

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

Weather: Monday, mostly and sunny, high around 35, winds NW at 5-15 mph. Monday night, a few clouds, low 10-15. Tuesday, cloudy and a bit warmer, high 35-40.

A&E: Independent women making independent films —Page 6.

Sports: Nebraska women receive an NCAA Tournament bid —Page 8.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Council formed to help recruit minorities

By Shawn Hubbell
Staff Reporter

Despite efforts to improve minority recruitment at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, minority students have made up only 5 percent of entering freshmen in the past few years, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The reality of the situation has led Griesen to create yet another council to deal with the university's minority recruitment problem.

Despite the creation of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Minorities in October 1987, last week Griesen formed a Minority Recruitment Council for UNL.

But some UNL officials agree that this problem is not new and won't be easy to remedy because of connected problems and issues.

Officials say a lack of minority faculty members, an unwillingness to finance minority programs, and the

special needs and questions of minority students all play a part in UNL's low percentage of minority students.

In a letter sent to college deans last Thursday, Griesen and UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale asked the deans to appoint a representative from each college to serve on the commission.

Representatives will also be selected from several administrative offices in the university and from within the community.

Griesen hopes to have the commission functioning this spring.

"Our society is based on principles of equality," Griesen said, "and we have, for whatever reasons... some historically embarrassing... underrepresentation of certain minority groups in the university."

Griesen said he believes poverty, ignorance, racism and lack of opportunity for blacks is directly related to the nation's incorrect behavior in the

past. He said affirmative action is needed to try to undo past wrongs.

If the university truly subscribes to the principles of the society, he said, "we have to bring about that equality of access and opportunity."

Paul Miles, special assistant for minority affairs in Griesen's office, said minority students often lack information about the university system and financial matters, which hinders recruitment.

Miles, a 1986 UNL graduate with a major in speech communication, works directly with high-school minority students in Lincoln and Omaha to attract them to the university.

After speaking with officials from Omaha Public Schools and other Big Eight universities and Nebraska minority leaders, Miles said minority recruitment at UNL is at the "bottom of the heap in the Big Eight."

For the most part, Miles said, the minority students he deals with are the first of their family to attend col-

lege. He said many of them do not know how to get Pell Grants, selected scholarships and student loans.

"Everything that seems so general to white students is not so general to minority students," Miles said.

One of the challenges in recruiting minorities, Griesen said, is to capture students when they are younger and excite them about pursuing professional career possibilities. But "when you grow up in an environment that isn't full of hope and opportunity, it's hard to develop hopes and opportunities," he said.

Jimmi Smith III, director of Multi-Cultural Affairs at UNL, said changing attitudes toward the purpose of college in black communities have complicated the issue even more.

In the 1960s, Smith said, black communities were in the process of growth and change. Blacks told their children the kinds of careers the community needed and they went off to become doctors, lawyers, dentists

and teachers, Smith said. Black communities used to emphasize the need of the community more than individual needs, he said.

Now, Smith said, the trend is individualism.

Smith said that not knowing what the community needs makes it difficult for many minority students to return home after graduation because they are unsure their skills are needed.

Regardless of how minority students excel academically or athletically, Miles stresses the importance of higher education.

Although athletics can open the doors for some minority students, he said, they need to be aware that a sports career can be short-lived and should seek a well-rounded education.

"If we train them just to be athletes, that's all they'll know," said Miles, a former Nebraska I-back.

See **MINORITY** on 3



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Future Huskers?

Hundreds of young basketball players filled the Coliseum gym last weekend as YMCA and the Downtown Lincoln Optimists Club was host to the seventh annual YMCA Midwest Invitational. George Hoggins, president of the club, said 208 teams from five states competed in the two-day tournament, which consisted of boys and girls from the fifth through 10th grades. Other games were played at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln High School and Southeast High School.

Wolff to speak at UNL on curriculum today

By Jamie Pitts
Staff Reporter

Robert Paul Wolff will speak today on "The Closing of the American Mind" at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Wick Alumni Center.

The UNL Teaching Council is sponsoring the discussion by Wolff, professor of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, from 3 to 5 p.m.

"The Closing of the American Mind," written by Allan Bloom, states that the social and political crisis of 20th-century America is really an intellectual crisis.

Wolff criticized Bloom's book in the September-October issue of *Academe*.

Wolff will address issues raised by Bloom's book that directly affect UNL's curriculum, said Delivee Wright, a member of the Teaching Council and director of the Teaching and Learning Center.

Fredrick Luebke, professor of history and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies, said Bloom's book stimulates public debate on public education.

"Something as important as education in a democracy needs constant scrutiny," Luebke said.

Bloom suggests that college curricula should consist of the classics, Wright said.

Wright said the teaching council asked Wolff to speak after reading his review, in which Wolff disagrees with Bloom's ideas. The council also asked Wolff to speak, she said, because the book is widely read and deals with courses UNL students should be taking.

After Wolff speaks, she said, students and faculty members are welcome to voice their opinions.

Wright said she hopes the program will stimulate thought, discussion and reflection on issues raised by Bloom's book.

Roskens urges funding package approval

By Bob Nelson
Senior Editor

University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens made a plea to Nebraskans Saturday to "vigorously support" the proposed University of Nebraska funding package now before the Legislature.

Roskens said the package, which includes an 8 percent increase in faculty and staff compensation and a \$4 million allocation for research enhancement, "could make a very real difference to the future of Nebraska."

"Let me stress that we stand at a very important point in the history of this university and this state," Roskens told the NU Board of Regents.

Roskens said the university's highest priority is the 8 percent increase in faculty and staff compensation for 1988-89. The second major component, he said, is a \$4 million research enhancement allocation that is part of a five-year research enhancement package proposed by Gov. Kay Orr.

Roskens said \$1.95 million will be used to finance additional biotechnol-

ogy research and \$1.55 million will be used to finance engineering, physical sciences and computer sciences research. Water-quality research would receive \$200,000, and decision sciences would receive \$300,000, Roskens said. Decision sciences use computers to solve social and business problems.

Roskens said legislative approval of the enhancement program would be a major step in improving the university's research capabilities.

"We believe that these funds would allow us to make a quantum

leap forward, propelling the University of Nebraska back into the very front ranks of the nation's research universities," Roskens said.

Roskens said the research enhancement proposal stemmed from the recent attempt by Nebraska to secure the U S West research and development center.

"Simply put, the governor realized that university research infrastructure shortcomings were a key reason why the state of Nebraska was unable to compete effectively for... projects like the U S West facility," Roskens said.

The U S West contract was awarded later to Colorado.

In the area of biotechnology, Roskens said, the money could be used to study ways to control infectious diseases through the production of vaccines, the application of monoclonal antibodies and the use of molecular probes for viruses.

Roskens said engineering research could be developed to improve insecticide and other chemical applications. Also, laser meteorology research could be used to determine dangerous dust levels in grain elevators more efficiently, Roskens said.