

# Daily Nebraskan

January 29, 1988

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 87 No. 92

Friday

**Weather:**

Friday, mild, mostly sunny with a high of 55-60. Friday night, partly cloudy, low in the upper 20s. Saturday, mostly sunny, high of 50-55.

**A&E:** Up and away, but not over the hill.

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**Sports:** NU women's basketball team to face Colorado Saturday.

—Page 6.

## Air Force cancels UNL ROTC program

By Victoria Ayotte  
Staff Reporter

The closing of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Air Force ROTC detachment will force about 70 freshman and sophomore cadets to explore other options, said Col. John Vick of the UNL Air Force ROTC unit.

The U.S. Air Force announced Wednesday it will close or consolidate 37 of its 151 college ROTC units, including UNL's.

Vick said he received the news Wednesday and announced it to a meeting of all the cadets that afternoon.

"We had no prior knowledge," said Maj. Thomas Fauth, Air Force ROTC instructor.

Air Force ROTC cadets were surprised and upset by the announcement.

"I felt like somebody kicked me in the shins," said Rich Sheldon, a senior cadet.

Crystal Jennings, a freshman cadet, said she was upset when she heard the news.

"I don't think it should have happened the way it did," she said.

Junior and senior cadets will be allowed to finish the ROTC program at UNL, but freshman and sophomore

cadets will not, Vick said.

The last UNL ROTC class will graduate in 1989, he said.

UNL's ROTC teaching staff will be cut in half during the 1988-89 school year, leaving two officers and one enlisted man, Fauth said.

Fauth said the freshman and sophomore cadets have seven options:

- transfer to another school offering Air Force ROTC and continue on scholarship if the student is on scholarship.

- continue under scholarship through this semester for credit and not transfer to another school, but

instead request release from the Air Force ROTC program in May 1988.

- request release from Air Force ROTC and scholarship effective immediately.

- continue as a non-scholarship cadet at another school offering Air Force ROTC in fall 1988.

- leave as a non-scholarship cadet without prejudice.

- apply to another armed forces ROTC program at UNL and transfer if accepted.

Cadets' choices so far are varied. "Everybody's got to figure out what's best for them," said cadet 1st Sgt. Paul Vetter.

Jim Ulrich, a sophomore cadet, said he will probably drop the ROTC program.

Jennings said she wasn't sure what she will do.

"Since we've started, we should have been able to finish," she said.

Brad McDonald, a freshman cadet, said he plans to apply for a different ROTC program at UNL.

Vick said he is encouraging cadets to continue the program at another university.

"I encourage them to stay the semester and keep their options

See **AIR FORCE** on 3

## No hike for community colleges

By Ryan Steeves  
Staff Reporter

Although community colleges will not get more money in Gov. Kay Orr's proposed 1989-90 budget, she has said they will receive more support in future budgets, said a community college representative.

Thomas Johnston, executive director of the Nebraska Technical Community College Association, said Orr told him during a meeting Thursday, the community colleges will get high priority in her next budget proposal.

Johnston said Orr recognizes the need for increased funds for community colleges. He said he thinks her efforts to help the colleges are sincere.

"We're very pleased that the governor has responded so positively," Johnston said, "and that her staff has seen some of the resources that the community colleges need."

Johnston has proposed a \$300,000 increase for Nebraska technical and community colleges. The increase

would finance advanced equipment needed to keep the colleges in step with businesses, Johnston said.

Orr has said she will not support the increase in the 1989-90 budget. But Johnston said he still plans to propose the increase to the allocations committee.

In recent years, state budget cuts have hurt the community and technical colleges, Johnston said. Recently a dispute between railroad companies and the state also has hurt, he said.

The railroads have filed suit against the state, charging the state collected too much in property taxes. Because of the suit, revenue from property taxes has been tied up, Johnston said.

For immediate money needs, Orr's staff and state departments will work with the colleges to promote training programs, he said.

Training for asbestos removal is one such program, he said. The State Department of Health will allot money to community colleges, he

See **COLLEGES** on 10

## Board rejects plan to end Malone land controversy

By Natalie Weinstein  
Staff Reporter

A plan that could help end the Malone neighborhood land controversy was rejected Wednesday by the Malone Center Board.

The plan would allow the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to buy and develop property in the Malone area throughout a 15-year period.

Although the Malone Center Board rejected the plan, two other groups have yet to consider the plan. The Malone Neighborhood Association and the NU Board of Regents will review the plan in mid-February.

The Malone-area land has been an issue for almost 30 years.

Last spring, former mayor Roland Luedike formed the Malone Redevelopment Study Committee to speed up progress. The eight-member task force is comprised of two members each from the city, UNL, the Malone Neighborhood Association and the Malone Community Center.

Christina Godfrey, director of the Malone Community Center, represents the Malone Center Board in the Malone Redevelopment Study Committee.

Godfrey said the Malone Center Board rejected the plan because it is not detailed enough.

The board needs more detail about

what will happen to the people currently living in the area to be redeveloped and more about what will be included in a proposed park, Godfrey said.

The plan involves three phases. Phase I would take five years, Phase II 10 years and Phase III 15 years.

Phase I calls for UNL to acquire and develop land mostly from Vine to S streets between 19th and 20th streets. The university already owns most of the land considered in Phase I.

In Phase II, UNL would buy and develop land from S to R streets between 19th and 20th streets and land from R to Q streets between 19th and 22nd streets. More than half the land in Phase II is privately owned.

In Phase III, the university would get the land from S to R streets between 20th and 22nd streets. The city owns most of the land in this final phase.

The block, located between 21st and 22nd streets and U to Vine street, will be left untouched. The block includes the Malone Community Center and the Malone Manor. The Malone neighborhood would also receive a five-acre park south of the Malone Center. A landscaped buffer between the university and the neigh-

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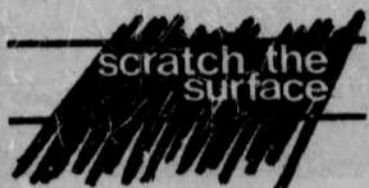
Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Battiato

## Memory man recalls hobby

By Nick Tonkin  
Staff Reporter

For Dean Battiato, what began as a childhood hobby has grown into an obsession.



Battiato, 28, of 4244 L St., has memorized between 4,000 and 5,000 peoples' birthdays, more than 100 phone numbers, 100 addresses, and about 30 license plate numbers.

He credits baseball cards for his accomplishment.

At the age of 3, Battiato started collecting baseball cards with his older brother. Three years later, they owned about 2,000 cards, he said. Given any two statistics, he could figure out whose card it is and other relevant information, he said.

At that time, a cereal company gave away miniature statues of U.S. presidents. By the time the last one came out, he had memorized the presidents and their birthdays.

Battiato said memorizing as a hobby helped him earn top grades in school.

"I always got A's in spelling," he said.

The gift had its onerous side, however. Battiato said he has about 60 immediate family members. When his mother realized his capacity for remembering dates, he said, she did away with her date book.

Battiato, a 1981 University of Nebraska-Lincoln broadcasting graduate, does not use any method to remember information.

"That's what's the weird thing," he said, "I never really did have a system. There was a guy called Jerry West who learned the New York phone book. He wrote a book called 'The Memory Book,' but that was way too complicated for me."

Seeing things written down does

help, he said, but most of the time he just remembers what he hears. This, too, can get him in trouble.

"Sometimes I get really pissed off when someone denies they said something," he said, "when I know they did."

In the break room at National Research Corp., where Battiato works as a telephone interviewer, people constantly come up to him and ask him: "What's my birthday? What's my brother's birthday?"

Though they may have told him only once, a year ago, he reels off the dates, along with the names of any celebrities who share the same birthday.

Battiato said he has had offers to put his memory skills to professional use.

"A couple of guys in college wanted me to go to Las Vegas and play the blackjack tables for them, but I never did."

Memorizing has only been a hobby for Battiato instead of a job. "I never really wanted to sit behind a desk and work with numbers all day," he said.