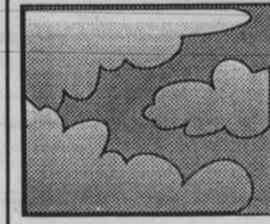


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TODAY'S WEATHER

60/45

Today, cooler with chance of rain or thundershowers. Tonight cloudy, 60 percent chance of rain. Thursday, chance of rain, high in the mid-50s.

Coach says state won't pay legal fees

By Sean Green
Senior Reporter

No state funds will be used to pay the legal fees or medical expenses of UNL student Andrew Scott Baldwin, Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday.

But the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will support a request to the NCAA for a waiver allowing individuals to establish a fund for those wishing to contribute to Baldwin's expenses, Osborne said.

According to Tuesday's Omaha World-Herald, Al Papik, assistant athletic director for administrative services, said UNL had asked the NCAA for permission to pay Baldwin's legal fees.

Private fund may help meet Baldwin's costs

However, Osborne said he met with UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier Tuesday after both his and Spanier's office received several calls about the World-Herald article.

In a written statement released Tuesday, Spanier said UNL's policy was not to pay for any student's legal fees.

The request, supported by Spanier, would allow the establishment of a fund to help pay Baldwin's medical and legal fees, and it would allow Baldwin to stay in Lincoln with Osborne or Frank Solich, a Nebraska assistant football coach.

Baldwin, 22, is charged with assault for allegedly beating Gina Si-

manek of Lincoln and injuring a Lincoln police officer Jan. 18. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

Baldwin was released from jail Monday after an anonymous source paid his \$10,000 bail. He immediately was transferred to St. Joseph Center for Mental Health in Omaha for psychiatric treatment.

Osborne said NCAA regulations prohibited him from knowing who supplied the money for Baldwin's bond.

"The only thing I know is that (the anonymous source) had been out of the state for some years and had recently returned," Osborne said. "It

was a stroke of good fortune, because no ticket holder or anyone connected to the team could pay it."

Baldwin is expected to return to Lincoln pending his release from St. Joseph's, which could happen in a week to 10 days.

One of the conditions of Baldwin's bond is that he stay with the Rev. Donald Coleman of Lincoln or with Solich until his court appearance April 6.

If the NCAA agrees to the waiver, however, Baldwin could stay with Solich or Osborne and receive financial help. Baldwin would be able to stay with Osborne if Judge Paul Merritt agrees to make that a condition of

Baldwin's release on bond.

Osborne said Baldwin's family did not have enough money to pay for his legal expenses.

Baldwin is represented by Lincoln attorney Hal Anderson, who has yet to be paid for his services.

Osborne said Anderson was attending a sports banquet Jan. 18 when he heard Baldwin was in jail, and he went to the jail to see Baldwin.

No one from the football program asked Anderson to represent Baldwin, he said.

Osborne also said he hoped fans would realize there were two victims in the incident.

"I would hate to see Baldwin painted

See **BALDWIN** on 6

NU still may face NCAA sanctions

Official says new aid requirements may violate rule

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

Although most Nebraskans have put the issue of the NCAA sanctions against the University of Nebraska-Lincoln out of their minds, some officials are still debating whether UNL is in the clear.

Al Papik, assistant athletic director for administrative services and compliance coordinator at UNL, said a bill passed last year, sponsored by Sen. Eric Chambers of Omaha, might cause the university to violate a NCAA rule.

The bill, LB69, ensured that students who qualified for any federal or

state need-based aid received the full amount.

A recent effort to delay Chambers' bill was killed in committee Feb. 25. LB963, sponsored by Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln, would have delayed LB69 for two years.

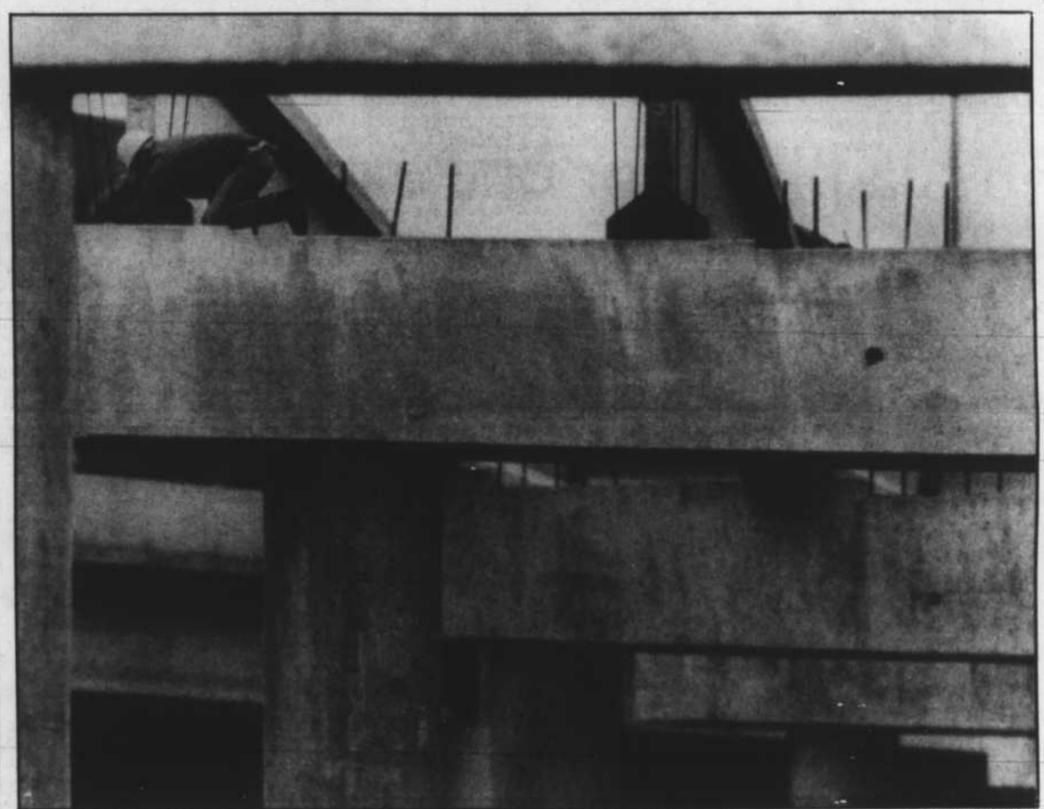
Papik said his office had received conflicting information from an announcement attributed to Dick Schultz, the NCAA executive director, and information from the NCAA office.

Schultz announced Feb. 18 that he did not see any conflicts between NCAA rules and the recently passed Nebraska financial-aid law. He also said he expected Division I schools to approve legislation next year to allow financially needy athletes to keep the full amount of need-based aid they receive.

The NCAA now limits the amount of financial aid colleges can award to student-athletes and the number of athletes in each sport who can receive financial aid.

But Papik said the legislative serv-

See **NCAA** on 6



Balancing act

Matt Becker of the Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department works on the L Street extension. The overpass will take about a year to complete.

Staci McKeer/DN

Arson suspected in natural gas explosion

By Tom Kunz
Senior Editor

Arson is suspected in a fire that ignited a natural gas explosion in a vacant duplex and a fire in another house located at 1950 T St. early Tuesday morning.

Lincoln firefighters were called to the scene at 12:06 a.m. after University of Nebraska-Lincoln police spotted smoke at an adjacent vacant house.

The property, located on the site for the proposed Beadle Center for

Genetics and Biomaterials, recently was purchased by the university.

Deputy Fire Chief Bob King said that when firefighters arrived at 12:08 a.m., they concentrated their efforts on the fire in the house on the south side of the lot, unaware that the duplex north of the house also was on fire.

A second engine then arrived behind the duplex, and firefighters began dragging a hose to the house, King

See **FIRE** on 6

Party demands clean campaign

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

COMMIT party candidates demanded at a press conference Tuesday that ACTION members run a clean student election campaign, be realistic in campaign ideas and quit playing political games.

Andrew Sigerson, presidential candidate for COMMIT, said members of the ACTION party had ignored his party's mandate for running a clean campaign.

"Not only did the other party ignore our plea for a clean campaign, they have blatantly tried to mislabel our conduct with false charges," he said.

Sigerson said various rumors about COMMIT, which he declined to identify, had been traced to ACTION.

Alyssa Williams, presidential candidate for ACTION, said the party had been running a clean campaign and did not need to focus on clean campaigning by holding press conferences.

"It's a given," she said. Sigerson said that many students

did not consider clean campaigning to be a given and that the two parties needed to emphasize the issue.

"In our positions of leadership, we have to tell them it's not right," he said.

Sigerson also asked the ACTION party to take a "reality check" on election issues, such as obtaining a student regent vote.

Obtaining a student regent vote is unachievable, he said, because it is not supported by members of the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee and other state officials.

Although officials may not support a student regent vote, Williams said, ACTION does not support the status quo.

"If we can serve as a catalyst to spark ideas, that's the right direction," she said.

Students should not give up on the issue because others believe it cannot be achieved, she said.

Sigerson also called for ACTION to "quit playing games" and to address issues at hand.

ACTION is using "feel-good political gimmicks," he said.

Williams said she thought that calling a press conference was a political move.

"If you're talking about us doing

that, you need to be aware of what you're doing," she said.

After the press conference, Kristine Hubka, ACTION's campaign manager, accused COMMIT of slowing down the election process by calling and attempting to urge previous ACTION members not to sign a waiver that would allow ACTION to keep its name.

"We feel this is unethical and not a clean campaign," she said.

The ACTION acronym was used in student elections five years ago.

For a party to run under the same name within five years, signatures must be collected from 50 percent of the students who had belonged to that party and still are enrolled at UNL, according to the electoral commission rules.

This semester, the rules have been amended to allow a party name to be reused after three years.

Sigerson said the COMMIT party had nothing to do with the former ACTION members being called. Rather, a party supporter called the students on his own, he said.

Although Sigerson is unhappy about the incident, he said he could do nothing.

"It's not illegal or unethical," he said. "It's just politics."

WEDNESDAY

Democrats Paul Tsongas, Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown all win primaries. **Page 2**

NU Basketball Coach Danny Nee says hot Kansas State will challenge Huskers tonight. **Page 7**

INDEX

Wire	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7
A&E	9
Classifieds	11



Big Red Rock-O-Rama to feature 30 bands. **Page 9**