

WEATHER: Partly sunny with a slight chance of morning showers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Friday night. Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s to the upper 40s. Saturday, mostly sunny and not as cool. High around 70.

Daily Nebraskan

Inside:

News Digest Page 2
 Editorial Page 4
 Sports Page 6
 Entertainment Page 8
 Classified Page 11

September 18, 1987

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 87 No. 17

Workers plunge 4 floors

Crane malfunction said to be culprit

By Amy Edwards
 Senior Reporter

and
 By Mary Nell Westbrook
 Staff Reporter

Two construction workers escaped serious injury after they fell about 45 feet at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Thursday — the second accident at the site since late August.

Troy Sowers and Randall Newland were working on scaffolding attached to a crane when the boom lowered. The men were four stories above the ground, but did not fall off the scaffolding until the boom collapsed, said Lynn Lightner, an engineer with Builders Inc.

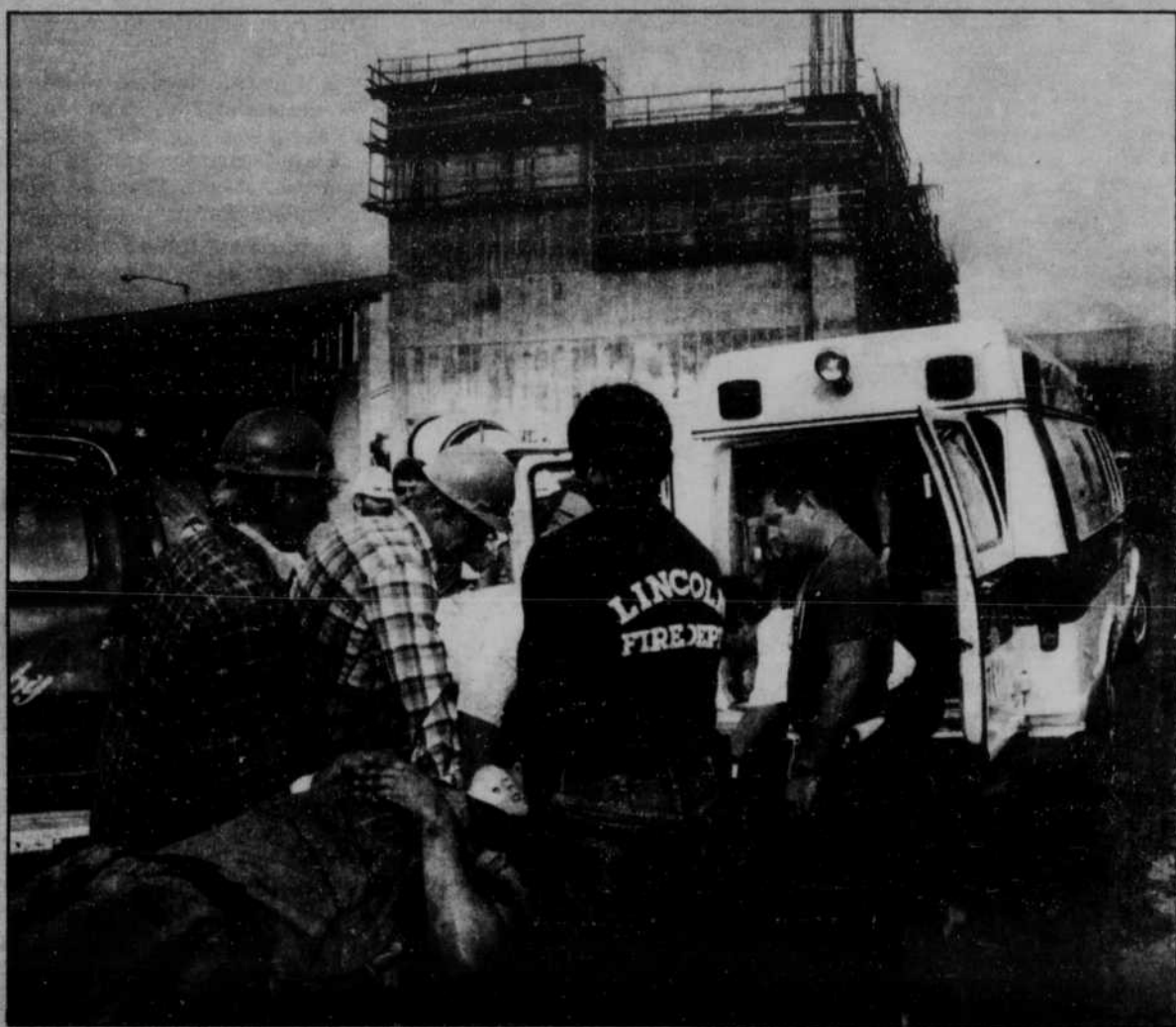
Sowers was treated and released in good condition from Lincoln General Hospital with a twisted kneecap. Newland was not injured, Lightner said.

The accident happened because of a mechanical malfunction in the crane, Lightner said. The crane's boom was extended over the east side of the building. The malfunctioning crane slowly lowered the boom until it hit the east wall and collapsed, he said.

Lightner said this accident wasn't related to an Aug. 24 mishap where a worker fell 18 feet after unhooking a safety belt. The worker was not allowed to return to his job, Lightner said.

"There's a lot of normal construction work taking place," he said. "The accidents are not accountable to any one thing."

Bruce Moen, a supervisor with the Occupational Safety and Health Association, said the or-



ganization will try to investigate the accident today.

Lightner said the crane will be repaired soon, with no delay in construction. Construction on the Lied Center began in January and is expected to be completed by spring 1989.

Troy Sowers, a construction worker at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, is taken by stretcher after a crane boom collapsed; dropping him and another worker, Randall Newland, four floors.

Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan



Seats saved for farmers

Special sections to show solidarity

By Bob Nelson
 Staff Reporter

Two sections of Memorial Stadium will be reserved for farmers and their families during FarmAid III, officials said at Thursday's FarmAid III press conference.

"We're just helping the farmers to show their solidarity," said Abby Shapiro, spokesperson for FarmAid III.

Sections 26 and 27 in the East Stadium will be set aside for the farmers, Shapiro said.

Gene Weed, producer and director for Dick Clark Productions, said everything was going smoothly in preparation for Saturday's concert. Weed said the only problem they have faced was having only one driveway to move equipment into the stadium.

"There's a lot of staging and equipment we have to get in here," Weed said. He said it becomes a nightmare when having to coordinate all the trucks coming in and out of the stadium.

Weed predicted the setup will be completed by Friday afternoon if it doesn't rain.

"If the great gaffer upstairs will cooperate, we'll be fine," Weed said.

Weed said the times each performer will be on stage had not been set. He said a schedule will not be made until Friday afternoon. Neil Young, Kris Kristofferson, The Grateful Dead, Merle Haggard, John Mellencamp and Willie Nelson would probably play during the nationally televised final two hours of the concert, Weed said.

There will be a finale to the syndicated two-hour show, Weed said.

"Willie will come out on stage with 40 other artists and do a huge concert finale," he said. "They will sing the theme to this whole thing, 'This land is your land.'"

Devaney, Osborne want successful FarmAid III

By Chuck Green
 Senior Editor

While thousands of Nebraskans anticipate the arrival of FarmAid III at Memorial Stadium Saturday, at least two members of Nebraska's athletic department also hope for its success — contrary to some media reports.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne and Athletic Director Bob Devaney both said they approved of the concert being held at the University of Nebraska, and that earlier reports of opposition were misleading.

"At no time have we shown reluctance, despite what some media

people and politicians have led people to believe," Devaney said.

Osborne agreed, saying that FarmAid had caused the football team minor inconveniences in practice scheduling, "but that was something we had planned on," he said.

"The only thing we had wished was that they could have done it during the summer when there would have been minimal inconveniences," Osborne said. "But we certainly understand the cause and we hope it goes well."

Osborne said he was upset over a story that appeared in the Omaha World Herald last July. The story reported that Osborne was opposed to allowing the concert to take place in

Memorial Stadium. He said the story was incorrect.

"(The reporter) said, 'Is this going to cause some problems?' and I said 'yeah, it's going to be disruptive.' But we've never been against it," Osborne said.

"If we were against it, we never would have OK'd it," he said.

Osborne said, however, that he thought the rest of the media had been fair throughout the FarmAid negotiations.

"That one story, I was fairly upset with," he said. "People thought that I was against FarmAid and that's not the case. I think if the athletic department would have been against it, the

administration would have backed us up and turned it down."

Osborne said most people that during negotiations for "dragging its feet" blamed UNL for what its FarmAid officials began talking of the possibility of moving the concert to the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa.

"We really felt that we'd been cooperative all the way along," Osborne said. "There had been some places like the University of Texas that just turned them down cold and we thought we were bending over backwards trying to put it together."

Devaney also said he felt that the athletic department had been treated

unfairly by some members of the media who thought UNL opposed the concert.

"We've been kicked around on this thing," Devaney said. "The media has said that Tom Osborne is against this and that's not true. We were just trying to see that our field was adequately protected."

Gary Fouraker, athletic department business manager, said the stage and lighting will be set up in the north end zone. He said plywood would be placed beneath the stage and that the entire playing surface of Memorial Stadium would be covered with a rubberized mat with a fire-proof mat under that.

Research expert questions biotechnology

By Christine Anderson
 Staff Reporter

Some biotechnology research in agriculture and other sciences has had more ill effects on society than good, according to an agricultural research and education expert.

Wes Jackson, co-director for the Land Institute in Salina, Kan., said Americans are "merely cleaning up problems" that result from biotechnologic research that disrupts the course of nature.

Jackson, who spoke at the second National University Rural Crisis Conference Thursday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Union, cited problems such as chemically contaminated ground water and human health problems as negative effects on the environment. The contaminated ground water has resulted from the use of agricultural chemicals and the health problems stem from people consuming livestock that have been injected with growth hormones.

Jackson said there are two choices for the future of agriculture: "Human cleverness or nature's wisdom."

Consequences of this research hasn't been investigated enough or understood by scientists, Jackson said.

He said that humans set out to control nature without serious considerations of its results.

"We reduce birds, bees, flowers and trees to a set of transformers," he said.

Jackson said the nature of research needs to

be changed.

"It is time for scientists to stop and evaluate what (biotechnology) has brought to us," he said. "I believe that a lot of scientists will modify their nature of their experiences, if they are aware of its dangerous effects."

Jackson said that he isn't concerned with the "monsters" — or scientists — who are changing nature's course. But he said he is concerned about what's going to happen 20 years from now.