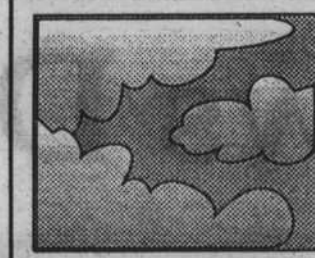


Daily Nebraskan

October 24, 1991

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 91 No. 43



TODAY'S WEATHER

60/38

Today, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Tonight, partly cloudy. Friday, partly sunny with a high of 55 to 60.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Boris Notkin, anchor of "Good Evening Moscow," speaks Wednesday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Notkin's appearance was part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues. Notkin said issues such as ethnic strife and state boundaries set by Josef Stalin are "tearing the Union apart."

Ties loosening

Soviet Union will dissolve, commentator says

By Alan Phelps
Senior Editor

The Soviet Union, as the world knows it, will cease to exist within five years, a Moscow TV news commentator said Wednesday.

Boris Notkin, anchor of "Good Evening Moscow," a Soviet news program viewed by 40 million people daily, spoke to about 1,500 people at the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

In response to a question from

the audience, Notkin said that although he disliked predictions because of the number of variables involved, he believed that the Soviet Union would dissolve into "a very loose relationship, something like Western Europe today."

"I think there will be no Soviet Union," he said. "There will be states united by common economic interest and Russian culture."

Notkin pointed to ethnic strife and conflict over artificial state boundaries set by Stalin as forces that are tearing the Union apart. "The Soviet Union was held

together by force," he said. "If you remove the force, you will have no Soviet Union."

The removal of heavy governmental force in Soviet society has also had crippling effects on the economy, he said.

"Fear has been eliminated, but there is no positive incentive at all" to stimulate production, he said.

Notkin said that when someone asked him what the correlation was between the ruble, the dollar and the pound, he said he replied "it takes a pound of

See NOTKIN on 6

Cutting budget a recurring theme, UNL officials say

By Wendy Navratil
Senior Reporter

Fewer than five years ago, the Budget Reduction Review Committee listened to hours of impassioned testimony defending UNL programs that were being considered for cuts.

And while many UNL programs survived proposals for elimination as successive budget cuts were made in 1986 and 1987, the threat of elimination was just as real then as it is in 1991, university officials said.

Now, an even bigger chunk of UNL's budget is at stake, and even fewer programs and resources are available to consider for reduction.

"We've been through this several times," said Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs. "But percentage-wise, the volume of the budget shortfall this time is larger than at any other time in (UNL) history. It also comes after a decade of sporadic cuts, for a compound effect."

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is acting on a mandate by the Nebraska Legislature to cut 2 per-

cent, or about \$2.5 million, from its budget this year, and 1 percent next year.

John Benson, director of Institutional Research and Planning, said that in 1986, the Academic Planning Committee recommended \$2,022,700 in cuts. Among the cuts being considered were the merger of the anthropology and sociology departments and an \$800,000 reduction in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources budget. The merger wasn't approved by the APC; the IANR reduction was.

In 1987, according to documents supplied by William Holmes, chairman of construction systems technology at UNO, the BRRC recommended a little more than \$1.5 million in cuts to then-UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale. Among the cuts considered were the elimination of the College of Architecture and the University of Nebraska School for Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

Neither proposal was ultimately approved, but the UNSTA neared elimination, Holmes said.

"The committee recommended that (UNSTA) be dropped, but the Legislature couldn't come to grips with it," he said.

See CUTS on 3

Speech chairman defends department from questions regarding mission, quality

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Senior Reporter

Bill Seiler, chairman of the speech communication department, Wednesday defended the program against attacks that it was not central and essential to UNL and that it lacked quality.

"There's no data that suggests that speech isn't essential," he said. "There is more that suggests it is."

Tuesday, Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, presented to the Academic Planning Committee a report that clarifies his original recommendation to eliminate the Department of Speech Communication as part of UNL's budget-cutting process.

Liberty argued that the speech communication department was not central and essential to the role and

mission of the College of Arts and Sciences and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he raised questions about the department's quality. He said that there was a national trend to eliminate speech communication departments.

Seiler questioned Liberty's conclusions.

He said that only two programs, English and history, are required for students to graduate in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"To say that it (the speech communication department) is not essential is basically to assume that every department besides English and history is not essential to arts and sciences," he said.

According to that criteria, he said, many departments would have to be eliminated.

Seiler said the assertion that the speech communication department was not a quality program is incorrect. He

See SPEECH on 3

Homosexuality films raise controversy

By John Payne
Senior Editor

Three films about homosexuals, one of which was denied airtime on the Nebraska Educational Television Network, are stirring up controversy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Tongues Untied," a documentary about gay black men, will be shown tonight through Saturday at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets. The scheduling of the film, along with two others focusing on gay life, has brought a torrent of phone calls to the UNL Office of Public

Relations, director Michael Mulnix said.

Mulnix said that in the last week, his office has logged more than 100 calls from people objecting to the films.

"We've had more calls on this issue than on anything in the two-and-a-half years that I've been here," he said.

NETV, along with more than two-thirds of the PBS affiliates nationwide, chose not to air "Tongues Untied," which PBS offered as part of its "Point of View" series last August. NETV Associate General Manager Ron Hull described the film as "inap-

propriate for a mass audience."

The film, which includes scenes with men dancing and kissing, was rejected because of the profanity it contained, Hull said.

"We think that any subject matter is worthy of airtime," Hull said. "It's how this subject was handled that we objected to."

Dan Ladely, curator of films at the Ross theater, said he has received only three or four phone calls from people objecting to the films.

"Frankly, I think these people (objecting to the films) are in the minority," Ladely said.

The decision to include "Tongues

Untied" in the theater's fall schedule was prompted by NETV's refusal to air the film, Ladely said, adding that he wanted people to have an opportunity to see the film.

Ladely also decided to have a discussion about the three films after the 7 p.m. screening on Friday night. The seven-member panel, which will discuss censorship of the arts, includes professors from the UNL Film Studies Department and College of Law, as well as a representative from the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights.

See FILMS on 6

THURSDAY

Baker says Vietnam/U.S. normalcy talks to begin next month. **Page 2.**

Missouri to make "bus stop" in Lincoln. **Page 15.**

Inside: Classical Diversions. **Page 7.**



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