

Daily Nebraskan

March 7, 1990

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 89 No. 115

WEATHER

Wednesday, periods of showers and some thundershowers, high in the upper-30s to low-40s, east wind 15-25 miles per hour. Wednesday night, occasional showers, low in the mid-30s. Thursday, 30 percent chance of morning showers, becoming partly cloudy, high in the low-40s.

INDEX

News 2
Editorial 4
Sports 7
Arts & Entertainment 9
Classifieds 11

Blank says endorsement not conflict of interest despite senator's doubts

By Jennifer O'Clka
Staff Reporter

Don Blank of McCook, NU Board of Regents chairman, said he doesn't think his endorsement of a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives is a conflict of interest.

After deciding not to run for the House of Representatives, Blank endorsed state Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton in the Third District race.

"The first thing you get asked if you're not running is who you'll support," Blank said.

But Sen. William Barrett of Lexington, who also is running for the Third District seat, said he questions the wisdom of a regent endorsing anyone in a contested primary election.

Barrett, speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, said he doesn't know whether Blank's endorsement will affect the university.

But because the university depends a lot on decisions made in the Legislature, Barrett said, he doesn't know whether Blank's decision was right.

As an individual, Blank should have the right to endorse any candidate, Barrett said.

Blank said he would find it more

surprising if he did not endorse a candidate because of his close ties to the race. In 1974, Blank ran for the same seat, but lost in the Republican primary to U.S. Rep. Virginia Smith, who has held the office since then. Smith is not seeking re-election.

Three other candidates are running against Barrett and Johnson.

Blank said he "seriously considered" running for the position again, but declined nomination because he wasn't as excited about the prospect as he was in 1974.

"It really puzzles me to think this would be an issue, with my history of involvement in the race," Blank said.

After talking with several other candidates for the seat, Blank said, he decided that Johnson was the worthiest candidate.

Johnson said he doesn't think Blank's endorsement will affect the university or any program related to it.

None of Nebraska's senators would use their positions to "get back" at Blank for the endorsement, Johnson said.

"We all know what we have to do as state lawmakers," he said. "That is to set aside goals to serve the state as best as we can."

Celebration closes doors, plans to auction assets

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

The "Celebration" is over. The disco bar closed its doors in Gold's Galleria, 1033 O St., for the last time Sunday night, said Richard J. Butler, bankruptcy trustee for the bar's owner, Celebration, Inc.

The business had been "holding its own and paying off past debts" since Butler assumed control of the corporation in August 1987, Butler said. Since the beginning of 1990, however, the business began operating at a loss.

The bar "wasn't paying its way and was digging a deeper hole for itself," he said. Butler decided to close down the business and sell assets at auction.

The auction, scheduled for March 26, will sell the stereo system, albums, lights and other assets. Money

from the sale will go to the bar's creditors, Butler said, but he does not expect to take in enough money to pay all creditors.

After the corporation that owned the bar filed bankruptcy in December 1986, the plan was to either sell the bar as an operating business or by piecemeal auction, Butler said. He was appointed by the Federal Bankruptcy Court as trustee to oversee the corporation's liquidation.

When Butler assumed control of the corporation, the business "had nothing to sell - everything was leased, even the toilets," he said. By remaining in business, the corporation was able to buy everything from the leasing vendors, and "have something to sell," he said.

Butler put the bar on the market in the summer of 1988. No buyer has been found, despite the business' profitable operations. Butler said he doesn't know why the bar has not been bought.

Student angry at racist society

Gholson condemns violence as solution to cultural retardation

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

"I'm an angry man," says 41-year-old Walter Gholson, an "Afro-centric," poet, playwright, puppeteer, author and University of Nebraska-Lincoln news-editorial major.

Gholson, soft-spoken but intense, is angry at "the hypocrisy of the world thinking it can't change, even if it observes that what's going on is injuring a lot of people. It's not the 'can't,' it's the 'won't,'" he says.

For more than 20 years, Gholson has used his poems, puppet shows, music, plays and community organization efforts to help underprivileged children and adults "find a way out of the biases created by the racist, white-male-dominated American society" that resists change.

He shares his experiences from the inner cities and Vietnam in hopes of enlightening his listeners about the experience of being black in America.

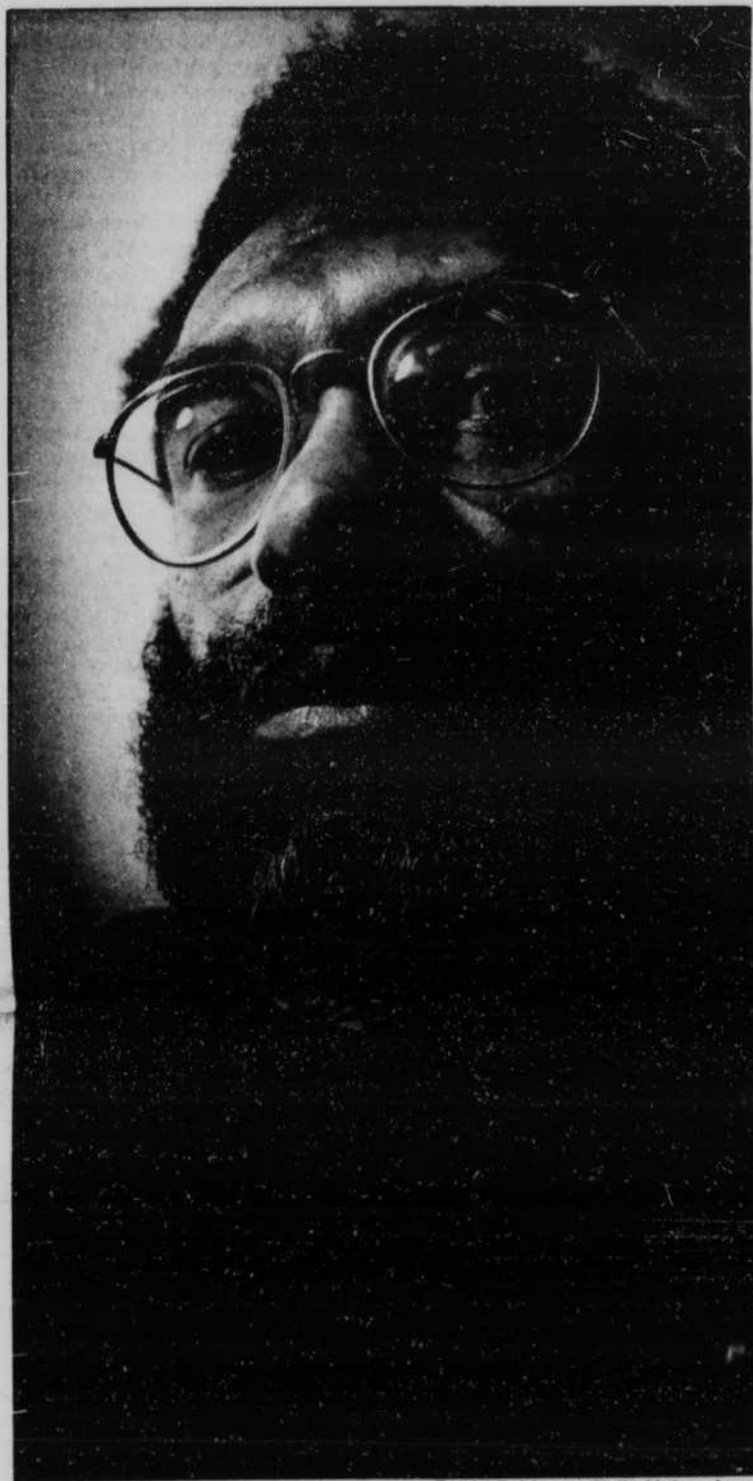
"A majority of my poetry has been given to me by people who didn't have the words for what they were feeling -- the frustration, apathy, anger and low self-esteem. I just put (the feelings) in words, in a poetic format that could be understood universally," Gholson says.

In his performances, the singer, playwright and producer uses musical introductions, costume and character changes. He has given three readings of his poems since coming to Nebraska in August 1989 with his wife, Joyce Joyce, a UNL English professor.

He performed for the Afrikan Peoples' Union during Black History Month and at the Nebraska penitentiary. He also read some of his poems during an interview on a local television program.

Gholson says one of his favorite poems, "Blues for Pvt. Asa Martin," tributes a friend he met while serving in Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner. Gholson wrote the poem with the recurring line, "I write the blues, 'cause it's sad but true," after Martin was shot by his sergeant during an argument over America's right to be in the war.

Gholson's book, "Blues in the Black Community," contains a selection of poems from his own observations and experiences in Vietnam and in black ghettos on



David Fahieson/Daily Nebraskan

Gholson

the East Coast. The book is waiting for final revisions before being published this summer.

Gholson believes his experiences can benefit the black culture.

"People have to have the courage to accept the reality of how stifling (the system) is," Gholson

says. In his poems, Gholson talks about how that stifling "hurts, but it doesn't stop me from pursuing a career as a journalist and community organizer."

See GHOLSON on 6

UNL student dies; incident still under police investigation

From Staff Reports

A hospital official said Tuesday that a resident of Abel Residence Hall has died. A Lincoln Police officer said the UNL student was found hanging from a railroad pole at 18th and W streets at 11:28 a.m. Friday.

John M. Connolly, 24, was transported from the scene to Lincoln General Hospital, said Lt. David Beggs of LPD.

The incident still is under investigation, Beggs said, but the evidence does suggest suicide.

Connolly later was transferred to Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings, Beggs said.

A spokesperson at Mary Lanning Hospital said Connolly died there, but would not release any other information.

Non-traditional students endure challenges

Carri Koetter
Staff Reporter

No one ever said going to college was easy.

But it's even harder for students who have to support three kids, work 40 hours a week and pay off a mortgage -- not to mention that the last time they were in a classroom was more than 20 years ago.

According to many non-traditional students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, those are the kinds of situations they are faced with every day.

Barb Dodge, a 37-year-old widow and sophomore secondary education major, said fitting in and making friends were the most difficult situations she faced when she was a freshman in 1987.

Traditional freshmen, she said, have an advantage because most live in residence halls or greek houses and have a built-in support system of friends.

"When I first came here, I didn't know anyone," Dodge said. "My first semester I ate

lunch by myself every day. In fact, sometimes the only person I talked to outside of class was the person giving me my hamburger."

Fitting into the classroom setting also was more difficult than she expected, Dodge said. She recalled walking into her first class in more than 20 years and being mistaken for the instructor. Being called "ma'am" became the norm.

Dodge said she feels more comfortable in the classroom now that she has been at UNL for three years. She said she makes a greater effort to make friends with younger students.

"The only time I feel sort of out of place," Dodge said, "is on Fridays when everyone is talking about going to what parties and bars. It would seem sort of corny for me to talk about going to my kid's program or doing laundry."

Dodge also said she found support in the Adult Student Network, an organization for UNL students 25 or older. The group, she said, is more of an emotional support and information system than a social club.

The group meets for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Nebraska

Union. Dodge, the organization's president, said the meetings usually consist of informal discussions and guest speakers. Speakers from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, the Women's Resource Center and the Admissions Office have spoken to the group, she said.

Andy Gueck, 39, said the Adult Student Network helped him make the transition from Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff to UNL two years ago.

Non-traditional students, he said, don't have the same network of information as traditional students. That makes it difficult to know where to go with problems.

Gueck, a senior biology major, said getting used to classes with 300 students was the biggest adjustment he had to make coming to UNL.

Sometimes being accepted by younger students also is a problem, he said. Traditional students tend to dislike older students, he said, especially at the beginning of the semester.

Gueck said that's because non-traditional

See COLLEGE on 3