

Union gets new carpet, furniture

By Sarah Duey
Staff Reporter

The first floor of the Nebraska Union has taken on a new look with the addition of \$45,000 worth of new furniture and carpet.

During winter break, 48 chairs and 18 love seats replaced the 24-year-old furniture. The existing 13-year-old carpet also was replaced with 1,000-square-foot of new carpet.

The new carpet and furniture were financed by a revenue bond issue repaid with student fees.

Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Unions, said the old furniture had been reupholstered several times. Since the springs and cushions were failing, it was recommended that they be replaced with new furniture, he said.

The Union Board identified the request for new furniture about 18 months ago, Swanson said.

"We were aware the union main lounge furniture was very drab and wearing out," he said. "We became more sensitive on the issue when others started noticing it."

The Union Board and Management committee agreed that the long-term goal in the union is "phased refurbishing of public areas and meeting rooms," Swanson said.

"All of the places in the union are heavily used and they get very worn," he said. "The colors and fabrics get tiresome to the frequent user."



Al Schaben/DN

Grillin' and chillin'

Former UNL baseball players, from left, Dave Matranga, a senior business major, and Gary Tackett, a senior business administration major, watch Saturday's baseball game against Peru State with their dog, Rocky. The two grilled chicken and hot dogs beyond right field of Buck Beltzer Field.

Agricultural marketing offered via satellite, attracts non-students

By Lori Huff
Staff Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln class offered via satellite has attracted more than just students, the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources said.

Don Edwards said the course, Agricultural Marketing 211, was so popular that the college provided extra seats for visitors.

One reason for offering the course via satellite was to make information available to anyone who wanted it, he said.

"One of the most beneficial aspects of the course is that anyone with a satellite can participate in it," Edwards said. "Our original purpose in creating the courses was to make them available to people, regardless of location."

James Kendrick, a professor of agricultural economics at UNL, teaches the course as part of the Agricultural Satellite Corporation network.

The network, composed of 35 land-grant universities with its headquarters at UNL, offers five courses taught via satellite.

The other four courses are broad-

cast from Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., Penn State in University Park, Pa., Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio, and Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

Kendrick said his course's structure had remained relatively unchanged, despite the dramatic technological changes. But televising the class via satellite has increased the workload for him and his four teaching assistants, he said.

"We offer a 1-800 number for people who have questions," he said. "They leave a message for the TAs and the TAs return their call with an answer to their question."

Edwards said that planning for the courses started in August, and plans for 12 additional courses were underway. Three of the new courses are expected to be transmitted from UNL during the 1992-93 school year.

"Right now, the courses are run on a semester-to-semester basis," Edwards said. "They are in a stage between pilot and full-fledged, but we are hoping to offer them on a more permanent basis."

Although Edwards said he was excited about the courses, he stressed the importance of maintaining the human aspect of the learning process.

Impact of GED certificate on job, college hunt debated

Experience, not degree, matters most, officials say

By Melissa Dunne
Staff Reporter

Whether a General Educational Development certificate gives students a competitive edge in the job market is questionable, but officials agree that earning a college degree makes holding a GED irrelevant.

According to a recent report by two Chicago researchers, GED certificate holders are comparable to high-school dropouts in terms of wages, earnings and hours of work.

But Vaughn Carter, president of Career Management Services, 303 N. 52nd St., said that once GED holders earned an associate or bachelor's degree, employers did not take their GED certificates into account.

"What one has done with his or her experience speaks volumes more than the high school they attended," Carter said.

Curt Sederburg, director of

guided studies at Southeast Community College, said about 1,800-1,900 students earn their GEDs through the adult basic education program at SCC.

Of the about 400 people who receive GED certificates, Sederburg said, 250-300 go on to college.

Lynn Taylor, assistant director of admissions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said less than 5 percent of students at UNL held GEDs.

"AGED, by itself, will not grant admission to the university," Taylor said.

"We need information both from their high school and tests to access a student's background and performance," she said.

GED standard scores, courses completed in high school, and, in some cases, standardized test scores are considered when a GED holder requests admission to the university, Taylor said.

To be admitted to UNL, she said, students must have four years of language arts, two years of mathematics, two years of science and two years of social science. Credit for each of these areas depends on courses completed in high school and GED test scores.

If students do not meet admission requirements, Taylor said, they can take courses through programs such as those offered by SCC.

But Sederburg said GED holders who do not pursue college degrees still can have successful careers.

"We have had many, many successes with people who have gone on to business or college opportunities," he said.

"The adult basic education program is providing an opportunity for adults to improve their basic academic skills in the areas of math, reading and grammar for job opportunities or to enter career training programs," Sederburg said.

Gary Randol, manager of ABC Employment Services, 770 N. Cotner Blvd., said GED holders are as marketable as anyone else.

"We don't see a lot of people with GEDs, but when we do, we can work with them," he said.

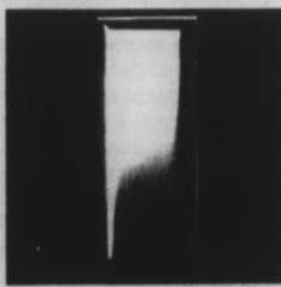
Larry Routh, director of Career Planning and Placement at UNL, said college graduates normally did not put anything about high school on their resumes.

"Having a high school diploma or GED certificate is not a factor," he said.

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Homecoming

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Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Culture Center, Green said.

The panel, composed of UNL students, faculty and staff, will talk about how Afrocentricity and political correctness often are misunderstood or misinterpreted.

Sister Souljah, Afrocentric raptivist of Public Enemy, will speak on "Black Pride" Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Ballroom, Green said.

A panel discussion on affirmative action and campus relations will be Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the UNL Culture Center, she said.

Films demonstrating the ways African-Americans have been portrayed by Hollywood will be shown Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight at the

UNL Culture Center, Green said.

"By watching films from different periods, you can see how blacks have progressed and gotten away from certain Hollywood stereotypes," Green said.

African-American filmmakers such as Spike Lee have been responsible for most of the changes, she said.

Black Homecoming Week will conclude Saturday in the Nebraska Union with a dance from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., Green said.

The dance will be the only activity during the week that will not be free to students, Green said. Admission to the dance will be \$2 for students with IDs and \$3 for non-students.

Black Homecoming Week is co-sponsored by the UPC African American committee, the Afrikan People's Union and the UNL Culture Center.