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This Week:
The new male unveiled.
—Page 4
You, too, can hustle.
—Page 6
The year's best . . . so far.
—Page 9

Results of audit remain undisclosed

By Curt Wagner
Senior Editor

University of Texas officials refused to comment Wednesday on the results of an audit of University of Nebraska-Lincoln director of business services James Main.

Main, a former employee at UT's physical plant, came under investigation last week by UT's internal auditing department for allegedly accepting paychecks he was ineligible for.

UT vice president for business affairs G. Charles Franklin would not comment to the Daily Nebraskan and told the Daily Texan, UT's student newspaper, it would have to make an open records request for results of the audit, Daily Texan reporter Greg Perliski said.

Franklin said July 19 the audit was to have been completed earlier this week.

Main started at UNL Jan. 11, but did not resign from UT until Feb. 2. He received UT paychecks from Jan. 11 to Feb. 4, according to a story in the July 18 Daily Texan.

During that time, he was apparently paid for accrued sick leave,

against University of Texas policy, Franklin said.

"I don't believe it is unusual for a person to be on (vacation) leave in one place and working and getting paid in another," Franklin said. "But the problem here was he took sick leave he was not entitled to."

Franklin said the "time report people" at UT apparently thought Main was entitled to the pay because the checks were signed and sent.

John DeCamp, director of UT's physical plant, said last week that in his opinion, no wrong-doing had occurred on Main's part.

"We've contacted him and he has agreed to repay all the funds," DeCamp said.

DeCamp and Franklin would not disclose the amount Main agreed to repay.

Main is out of town until Monday and could not be reached for comment.

UNL Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Jack Goebel said Wednesday he was "only aware of an inquiry involving the office Jim Main worked at before moving to UNL."

Shrine Bowl protest planned

By Larry Peirce
Staff Reporter

Demonstrators will carry picket signs outside the Shrine Bowl Saturday to protest advertising by Shrine Bowl of Nebraska, Inc. officials, a protest organizer said Wednesday.

Jay Miller, chairman of the protest for the League of Christian Human Dignity, said the game's profits don't go to Shriner's crippled children's hospitals as advertised.

Miller said about 500 league members will protest west of Memorial Stadium. The league hopes to make people aware that Shrine Bowl

advertising is not true, he said.

Glenn Wagner, executive director of Shrine Bowl of Nebraska, Inc., said the claims made by the league against the Shrine Bowl are false.

Wagner said all profits "clearly go to the children's hospitals." He said Shrine Bowl of Nebraska, Inc., is audited yearly and has financial statements that show where the money goes.

Miller said Shrine Bowl officials wouldn't provide information on where the money went.

Last spring, the league learned that no money from last year's Shrine

See SHRINERS on 3



Bob Nelson/Daily Nebraskan

David Mortensen and Geoffrey Shropshire explain their experimental sensor sprayer to onlookers Wednesday in Mead.

Ag Expo

Research may cut herbicide costs

By Victoria Ayotte
Staff Reporter

Research on alternate methods of herbicide spraying could reduce herbicide costs from 25 to 50 percent, said David Mortensen, assistant professor of agronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"To spray or not to spray?" was the question posed before one exhibit Wednesday at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Expo.

Right now, the spray is applied evenly, which is a waste on areas with a low concentration of weeds, Mortensen said.

A sensor sprayer being developed by Mortensen and two other UNL researchers would be turned on and off automatically, spraying only those areas where there are enough weeds to justify the chemical use.

The sensor system would need to detect the amount of weeds to justify turning on the sprayer.

"The impact could be very significant," he said.

Three components are used in the researched system: a color video camera, a black and white video camera and a reflectance ratio meter.

The cameras capture the colors

on the ground and determine where weeds are present.

"This video camera captures information just like at someone's birthday party," Mortensen said.

Although the system is large right now, Mortensen said, he envisions having a small camera unit attached to a tractor.

Geoffrey Shropshire, a fellow in UNL's agriculture engineering department, and Kenneth Von Barga, a professor in agricultural engineering, started the research last summer with Mortensen.

"We're still no way near solving the problem," Mortensen said. "But it's a real good start."

Expo unveils agriculture improvement

By Victoria Ayotte
Staff Reporter

About 1,000 people filled the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Expo near Mead Wednesday to learn about significant new research in their areas, said Loyd Young, co-chairman of the Expo.

"It's an opportunity to give clientele (farmers and agribusiness experts) a chance to see research that's being conducted here," said Young,

director of the Southeast Research and Extension Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"To have communication from the science world to the user is a problem," he said. "This is one way to keep up."

Sixty commercial and educational exhibits were displayed at the Expo, Young said, and these can be very important to the visiting farmers and agribusiness experts in planning for the future.

"Research takes time to gear up to give results," he said. "But when we look at a long period of time, the research we conduct is very significant."

The Expo can be a good way for anyone in the state to see what the institute does, since the institute doesn't normally keep a high profile, Young said.

"It's a chance for the public to see how their tax dollars are being used," he said.

The major focus of the almost-annual Expo was "Crop Management and Future Alternatives." Crop production was a major area for research in the past year, Young said.

Most of the exhibits were tailored to fit the crop production focus, such as weed management, alternative crops and pesticides' effects on groundwater.

There were also commercial exhibits at the Expo, primarily from previous agribusiness exhibitors for

"promotional purposes," Young said.

Although the major focus was crop production, a panel discussion of experts on the drought was added, since "Nebraska is still in a drought situation," Young said.

The Expo also featured safety exhibits, such as a grain elevator explosion simulation.

Sanford Goshorn, a deputy state fire marshal, said the simulated elevator explosions are shown around the

See EXPO on 3