

Daily Nebraskan



TODAY'S WEATHER

58/33

Today, partly sunny. Tonight, mostly clear, chance of frost, record or near record low. Thursday, mostly sunny, high 55-60.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Official says team to tackle racial issues

Group to raise awareness, assist victimized students

By Sean Green
Staff Reporter

A new action team at UNL will address campus issues to help reduce racial tensions and assist those who think they are victims of racism, said the special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs.

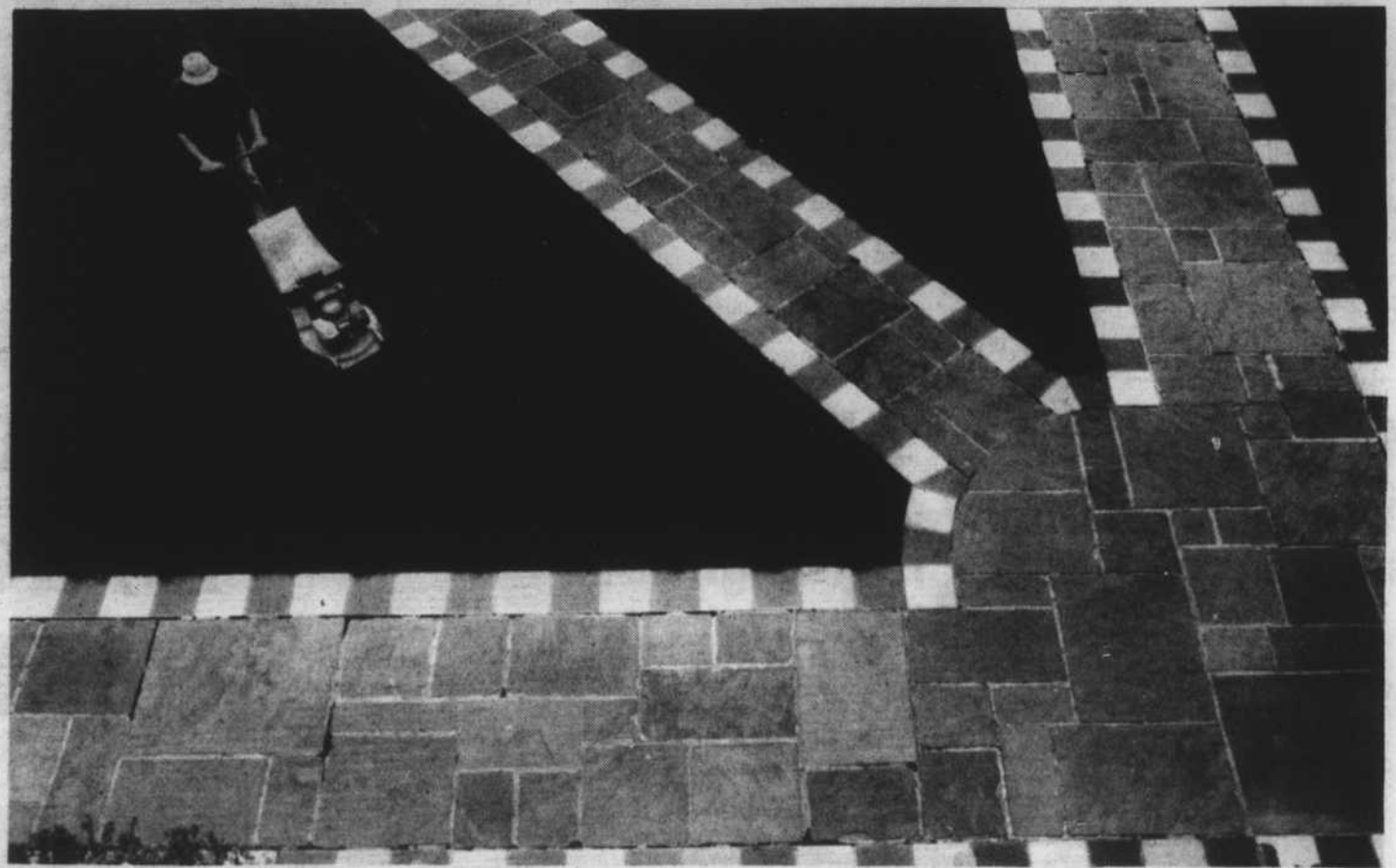
John Harris said the newly created Racial Pluralism Action Team, comprised of University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty, students, staff and administrators, was created by James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs. Griesen got the idea for the UNL team after observing a similar team at Oklahoma State University.

Harris said one purpose of the 16-member team, which met for the first time Tuesday, is to raise campus awareness of different racial groups and to foster discussion about racial issues.

"We want students to come to grips with the reality of cultural diversity," Harris said. "Nebraskans, especially those from rural areas, could easily go along with blinders on, but they should get exposure to people of other races."

Harris said although he has received no reports

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Mowing right along

Groundskeeper Chuck Hetherington mows the northeast courtyard at the State Capitol Building on Tuesday.

Involvement in Homecoming encouraged

ASUN residence liaison committee revived

By Wendy Navratil
Senior Reporter

After two years of dormancy, an ASUN residence liaison committee is being revived to improve relations between members of greek organizations and students living in residence halls.

The committee originated in a 1989 ASUN bylaw, but it has been relatively inactive over the past two years, said Gwyn Vaughn, ASUN second vice president.

"The committee hasn't met in the last two years, basically because there haven't been problems (between members of greek organizations and students living in residence halls)," she said.

The committee is composed of students in sororities, fraternities,

residence halls and members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

According to the bylaw that formed it, the purpose of the committee is "to provide a communication link between students in fraternal organizations and residence halls."

Vaughn, who is heading the committee, said Homecoming will provide the committee with its first opportunity this year to ease interaction between the greek system and residence halls.

"What we're really concentrating on right now is getting involvement from residence halls in Homecoming," she said. "We're trying to keep people on the Homecoming committee in touch with residence hall students."

Last year, signs posted in resi-

dence halls invited residents to participate in some greek-sponsored Homecoming activities, but the invi-

— “*I don't think greeks like a lot of the hostility that goes on. They'd really like to end that.*”

Dorssom
Panhellenic delegate

— ” —
tations "weren't received well," Vaughn said.

"This year, instead of just posting signs, we're trying to have a representative from each (fraternity) house go over to each (residence hall) complex to invite resident hall students over," she said.

Mike Lewis, vice president of the Residence Hall Association, said the lack of interaction last year should not be attributed to hostility between the two groups. A better explanation is that the integrated events weren't organized far enough in advance, he said.

This year, planning began earlier in order to overcome that problem.

"I really don't think there's any hostility (between the groups)," Lewis said. "I think there's indifference, but I think it has more to do with Homecoming than with the greek system."

Vaughn said the committee is going

to work actively with residence hall student assistants to generate enthusiasm and participation in the residence halls for Homecoming events.

After Homecoming, Vaughn said, the group will begin solidifying plans for next semester. The committee hopes to bring in a speaker and have a philanthropy jointly sponsored by the residence halls and the greek organizations. Because the committee is not financed, however, the scope of its activities is limited.

And, Vaughn said, because the committee's plans this semester involve residence hall students in greek-sponsored events, its aim next semester is to involve greek organizations in a residence hall event, such as the annual casino night.

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Congress studies plan to increase Pell Grants for college students

UNL official says legislation's effect remains unclear

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

The House of Representatives currently is considering a plan to increase funding for Pell Grants available to college students, which are awarded on the basis of financial need.

The grants are covered under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, first passed in 1965. The act is reauthorized by the Congress about every six years and is currently being reauthorized.

According to an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Thomas Wolanin, staff director of the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, said lawmakers will propose increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$2,400 to \$4,500 a year in order to recognize higher living expenses.

Bill Vaughan, a staff assistant on the subcommittee, said the subcommittee has held 45 hearings in which it heard recommendations from students and the heads of universities.

He said the subcommittee will consider these recommendations during the first week in October. Ideas such as increasing Pell Grants will be discussed.

Vaughan said the subcommittee will then present its recommendations to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which will formulate its own proposals.

The chairman of the committee, Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., will then present the completed bill to the House of Representatives.

Ford would like to introduce the bill by the end of the year, Vaughan said.

He said he could not predict what specific elements will be in the bill.

"There are a lot of ideas floating around, but nothing concrete," he said.

John Beacon, director of admissions and scholarships and financial aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, also said he was unsure what the final bill would look like.

"I've been reading about it for months," he said. "But it's still months away from being resolved."

He said the issue was not as easy as simply raising Pell Grant funding.

"We have other grants," he said. "If they are saying they are going to combine these grants into one simplified Pell Grant, students won't get any more money, they will just get it in a different way."

He said it was too early to predict how the changes might affect UNL students.

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UNL students to experience Soviet changes

By Julie Skar
Staff Reporter

In May 1992, students from UNL will travel to the Soviet Union to experience sweeping economic changes firsthand, an official said.

About 25 students from a variety of different majors will be selected to study the Soviet economy and examine ways that the United States could help business owners in Moscow, St. Petersburg and the republic of Tajikistan, said Robin Anderson, the director of Nebraska Center of Productivity and Entrepreneurship.

Recent changes in the Soviet Union have sparked interest in the program, Anderson said. A trip in June 1990 involved only 18 students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This year, the program will differ slightly from the last because of the new market economy forming in the Soviet Union, Anderson said.

Students will be divided into teams

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