

Editorial

Daily
Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mike Reilley, Editor, 472-1766
Jeanne Bourne, Editorial Page Editor
Jann Nyffeler, Associate News Editor
Scott Harrah, Night News Editor
Joan Rezac, Copy Desk Chief
Linda Hartmann, Wire Editor
Charles Lieurance, Asst. A & E Editor

New Orr program UNL can use 'money to grow with'

It has been a long time coming, but it appears that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln finally has some gubernatorial support.

Gov. Kay Orr has proposed a multi-million research development program for the University of Nebraska. The plan was unveiled last week in a presentation to U S West, a telecommunications corporation that is considering Nebraska as a possible site for a \$55 million private research center that would involve 1,500 jobs.

The plan would use money from existing tax funds to appropriate \$60 million within five years to create and embellish university research programs. A Nov. 1 deadline has been set for the NU Board of Regents to outline how the money would be used. Orr said some money should be used in computer science technology, hiring new faculty, raising the salaries of present faculty, supporting graduate assistant programs and purchasing new research equipment.

The proposed appropriations would be added to a \$7.5 million grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation to link UNL and Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., for research in engineering and technology. Ten million dollars in private donations would accompany the program. The money would be divided between UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center.

The planned funding will be adopted with the Legislature's approval whether U S West chooses Nebraska or not.

After a \$3.3 million midyear budget cut during the '85-'86 school year and a \$1.6 million midyear cut during the '86-'87 school year, the university is finally turning into what it's supposed to be — an institution for learning and growth, emphasizing the growth.

The past budget cuts have whittled programs down to the bare essentials. Now, pending legislative approval, the university will have some room to work and some money to grow with.

Libraries deserve help; constituents are sought

When the dust cleared in the controversy over the student recreation center last spring, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was left with more than just a place to play football and racquetball.

The discussion over whether to build the rec center drew attention to a more important issue — improving the university libraries.

It also resolved a problem that Edward Hirsch, chairman of the board of the NU Foundation, has said the university was struggling to solve.

Hirsch said last spring that it was difficult to find donors for projects such as libraries because there are no strong supporters. He added that it was easier to find donors for the new practice field in the rec center because the football team has "defined constituents" such as season-ticket holders.

But now the library has found some "constituents." One is Edmund Field, who established

a \$900,000 endowment for the libraries in the memory of Edmund Burke Fairfield, his late grandfather and a former UNL chancellor.

The libraries will receive interest from the \$900,000 — approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year — to buy more books, journals and supplies. University officials also earmarked \$250,000 left over from the heating budget last winter for the library system.

Although they're long overdue, these efforts to help the libraries should be applauded. A 1985 study rated UNL's Love Library as the worst in the Big Eight. The library system has long been ignored by the university's money-raising projects.

The NU Foundation should look at Field's endowment as incentive. It needs to take the time to raise funds for existing programs instead of creating new ones, no matter how tough it is to find those "defined constituents."

They're out there — somewhere.

FarmAid III scheduled despite past disputes

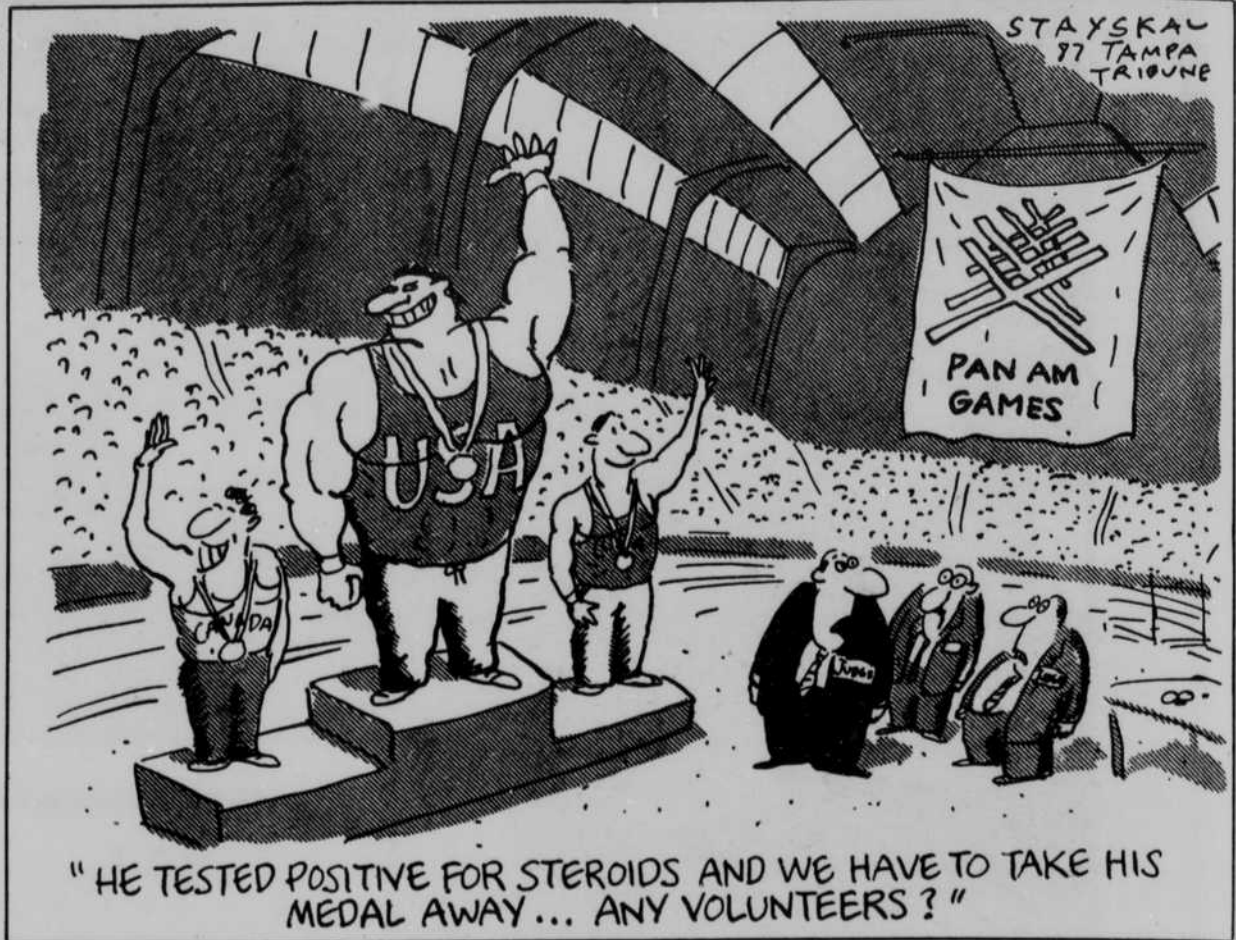
The date of the FarmAid III concert has drawn closer and plans for many extra activities on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus are all but completed.

Plans for the concert, which will be Sept. 19 in Memorial Stadium, weren't always so rosy. Just a few short months ago the UNL administration nearly lost the concert because of "foot dragging" in contract preparation. Despite the apathy of NU Pres-

ident Ronald Roskens, the opposition of head football coach Tom Osborne and the slow-moving administration, FarmAid III will take place here and will draw national attention to Lincoln and the farm crisis.

On July 13, Willie Nelson and UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale signed the contract to bring the concert to Memorial Stadium on Sept. 19.

Proving the community's support, tickets sold out within one week.



"HE TESTED POSITIVE FOR STEROIDS AND WE HAVE TO TAKE HIS MEDAL AWAY... ANY VOLUNTEERS?"

UNL may see brighter future

Recent events show interest in improving education

Each autumn, excitement and optimism swirl with the falling leaves on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus as students and professors head back to class. But the start of the 1987-88 school year should go down as one of the most optimistic in university history.

It's good to be back. Renewed vigor usually engulfs the campus every fall, but I also have found renewed interest in improving the quality of education at UNL.

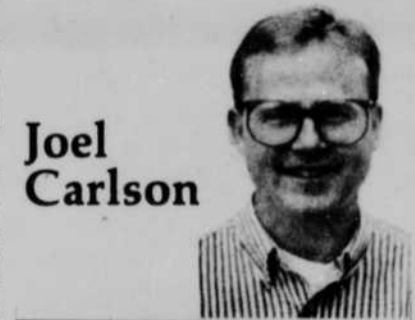
This commitment comes after longstanding concern about budget cuts, faculty departures and college closings.

Although the course the university will take this year cannot be predicted with certainty, recent events point to a brighter future.

This summer NU President Ronald Roskens and other administration officials emphasized that they are com-

mitted to raising faculty salaries. The Legislature has indicated that enough votes can be found to make faculty salaries a high priority in the next NU budget war.

On the heels of a modest increase in



Joel Carlson

the budget for the next fiscal year, Gov. Kay Orr recently announced an aggressive plan to beef up the university's

research. The proposal could mean as much as \$77.5 million over the next five years. Not only could sophisticated equipment be purchased, but more endowed professorships would be established.

Out elected officials are finally realizing that the university is an integral piece to a comprehensive economic development program. Let's hope they can come through on their promises.

Also student lobbying should be more effective this year. UNL withdrew its membership from the Nebraska State Student Association and channeled its allocation to ASUN's Government Liaison Committee.

This decision was a smart one. Lobbying efforts now can be focused on issues that more directly affect UNL. NSSA was ineffective because it could lobby only for "higher education" in-

See CARLSON on 5

AIDS not yet cultural plague

Here is the quarrel going on, much of it beneath the surface, having to do with the AIDS epidemic.

At first, the disease was isolated as having two highly identifiable target groups, male homosexuals and intravenous drug users. Publicity was given to the dangers of certain kinds of sex and to the use of needles that might be contaminated. The result of this publicity has not, according to preliminary evidence, done a great deal to slow down dirty-needle use, this being in

William F. Buckley Jr.



part because the drug culture tends to hypnotize users against collateral dangers. The homosexual community, on the other hand, has made considerable strides in self-regulation. The bathhouses in San Francisco, for instance, are closed down, and whereas the infected population was doubling every 12 months, as of one year ago that period appears to have stretched to 20 months — a step, at least, in the right direction.

But along the way, the fear of the disease and its increasing incidence among women and children gave rise to the assumption that for all intents and purposes it is and should be considered to be a general epidemic, from which only the monogamous, non-drug-

using, non-hospital-working minority were entirely safe. Although one cannot and should not endeavor to conclude that these general fire alarms were cynical, it is true that they served particular purposes.

One such purpose, obviously, is the call for federal funds. There are those (I am one of them) who believe the federal government is properly called upon to finance research for any disease, no matter how particularized its victims. If an epidemic were to break out that afflicted only Scandinavian sun-worshippers, remedies are properly investigated by government financing. But it is correct that much of the public takes the position that if homosexuals desire to continue to live promiscuously, then they should suffer the consequences of doing so, and that if drug users persist in using dirty needles, let them die a dirty death. Accordingly, it was in the political interest of the two standard victim-groups to universalize AIDS — AIDS will get you if you don't watch out.

A second reason for considering the virus to be universal had to do with the desire of the victim groups to make themselves anonymous. When a death occurs among young or middle-aged men and AIDS is given as the cause of death, the public presumption has been that the deceased was an active homosexual or a drug user. Although cultural vectors lighten progressively the invidious overhead of homosexual activity, still it would soothe many who live under tension to accept an AIDS death as saying nothing about the sexual life of the deceased.

But there is recent evidence that the disease continues to be highly discriminatory. Robert Scheer of the Los Angeles Times, a supercharged reporter normally associated with left causes, has written a widely unnoticed series, accumulating evidence the burden of which is that heterosexual transmission of AIDS is very, very rare in the United States. Other not widely noticed scientific groups have come to the same conclusions. They don't tell heterosexual couples to take no precautions, but attempt to assure them that their chances of contracting the disease are slight. The burden of which is to ease a little of the pressure on the panic button, the highest pitch of which was reached by Professor Stephen Jay Gould of Harvard when he wrote a few months ago that the way things were looking, it was possible that before a cure or a vaccine was developed, 25 percent of the human race might have died from AIDS.

But whatever Scheer's findings, there is no gainsaying the fact of diseased children being born, destined to live only five, six, seven years. These are the congenital AIDS victims. And since there is no retroactive way to relieve the child's parents of the disease, necessarily one depends on research of a kind that can actually treat the disease, since prophylactics hardly are usable on diseased fetuses.

Research, then, will continue. But apparently evidence mounts that the victim groups of yesterday are the likely victim groups of tomorrow. ©1987 Universal Press Syndicate