterfields, Bottomsley and Potts.

LB468, sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Don Wesely, would establish R Street as the south edge of campus.

If the bill does not become law, Wesely said, "current law would screw up the downtown redevelopment plans." Wesely's legislative aide, Time Becker, said businesses might not consider locating near campus if they cannot serve alcohol. The downtown redevelopment plans include the Taubman Project, which would be between 10th and 13th Streets and Q and O Streets.