

NEWS BRIEFS

Diabetes benefit to raise funds and awareness

Ten fraternities and sororities will join forces at the Plamor Ballroom Feb. 22 at 9 p.m. for a dance to benefit the American Diabetes Association.

About 700 college students will participate in the dance, featuring Big Thing and a raffle sponsored by local businesses. Sponsors said the goal of the dance was to raise awareness in participating houses and raise \$2,000 to be used for research and educational programs needed by 87,000 Nebraskans affected by diabetes.



DANCE CONTEST EVERY TUESDAY 9:30 PM

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No Cover

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Couple plans aquarium for Centrum

By John Adkisson Senior Editor

Scott and KayLynn McNeal concocted a million-gallon dream while sitting around their dining room table.

The Lincoln couple now is trying to sell that dream — a world-class aquarium that would be housed in what is now the Centrum Shopping Plaza — to Lincoln residents and government.

"We have an affinity for the unusual," Scott McNeal said. "And this is the most unusual thing we could come up with."

Lincoln Shores, the project's tentative name, would feature a 1.2 million-gallon aquarium with 40-45 species of fish, including manta rays, moray eels and 12 breeds of sharks.

With local biologist Scott Michael, the McNeals announced at a press conference Jan. 29 their offer to purchase the Centrum from its present owners with hopes of receiving financial assistance from the City of Lincoln.

Scott McNeal said that if he, with investors, could buy the property from its Phoenix-based owners, he would ask the city to pay part or all of the \$1 million needed to renovate the facility and the \$4 million to install the aquarium.

McNeal said that although other investors had expressed a desire to purchase the Centrum, "nobody with an inside track" had expressed an intent to purchase the building.

If the aquarium project is chosen, he said it could be a financial boon to the downtown area.

McNeal said a study done on potential tourist turnout for the project showed that 265,000 visitors would visit the aquarium the first year, and



Shaun Sartin/DN

Scott and KayLynn McNeal are developing plans to turn the Centrum Shopping Plaza into an aquarium and retail stores.

that it eventually could be one of the top five tourist attractions in the state. "One of our main objectives is to help this community, and to help it grow," he said. "The amount of people this could bring into Lincoln is incredible."

The McNeals said other plans for the project included opening various

retail outlets, such as a scuba shop, a seafood restaurant, pet stores and a travel agency in the building with the aquarium.

Also included in the aquarium plan is the possibility of University of Nebraska-Lincoln marine biology classes being taught in the facility.

McNeal said he had visited with

UNL biology professors and said his plan was met favorably.

If the plan goes through, Scott McNeal said, a year of setup would be required before the aquarium could open its doors.

"But as of now, it's still a dream," he said.

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Beadle Center's construction to include two new parking lots

By Susie Arth Staff Reporter

The George W. Beadle Center not only will improve facilities for biology, biochemistry and biotechnology; it also will improve parking on campus, a UNL official said.

Ray Coffey, business manager at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the Beadle Center would be built over about 200 parking spaces that now are located at 19th and Vine streets.

Plans for a replacement lot were included in the budget for the Beadle Center, he said.

Irv Omtvedt, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said the loss of parking spaces was a concern in the planning

stages of the center.

"We knew we couldn't afford to lose any parking on this campus," he said.

Bob Carpenter, campus architect, said two new lots would be included in the project.

One lot, he said, will be used only for Beadle Center visitors. The other will be for student parking.

The student lot, he said, will have about 350 spaces.

Coffey said he thought the new lot would improve the parking situation on campus.

The student parking lot will be a paved parking lot on the south side of the Beadle Center, Coffey said. The lot will take the place of a paved lot and a gravel lot now available for student parking.

"I'd say we're getting a better-than-even trade out of the deal," he said.

Coffey said he was visiting with Beadle planners, trying to ensure the lot was completed before the Beadle Center was finished.

"I want to accelerate the process of getting the new lots so we're not sitting with a temporary loss of spaces," he said.

Coffey said he believed that whenever a building or anything else took the place of a parking lot, a compensation should be made to replace the parking.

"The Beadle Center is evidence of this philosophy," he said.

Construction of the Beadle Center is scheduled to begin in June.

Residence halls to fund position

Money will help area coordinator pay for expenses

By Lesli Thorn Staff Reporter

A bill passed by the Residence Hall Association Sunday helped set precedent for MACURH regional communications coordinators.

RHA voted to allocate about \$590 of the contingency fund to help finance the

Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls regional communications coordinator position, held by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student this year.

"This position takes funding, but it will keep UNL an active part of MACURH," said Julie Anderson, MACURH regional communications coordinator.

All expenses related to the position now are paid by the individual, regardless of the school he or she attends.

Anderson said she already had spent \$300 of her own money serving in the position.

The regional communications coordinator is one of five liaisons to the regional board of directors of the National Association of College and

University Residence Halls.

"We voice what government needs," Anderson said.

She said the regional board was in a state of upheaval and restructuring. Because of this, she said, it is important that UNL stays active in regional activities.

"We can create changes," she said. "We can have a say in the restructuring and what we want from MACURH."

Anderson estimated she would spend \$140 for phone bills, \$75 for postage, \$150 for travel expenses and \$225 for registration costs as regional communications coordinator in 1992.

Giles Schildt, Harper Hall president, said the regional board should help fund the regional communications coordinator.



POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Friday

8:44 a.m. — Racquetball racket stolen, Mabel Lee Hall, \$44.

2:51 p.m. — Firecracker slid under door, no damage, Harper Resi-

dence Hall.

6:38 p.m. — Stereo stolen from vehicle, parking lot at 19th and Vine streets, \$250.

Beginning midnight Saturday

12:43 a.m. — Fire alarm accidentally tripped, Cather Residence Hall.

4:11 a.m. — Pay phone damaged, Abel Residence Hall, \$40.

12:31 p.m. — Gate arm broken, Health Center parking lot, \$25.

Advertisement for Social Distortion cassette 'Somewhere Between Heaven and Hell' and Twisters Music Gifts.