

Daily Nebraskan

Friday

WEATHER:
Friday, partly sunny and cooler, high in the lower 80s with winds at 5-15 mph. Friday night, mostly clear and cool, low in the upper 50s. Saturday, partly cloudy with highs in the lower to mid-80s.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Freedoms threatened, art officials say

By C.J. Schepers
Staff Reporter

Several Lincoln art professionals say freedom of expression is being threatened by an amendment that would prohibit allocation of federal money for artworks found obscene.

"I would hope that the students of the University of Nebraska would be concerned," said George Neubert, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

Neubert said the Helms amendment, which would restrict federal aid to art projects found obscene or religiously offensive, is the latest assault on the rights of Americans to express their ideas freely.

According to Joseph Ruffo, UNL art department chairman, the amendment already has caused a "chilling effect" in the art field.

He said there is growing concern in the field that many galleries and art institutions might feel inhibited by the threat of funding cuts in retaliation for art considered offensive.

"The artwork cannot hurt you, but you... the worst thing it could do is make you uncomfortable and the greatest it could do is make you think," Ruffo said.

The obscenity legislation was introduced by Republican Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina in reaction to controversy surrounding two art exhibits produced by Andres Serrano and the late Robert Mapplethorpe, sponsored by the National Endowment for Arts.

Serrano's exhibit included a photograph of a crucifix in a specimen jar of urine, and the work of Mapplethorpe contained pictures considered to be homosexually erotic.

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives approved cutting \$45,000 from the NEA's arts budget, and voted to reallocate \$400,000 from the Visual Arts Program into folk arts and locals programs.

Later that same month, the U.S. senators gave their voice-vote approval to the Helms amendment.

Neither measure has become law. The House and Senate will hold a joint conference on the bill in September before making any final decisions.

Neubert said the obscenity legislation is linked with a pattern of "retrenchment" or "conservatism" in government today.

"The mood in the U.S. is a retrenchment of issues for a variety of reasons," Neubert said.

Some of those issues, he said, include the restrictions on abortion rights and a flag-burning demonstration which resulted in President Bush asking for a constitutional amendment to be introduced protecting the American flag.

Neubert said Americans can hold their own personal beliefs on such issues, but they do not have the right to subject others to those beliefs.

He said the recent voice vote in Congress approving the Helms amendment shows the senators' lack of courage.

"I have been disappointed in Nebraska's representation in this

system," Neubert said.

Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., and Sen. Jim Exon, D-Neb., are remaining silent about their positions on the Helms amendment. But written statements from both congressmen show that they supported the action to cut endowment funds by \$45,000.

Both Nebraska congressmen also wrote that they urged the NEA to review its artist-funding procedures so taxpayers' money is not spent on artwork considered obscene or offensive.

Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., could not be reached for comment.

Ruffo said a NEA system review is unnecessary.

Anne Pagel, director of Haydon Art Gallery, 240 N. Seventh St., agreed, saying the NEA has a "very distinguished" record.

"Ninety to 95 percent of the artists we deal with have a masters, teach... or exhibit at national levels," she said.

"NEA has been enormously successful and conscientious in selecting projects to fund," Pagel said.

Since its inception, the NEA has awarded 85,000 grants, and only 20 (or 0.02 of 1 percent) "have caused genuine controversy," according to Graham W.J. Beal's Aug. 28 editorial in the Omaha World-Herald. Beal is director of Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

Neubert said he was perplexed by the media response to this "censorship," particularly the position which the Omaha World-Herald has taken supporting the NEA cuts.



In a July 15 editorial, the newspaper said it approved of the House's vote to cut NEA's budget in a counterattack to the two controversial art exhibits.

Neubert said that he is distressed by the World-Herald's stand on the NEA issue. He said he finds it "ironic" that the news media, which

embraces freedom of speech, would support censorship on the arts group. The Helms amendment reads as follows:

"None of the funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this act may be used to promote, disseminate,

See ART on 7

Rodgers seeks food stand deal

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter

If final details can be ironed out, Nebraska football fans will have an opportunity to buy enchiladas and burritos from a stand operated by Johnny Rodgers during home games this fall.

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said Thursday that he is hopeful a decision can be reached today on whether the former Heisman Trophy winner from Nebraska will be allowed to sell his concessions at Memorial Stadium on a one-year trial basis.

Fouraker said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln currently operates the concession stands at Memorial Stadium with some businesses con-

tracting UNL to sell their items.

Rodgers said he decided he wanted to open a concession stand because he always has been interested in Nebraska football and thinks he can provide a service to the fans.

He said that if he is allowed to sell his products, he will use vendors from the Boys Club to sell the items in the stands and in front of the stadium.

Rodgers said he hopes to operate two concession stands, one on the east side and one on the west side of South Stadium.

Fouraker said UNL receives about two or three requests every year from businesses to set up concession stands at Memorial Stadium, and occasionally the requests are approved.

See RODGERS on 8

Local grant will help children build their cultural awareness

By Lisa Bolin
Staff Reporter

Starting next semester, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will use a \$1,500 grant to increase children's cultural awareness, said Pauline Zeece, director of the Child Development Laboratory on East Campus.

Zeece said she will use the grant money given by the UNL Institute for Agriculture & Natural Resources to develop a set of activities for student teachers.

UNL students in the human development and family department will receive classroom training on how to teach cultural awareness, Zeece said. They will apply that training when working with children in the Child Development Laboratory, a day-care center, she said.

The lab is open to children aged 2 to 5 1/2 whose parents are UNL students, faculty or staff members. Students under faculty direction take care of the children.

The grant will help recruit families of various cultures to supply information about the cultures in their homeland, she said.

It also will help purchase materials and toys from other countries, Zeece said.

About 20 percent of the children in the lab are from international families, she said.

Zeece said the grant will make it possible to "create an environment where children learn that all families are different."

"This will teach the kids to respect the differences between cultures and the differences within their own cultures," she said.

Teaching about various cultures follows the anti-bias curriculum policy of the school, she said.

At an early age, Zeece said, children are aware of differences such as race, sex and language. She said she hopes teaching children about cultural differences early will "broaden their views of their own cultural identity and the way the world works."



Chris O'Gara takes a drink of water during football practice Thursday when temperatures reached the 90s. The team consumes more than 100 gallons of liquid during a hot practice, according to a team trainer.

Foundation initiative 'ahead of schedule'

By Becky Tideman
Staff Reporter

The NU Foundation is "ahead of schedule" on its initiative to raise \$30 million by 1992, said Terry Fairfield, foundation president.

The foundation's five-year initiative, "An Investment in People" clearly is successful, said Theresa Klein, director of public relations for the foundation. But it is hard to establish the exact progress of the initiative because of the "nature of giving," Klein said.

Donations can vary from outright gifts, which are immediately accredited to the foundation, to pledges that are paid gradually over a three- to five-year period, Klein said.

She said that when the foundation's fiscal year ends Sept. 29, figures will be available on the initia-

tive's progress.

Of the foundation's \$30 million goal, \$12 million will be allocated to establish new professorships and chairs, 33 of which already have been created since the initiative began in August 1988.

"The university is only as good as its faculty," Fairfield said. The faculty should always be the university's "No. 1 priority," he said.

Other areas designated to receive funds from the initiative include research and development, library enhancement, endowments for graduate students, faculty salaries, innovative projects and nontraditional research facilities.

While the foundation is not targeting any particular college or department, Fairfield said, he expects the engineering and science colleges to benefit the most.

Fairfield said that although individuals account for 65 percent of the contributions, corporations and other local organizations also play a major role.

Fairfield said local businesses donate partly because it is in their best interests to help the university produce prepared graduates who want to stay in Nebraska.

He said the overall mission of the foundation is to "attract private support to add a margin of excellence" to NU.

"We are a separate organization, but exist solely for the benefit of the university," Fairfield said.

Basic or core support for the university is provided by tax dollars, student fees, residence hall fees and other sources. The foundation provides the "frosting on the cake -- the extras," he said.