

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

WEATHER

Today, 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high 85-90, southeast wind 15-20 miles per hour. Tonight, partly cloudy, 30 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 70. Friday, chance of thunderstorms, high 90.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Activating reservists would affect students, cut civil work force

By Ryan Steeves
 Staff Reporter

President Bush's order activating military reserves has dispirited some UNL student reservists and could lead to personnel problems for Lincoln police and fire departments if more reserves are called up.

The manpower supply at the city's police and fire departments could deteriorate if they lose officers and firefighters to the Nebraska National Guard and the reserves.

Lt. Lee Wagner of the Lincoln Police Department said LPD had 11 officers in the Guard and five in the reserves.

"If 16 officers were called up, it certainly could have an impact on us, especially this time of year," Wagner said.

Lincoln officers are busy during the fall because of football season, the Nebraska State Fair and the beginning of school.

Wagner said LPD officials would wait and see whether they needed to adjust personnel. Although they've noted what officers could be activated, he said, they're unsure if some or any of them will be.

By law, Bush can activate only 200,000 reservists. A Pentagon official said Wednesday that about 40,000 reserves would report to duty by August. There are about 1.2 million reserve members in the United States.

Dale Boettcher, assistant fire chief, said that it is too early to tell if Bush's order would affect the fire department.

Boettcher said that roughly 12 firefighters moonlight as reservists. If all of them are lost, fire and city administrators probably would have to meet to resolve ensuing problems, he said.

Remaining firefighters would have to work overtime, he said, and if the reserves stayed active for a "long duration," more firefighters would be hired.

"Losing 12 people could present a problem for us, there's no doubt about that," Boettcher said. "But even if we lose those people, we'll be able to function."

Reservists say the risk of being

called to duty is something they have to expect. But reserve and Guard students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln say activation is not something they anxiously anticipate, especially since it will take them out of school.

Tim Allison, a general studies freshman and Army reservist, said he wasn't thrilled at the prospect of being called to the Middle East to fight.

"That's not one of the things on my priority list -- getting shot at," he said. "But if I have to go -- that's what I signed up for, I suppose."

Jan Coons, a junior psychology and criminal justice major, was a little more blunt.

"I'm scared as hell," Coons said. "I'll do my part, but anyone put in that situation -- I don't care how gung-ho you are -- you're going to be scared."

Coons admitted it would be hypocritical to refuse to serve because the reserve program pays tuition for members in her unit. When they signed up, she said, they knew they might have to fight.

Marty Neal, a National Guard member and an art major, said the fear of being called up was natural.

"What's not natural is for anyone to want war," he said.

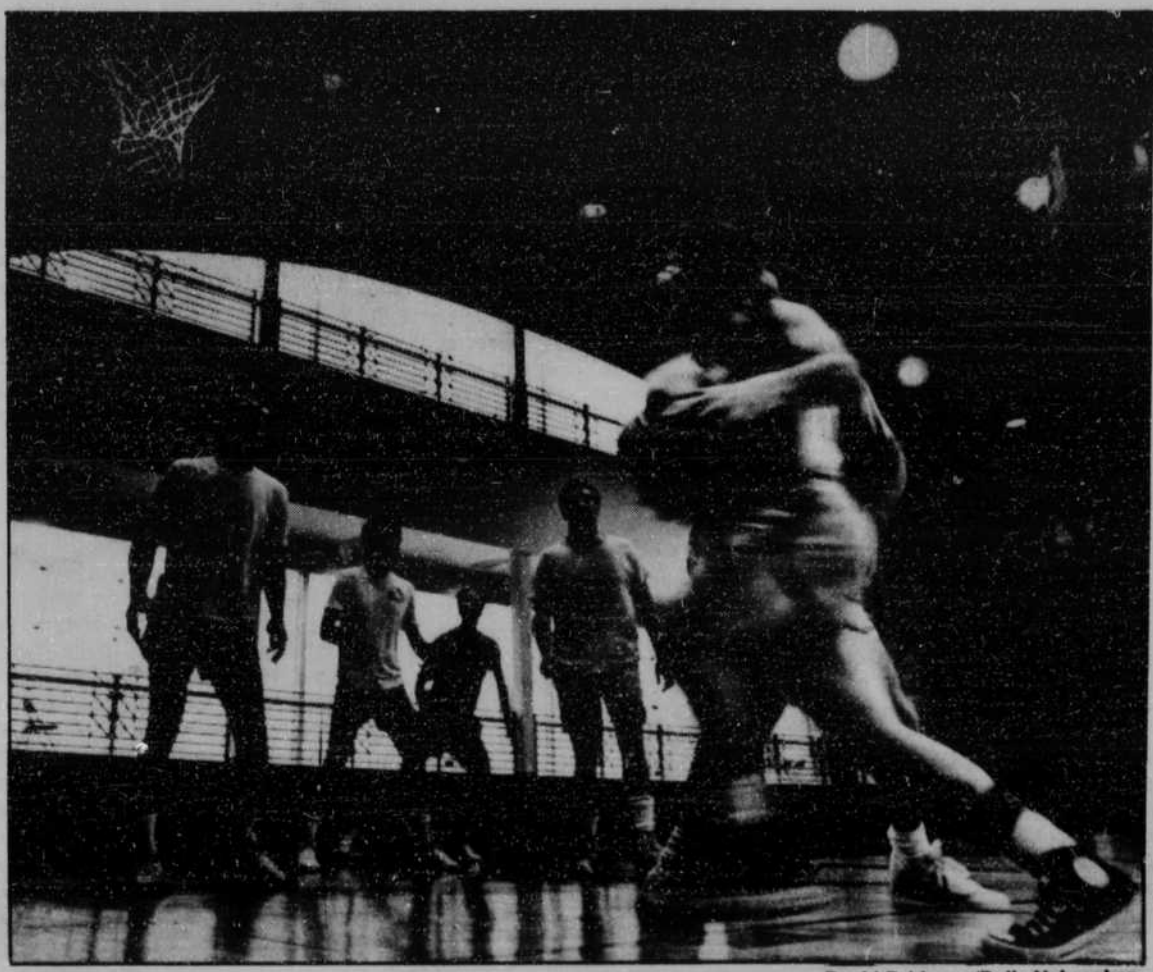
Jeff Anderson, a junior business management major and Army reservist, said the Army told him the call-up would not threaten his unit. Soon after, however, gas masks and suits were issued to his unit, he said.

"It worries you when they tell you not to worry and then do that," he said.

Coons said the Army this weekend told personnel in her ammunition unit that they had a 50 percent chance of being called to duty. If activated, she said, they have a 50 percent chance of going to the Middle East. The Army ordered unit members to keep silent about the units' specific destination, she said.

Neal said that during training last weekend, his associates were told they have a 9 in 10 chance of being activated, but a 1 in 10 chance of going overseas.

See RESERVES on 15



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

The NU Coliseum's gymnasium floor will be replaced as part of a renovation project scheduled to begin in January. The remodeling is the last phase of a \$14.9 million project designed to upgrade physical education equipment and buildings at UNL. See story on page 11.

UNL fraternity struggling to rebuild

By Jennifer O'Clarka
 Senior Reporter

Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity is getting back on its feet after problems almost closed it.

Craig Ranson, vice president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter, said politics within the house last semester left morale low and many members moved out.

Ranson said the biggest problem was that about half of the 20 to 30 members lived outside the house last year.

House members reported taking in about four members after rush last January.

"Second semester rush is typically bad," Ranson said. "Ours was pitiful."

Paul Gearhart, a national Sigma Alpha Mu consultant from the Uni-

versity of Virginia, came to help the UNL chapter for about a week. Other national representatives will be on hand to help throughout the year.

"We're done with the downside and are building back up," Gearhart said.

Gearhart attributed many problems to past leadership.

"We probably didn't have the right people in the right positions to get things done," he said. "It was just a gradual thing building up within the group and it was time to get some internal control."

The national fraternity is "looking for some (members) to come in and grab onto leadership positions," he said.

During the past week, Gearhart has interviewed most chapter members and men from the Interfraternity Council rush lists.

Members were asked to get serious about the organization.

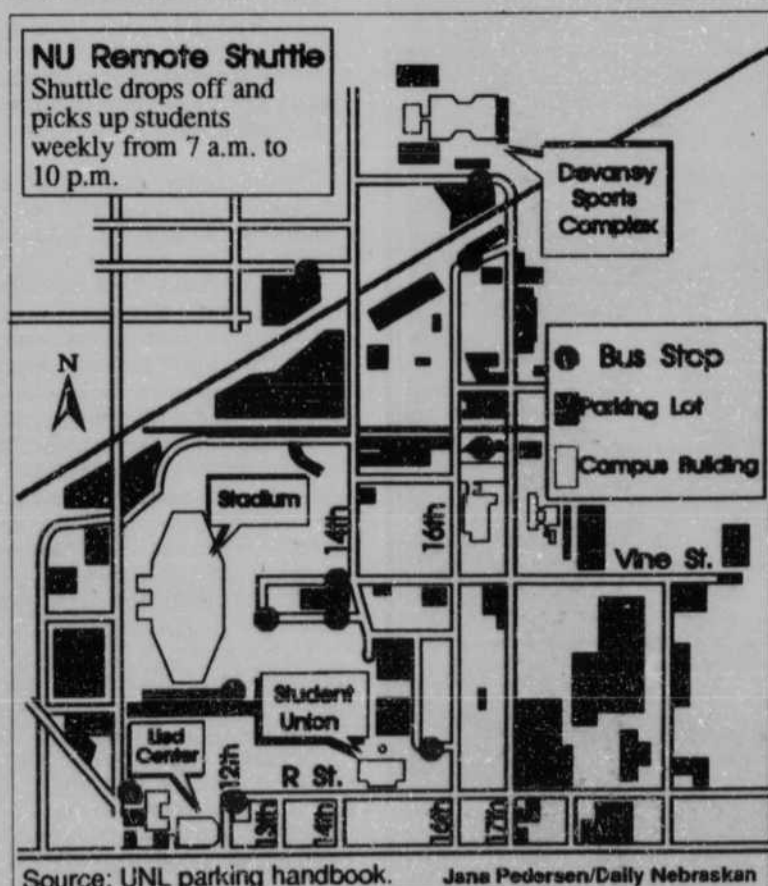
"We worked with each individual to make the best decision for them," he said. "I guess they lost interest. They made that decision themselves."

About 10 men decided to stay in the house. Those who moved on were given special alumni status. Gearhart said those members cannot attend house functions or meetings until they graduate, but they can wear their letters.

Now officials are interviewing in hopes of finding members to be the "refounding fathers," Gearhart said.

Anyone who joins will have full membership privileges, rather than pledge status. New members will be initiated in about a month.

See FRATERNITY on 11



Source: UNL parking handbook. Jana Pedersen/Daily Nebraskan

'Remote shuttle' service installed \$10 permit offered for distant lots

By David Burchell
 Staff Reporter

A low-cost parking option has been added to attract commuter students to park in distant, underused lots north of City Campus, UNL's parking administrator said.

Lt. John Burke of the UNL Police Department said students could buy a \$10 remote permit to park in the lots and to ride a "remote shuttle" to campus.

"We tried to make the price attractive enough to get people to use it," he said.

Buses will run every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., with a maximum wait of 15 minutes between rides, Burke said. The shuttle will stop first at the New Hampshire Street and Bob Devaney Sports Center lots on the north end of campus, then continue south, making nine other stops around campus.

Holdings of standard \$50 commuter permits also may take advantage of the new service, and the

buses are open to anyone else on campus who wants to ride between stops, Burke said.

Burke said he expected to keep the three remote shuttle buses operating constantly. The vehicles

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 We tried to make the price attractive enough to get people to use it.

Burke
 parking administrator

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were purchased and modified at a cost of \$18,000, including red-and-white paint and air conditioners on each bus. The buses seat 25 to 36 people.

The project was financed through UNL parking fees and fines, he said.

Other projects completed this summer include better lighting in four lots and a few added parking spaces due to some redesigned entrances at 19th and R streets, Burke said.

All lots were designated the same as they were last year, he said.

Burke said permits were selling well this year. About 2,000 commuter and 1,500 resident permits have been sold since sales started Aug. 1.

The department plans to sell about 4,500 commuter and 3,000 resident permits for the year, Burke said. Reserved parking permits are close to selling out in all lots except the reserve lot by Harper-Schramm-Smith complex, he said.

Students, staff and faculty can purchase permits from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the sports center until noon Tuesday, he said. Reserved spots cost \$150 a year for students, while regular permits are \$50.

Burke said enforcement would start slowly this semester, with parking employees guiding students to vacant lots instead of writing out a lot of tickets right away.

"Maybe this year we can help them find the other spaces," he said.