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WEATHER

Mostly sunny and warmer today with the high in the mid-60s and a southwest wind 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear and mild with the low 35-40. Tuesday, partly cloudy and a high 60-65.

UNL research concerns quelled by administrator

By Cindy Kimbrough
Staff Reporter

State senators' concerns about the return UNL gets from companies developed through the millions of dollars the state has funneled into the Nebraska Research Initiative are unfounded, a UNL official said.

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research Bill Splinter said spinoff companies evolved from inventions developed at the University of Nebraska contribute royalties to the university and benefit the community.

At a briefing with university officials in late February, state Sen. Dan Lynch of Omaha had questioned what benefits the University of Nebraska-Lincoln receives from research funding that leads to the formation of spinoff companies, according to Michael Mulnix, director of the Office of Public Relations at UNL.

University officials had been lobbying senators for \$6 million in state funds to finance the George W. Beadle Center for Genetics and Biomaterials Research and had brought up one of the spinoff companies, BioNebraska Inc., as an example of what the fund-

ing could do for the university's high-tech research effort.

Lee Jones, provost and executive vice president of the University of Nebraska, responded in a letter to Lynch that the spinoff companies don't just use NU research facilities and expertise, then leave the university to make profits on the resulting invention.

The university must consider the private funds donated for research when developing contracts, he said.

"When federal or state funds have supported the research, the patent is the sole property of the Board of Regents," the letter stated. "Where private industry funds have supported the research to a significant extent, an agreement is usually written in the grant document giving that company the first right of refusal of an exclusive license band on any patent resulting from the research."

For example, Splinter said, a company called Finnsugar invested more than \$200,000 for research related to sucrose esters. Because it had contributed a substantial amount, he said, the company was offered the first right to license the patents of the

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Evaluations' value hard to assess, officials say

By Michelle Wing
Staff Reporter

How much emphasis should be placed on the grades instructors get from students is difficult to evaluate, students and faculty members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have found.

Ellen Baird, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, said student evaluations are "useful as a self-improvement tool to fine-tune teaching."

But English Professor Joyce Joyce said she thinks opinions other than classroom performance or competency are reflected in student evaluations.

"If students get low grades, (the comments they write) may not be a reflection of the professor's performance," Joyce said. "I know of students

that, as a group, decided to gang up on a professor and write negative evaluations."

Stephen Hilliard, English department chairman, said negative student evaluations can affect more than instructors' classroom performance.

"If students don't feel they have learned in class, it's very serious," Hilliard said. "We use weak evaluations with teachers to improve performance, but they can affect merit pay or non-reappointment."

Baird said student evaluations are taken into consideration most often in times of promotion and tenure, but action taken based on student evaluations depends on the severity of remarks.

"Comments must be kept in con-

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Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

The agony of defeat

Omaha Marian High School players Cara Timmerman (left) and Cristen Wuebben console each other during the last seconds of Saturday night's Class A Girls Basketball Championship game at Bob Devaney Sports Center. Omaha Marian lost to Omaha Gross, 36-34.

Mothers plan 'little things' for sons' return

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Reporter

A bed, not a cot. Four walls and a roof, not a tent. And good food, not military rations.

For two University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who served in the Persian Gulf war, coming home means Fremont and eating —

eating some pizza or becoming a regular at the local McDonald's.

Glenda Tichota said she talked with her son Gary, who serves in the Army Reserve's 1012th General Supply Company, Saturday morning and he said he couldn't wait to see his family, say hello to friends and sink his teeth into a hot slice of pizza.

"One of the first things he wants to do after

he sees his family — he wants to have a pizza. He loves pizza," she said of Tichota, who was a sophomore at UNL before he left for the Saudi Arabian desert in October.

Another Fremont native, John Villwok, told his mother, Donna Millie, on Sunday that he was looking forward to enjoying the comforts of home, too.

"The first week or two, he wants me to cook

all his favorite meals — chicken, homemade noodles, chocolate cookies."

But Millie said she knows some of those home comforts won't be found in her house.

"He says he wants to be on a first-name basis at the local McDonald's," Millie said of Villwok, who was a UNL sophomore when his

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MONDAY



Defensive intensity was the key word in the men's Husker basketball team's defeat of the Jayhawks.

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UNL faculty invent more than ever before. Page 3.

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NU endowments exceed U.S. donation average

By Michael Hannon
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska has managed to escape the low endowment growth that struck other colleges and universities nationwide during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

NU recorded an overall endowment growth of 14.8 percent, exceeding the national average of 9.6 percent during 1989-90, according to figures from The Chronicle of Higher Education.

According to Theresa Klein, director of public relations and publications at the University of Nebraska Foundation, "They (foundation officials) are happy with the growth rate because it means that they are being fiscally responsible to donors."

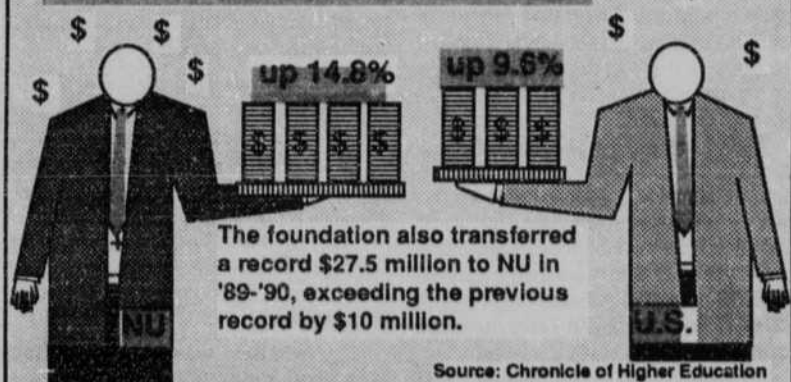
The foundation is an independent organization that manages \$159 million of NU's \$178 million endowment. The remainder of the endowment is managed by the university.

It is hard to tell if the growth of

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NU Endowment Growth

A look at how the NU Foundation compared with the rest of the nation from 1989 to 1990.



Scott Maurer/Daily Nebraskan