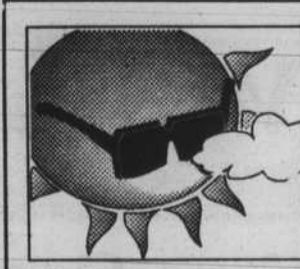


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TODAY'S WEATHER

53/30

Today, mostly sunny, breezy and warmer, northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Thursday, partly sunny and mild with a high near 55.



Staci McKee/DN

Cliff Bettis, a UNL physics and astronomy professor, holds a lute that he made recently. Bettis also makes scientific projects for the Lincoln Children's Museum.

Myriad wizardry

Professor's imagination leads him in science, art fields

By Lori Huff
Staff Reporter

Physics, astronomy, ballet, music and Mr. Wizard. This curious combination represents just a few of the many pathways that Cliff Bettis' imagination has taken.

Bettis, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln physics and astronomy professor, has put his knowledge into practice for more than just UNL students.

In addition to working at the university, Bettis donates inventions to the Lincoln Children's Museum and teaches students of all ages.

Bettis' position at UNL, which began as

a one-year appointment in 1976, has become permanent.

"I have kind of a unique role," he said. Bettis is in charge of the physics department's lecture and demonstration equipment. He spends most semesters preparing demonstrations and teaching professors how to use the equipment, he said.

A member of the original board of directors of the children's museum, Bettis has maintained his link to area children by donating inventions for display.

He said a major challenge in building an invention for the museum was designing it to withstand the wear and tear of children.

"I have to figure out how to make it so that all sorts of kids can interact with it without destroying it," he said.

One of Bettis' inventions, a pendulum apparatus on display at the museum, already

must be repaired.

"Kids seem to enjoy it," he said. "In fact, they've enjoyed it so much that it has to be repaired."

Another local exploit of Bettis' is UNL's "Saturday Science Program," which began Feb. 8 and runs for five weeks. The program, which was started 15 years ago, is designed for 5th and 6th graders interested in science.

Students attend a one-hour demonstration in Brace Laboratory's lecture hall and participate in lab activities where they make projects to take home.

For example, students at one session made a musical instrument made of different lengths of pipe, he said.

Bettis' inventions also have enjoyed

See BETTIS on 6

UNO, UNK peer groups reevaluated

Director expects schools to rise in group rankings

Editor's note: On Jan. 28, a consulting team visited UNL to analyze and recommend whether the university's faculty salary peer group is viable. This series will examine the various aspects of UNL's peer group and how it is determined.

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

Despite UNL's ranking of average faculty salaries within its peer group — tenth of 11 schools — other University of Nebraska schools have fared well in their own peer groups.

Randy Haack, NU assistant vice president and director of budgets and analysis, said both the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney should place in the middle of their individual faculty salary peer groups this year.

UNO, which had a 1990 average of \$46,200 for professor salaries, should move up in its peer group, taking into account a 6 1/2-percent projected salary increase this year, Haack said.

UNK, which had an average professor salary of \$44,900, should also approach and possibly surpass its peer group midpoint, he said, with an 8.7-percent increase in faculty salaries.

See CAMPUS on 6

Party pledges clean campaign in ASUN race

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

The COMMIT party reiterated Tuesday its decision to run a clean student election campaign.

At a press conference in the Nebraska Union, Andrew Sigerson, the party's presidential candidate, said that by repeating COMMIT's position on this issue, he hoped the message would get through to both COMMIT and ACTION, the competing party.

"This campaign will be absolutely spotless," he said. "Not only will there not be dirt,

See COMMIT on 6

Minority committee budgets reduced

By Phuong Vu
Staff Reporter

Three UPC committees focusing on minority groups are frustrated by cuts from their proposed budgets for the next academic year, committee chairwomen said.

The Chicano Special Events Committee proposed a \$5,925 budget to the Committee for Fees Allocation, and \$4,252 was approved. The Asian-American Committee proposed a budget of about \$3,025, and CFA approved about \$2,332.

CFA also cut \$250 from the African-American Special Events and Entertainment Committee's proposed budget of \$6,200.

Not all budgets proposed by minority groups were cut, however. Frank Forman, president of the University Program Council, said the Native-

Member says cuts hypocritical

American Special Events received a \$973 increase.

Rob Broomfield, CFA chairman, said the committee reviewed the proposals and cut what its members thought were excessive costs. Most of the budget cuts were for advertising and food, he said.

But CFA did not cut any programming costs, he said.

Cathy Maestas, chairwoman of Chicano Special Events, said the budget that CFA approved for that committee was the lowest since 1988. CFA not only cut funding for advertising, she said, but also for programming.

Ha Do, chairwoman of the Asian-American Committee, said the message she received when appealing to CFA was that advertisements were not important. Less advertising would

have an indirect affect on attendance at events, she said.

Angela Green, chairwoman of the African-American Special Events and Entertainment Committee, said the group's focus was not to inform minorities, who already know their own culture, but rather to reach the white culture. The best way to do that, she said, is through advertising.

CFA is hypocritical in saying that it wants to be more diverse while it cuts minority budgets, Green said.

Emilia Juarez, president of the Mexican-American Student Association, said she felt "powerless" during CFA's budgeting process.

Juarez said her group was asking for basic necessities to complete its programming.

One of MASA's most important

functions is sponsoring a yearly dance that gives Hispanic students on campus a chance to interact with the Hispanic community, Juarez said.

Because of the budget cuts, another program must be eliminated to bring the dance to the community, she said.

Angel Diaz, a member of MASA, said CFA's cuts were limiting the group's ability to share with other people activities that reflected Hispanic culture.

Maestas said she thought CFA was taking the cuts lightly.

When the university does something for the African-American group, she said, it thinks it has covered all minority groups on campus.

"They can't forget about the other minority groups," she said.

Maestas said that when she ap-

See CUTS on 6

WEDNESDAY

Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey takes primary win in South Dakota. **Page 2**

ASUN set to vote on Affirmation Day resolution. **Page 6**

Newly ranked Cornhusker men's basketball team sets its sights on Oklahoma State. **Page 7**

Lincoln recording studio offers a personal touch. **Page 9**

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