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TODAY'S WEATHER

53/35

Today, mostly sunny and warmer. Tonight, partly cloudy and not as cold. Thursday, partly sunny and warmer, high in the upper 50s.

UNL's doors close to Nebraska blizzard

University shutdown is the first spurred by snow since 1987

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

Mother Nature played a late April Fool's joke on Nebraskans Monday and early Tuesday with a storm that brought freezing temperatures and seven to 14 inches of snow.

The blizzard shut down the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus Tuesday for the first time since March 30, 1987. All classes were canceled, and most offices were closed.

Temperatures had soared into the 70s last week, despite a slight chance of rain, and then dropped toward the end of the week to the 50s and mid-60s over the weekend.

The sudden snowstorm surprised most Nebraskans and dropped about seven inches of snow on Lincoln and up to 14 inches elsewhere in eastern Nebraska. Temperatures reached record lows in the 20s Tuesday evening in eastern Nebraska.

Michael Mulnix, executive director of university relations, said the snow drifts were so threatening that Stan Liberty, vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Jack Goebel, vice chancellor for business and finance, made the joint decision early Tuesday to close school.

The decision was difficult, Mulnix said, because closing the university would have an impact on a "small city." Severe weather has not closed UNL in about 10 years, he said.

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Staci McKee/DN

UNL senior Wendy Freeman, right, throws a snowball at freshman Karen Meyer, far right, Tuesday. Looking on is junior Swati Shah.

Police officer protests Baldwin case funding

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday that he knew of only one formal complaint from state law enforcement officers about his plan to pay for Andrew Scott Baldwin's ongoing medical costs.

The complaint came from Omaha Police Sgt. Charles Venditte, president of the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime, who wrote a letter to the NCAA on March 26 protesting Osborne's plan to pay Baldwin's costs with UNL funds.

Baldwin, a Nebraska football player, is charged with assault for allegedly beating Gina Simanek of Lincoln and injuring a Lincoln police officer on Jan. 18.

The incident was attributed to an atypical psychotic episode suffered by Baldwin, who has been undergoing psychiatric treatment for the last three months.

In the letter, Venditte called Osborne's plan "offensive," because the Cornhusker coach had tried to portray Baldwin as a victim, when he was the one who had allegedly assaulted Simanek.

The NCAA gave Osborne and the Nebraska athletic department permission to help pay for Baldwin's psychiatric treatment and transportation for his family members from New Jersey to Lincoln.

Osborne said he decided to send a letter of concern to Omaha Police Chief James Skinner after he spoke with Venditte on the telephone.

"After visiting with (Venditte), I was alarmed because he didn't seem to be able to distinguish the difference between someone who is a criminal, who premeditates an unprovoked attack, and someone who might have a psychological problem," Osborne said. "The concern I had was that someone in law enforcement was objecting to somebody getting a medical checkup."



Osborne

"I thought that was a dangerous attitude for a police officer to have," Osborne said, however, that he never intended for his letter to Skinner to become a public matter.

"I just thought the letter to the police chief might be a good idea, to let him know that maybe this is a topic that might be discussed with some of the officers," he said. "If (Venditte's) perception is a common one among police officers, maybe

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Peer group report explains reasoning

Advisers present basis for college recommendations

By Cindy Kimbrough
Senior Reporter

UNL's newest proposed peer group is based on the nature, mission and accomplishments of the universities, as well as whether they are state or land-grant institutions, a report said.

The advisory group solicited to select new peers for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln explained its methodology in a report issued Monday. The advisory group had presented its report to NU President Martin Masengale Friday.

The advisory group was formed in January to examine UNL's peer insti-

tutions, analyze available data and recommend a new peer group.

The advisory group consisted of Bryce Jordan, president emeritus of Pennsylvania State University in Middletown; Edward Boling, president emeritus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; and Robert Marston, president emeritus of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

After meeting with UNL faculty and administrators, regents and state government officials, the advisory group agreed on general guidelines to use in its search. The guidelines included:

- The advisory group would begin with a large source group of universities that were comparable to UNL.

- The source group would consist of only state-supported public universities.

- Some institutions in the source group would be principal public insti-

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WEDNESDAY

Once again, Manson's parole attempt fails. Page 2

Cornstalk draws bands with mixed sounds. Page 9

OU coach says Husker gymnasts have good shot at NCAA title. Page 13



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Odds against collectives, official says

Hierarchy poses threat to groups, professor says

By Sean Green
Senior Reporter

Government forms of majority rule always have been the mainstay of democracy in American history.

But some organizations, including a UNL women's group, have rejected traditional majority-rule methods of government and turned to collectives.

A collective is a form of self-government in which each member's opinion is of equal importance, said Robert Benford, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Decisions in a collective system are made on a consensus basis, where all members must agree before an action can be taken.

Collectives stem from an ideology that criticizes contemporary forms of social organization and is opposed to hierarchical, or top-down, forms of decision making.

Proponents of collectives argue that traditional majority-rule and hierarchical structures lead to the few gov-

erning the many, Benford said.

"We in the United States have a pretty limited view of democracy," he said. "That is, there are other organizational forms which are perhaps more democratic in their structures and processes."

The collective form of organization is an explicit attempt to ensure maximum participation by all members of the group, Benford said.

Although the idea of collectivism has been around for centuries, he said, protest and civil-rights groups caused a resurgence of collectives in the 1960s and 1970s.

Many of those groups, he said, found that in typical American or-

ganizations, power tended to be concentrated in the hands of the few, and the voices of most people were excluded from the decision-making process.

Benford said examples of groups run by some form of collective organization included the student-movement groups of the 1960s, women's liberation groups of the 1970s and environmental groups of the 1980s.

Benford, who has studied such groups for 10 years, said he found the collective form of organization to be more difficult to employ than the majority-rules form.

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