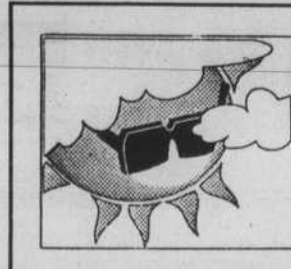


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TODAY'S WEATHER

75 46

Today, partly cloudy and cooler. Tonight, mostly clear. Tuesday mostly sunny with a high of 65 to 70.

Students protest King verdict at weekend vigil

By Stacey McKenzie
Senior Reporter

Some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students showed Lincoln their outrage over the Rodney King verdict with a 48-hour vigil Friday through Sunday on the steps of the County-City Building.

The students, many of them black, camped out near the building's steps to remind Lincoln citizens that racism and prejudice are alive, they said.

"We just want the people to know we don't plan to take anything sitting down," said Macedonia Smith, a sophomore electrical engineering major. "We just want the people to know that we're aware of what's going on."

"We shall not sing 'We Shall

Racism and prejudice discussed at gathering

Overcome.' This isn't another Martin Luther King (Jr.) peace march. People are tired."

The students stressed, however, that the vigil was a peaceful protest and said everyone was welcome to support them.

"We'll talk to whoever listens," said Anthony Briggs, a black sophomore psychology major.

Fliers were passed out on campus Friday morning announcing the protest.

Briggs said students started to gather about noon on Friday at the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St. They came from campus and their homes.

Six or seven students spoke Friday

afternoon to a crowd that grew to about 150 to 200 people, including some passers-by.

About 75 junior-high children joined the crowd and marched down to the State Capitol and back to the County-City Building in protest of the King verdict.

The Wednesday verdict that acquitted four white Los Angeles police officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King did not shock Smith, he said.

"It just reminded me of where I lived and what kind of people I lived around," he said.

Smith said he did not care about

the verdict-spurred violence in Los Angeles. The issue is about racism, not the riots, he said, and racism "has been going on for 500 years."

Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns said he heard the crowd gathering Friday in front of the County-City Building through his window and went outside to talk to the students.

Johanns said he told the students they were welcome to stay there and that he would listen to their questions and concerns.

He gave the protesters his home and office phone numbers.

During the gathering, a lot of emotion was displayed, Johanns said.

"I wouldn't describe it as out of control," he said. "I think they (protesters) were concerned."

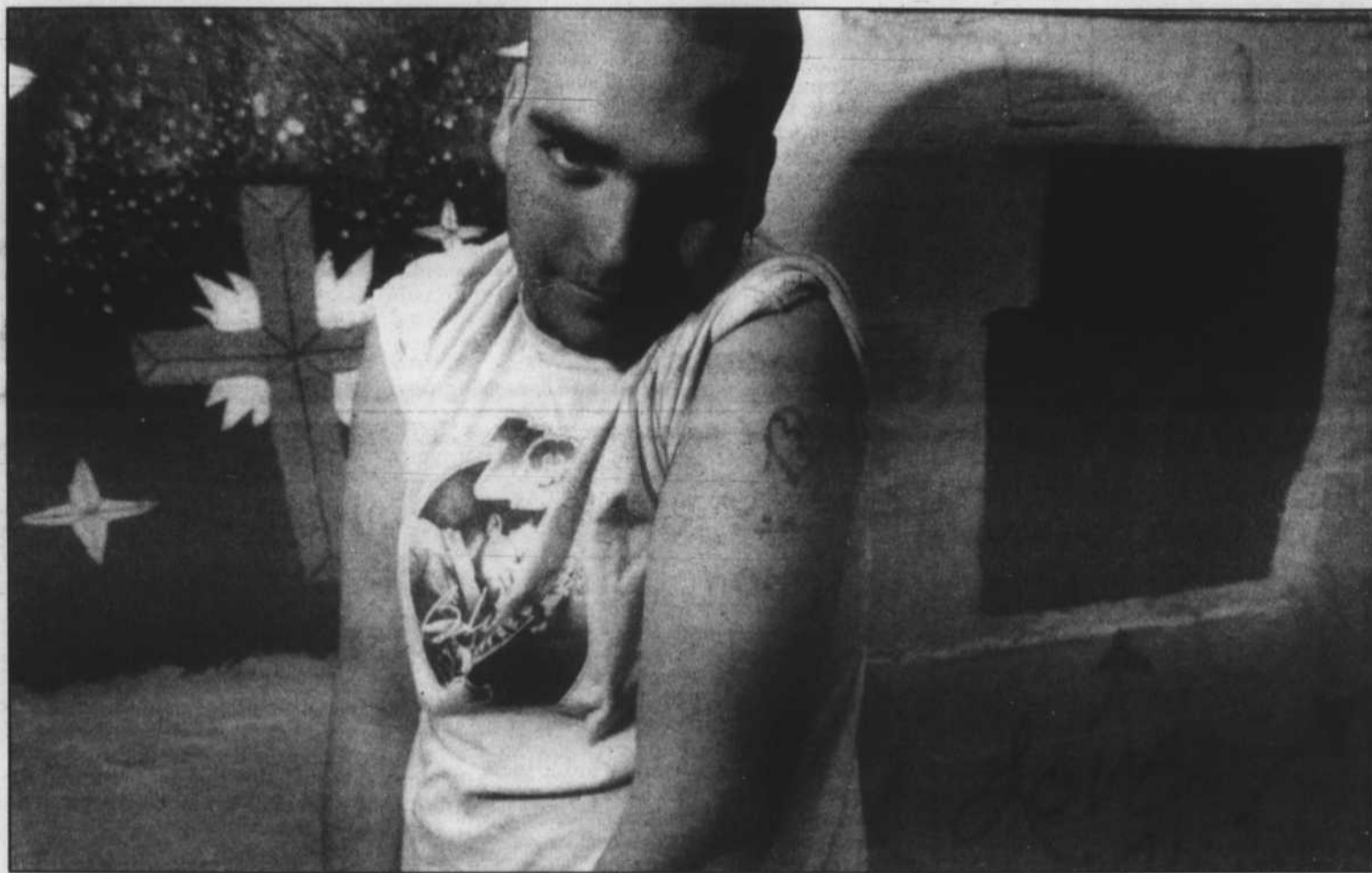
"As long as they're not hurting anyone, I'm just really not bothered by it."

Johanns, also a lawyer, said he was dumbfounded by the verdict.

Not hearing the evidence presented in the trial handicaps everyone, Johanns said, but watching the videotape of the beating made the verdict seem impossible.

Johanns supported an idea by one of the protesters to form a city committee to address racial issues.

"I think we can make positive and constructive change and progress by working together," Johanns said.



Al Schaben/DN

Jason Pence shows off his tattoo as he stands next to murals in the basement of the Lighthouse, a center for at-risk youth. Pence is one of about 50 teens who use the Lighthouse each day. See story on pages 10 and 11.

Point of Light

Lighthouse steers Lincoln teens away from drugs, alcohol

By Jill O'Brien
Staff Reporter

At 10 p.m. on a Saturday, the party at 2530 N St. is in full swing. Rock and metal music pours through the windows, drowning out the noise of neighboring O Street. Teen-agers surround the brick house, most of them hanging out on the front porch.

Yet these teens are not obnoxious partiers. They're disciplined, they refrain from swearing, and they adhere to the policy of no drugs or alcohol at the Lighthouse — a meeting place for at-risk youths 14 to 18 years of age.

Jim W. Smith, one of four paid staff members at the Lighthouse, says the idea of having a gathering place for teens was first conceived four years ago by Pete and Maureen Allman and Jim Perry. And two years ago, the Lighthouse became a reality.

In the backyard, a sand-filled volleyball pit swarms with teens. Smith, known as "Smitty" by the Lighthouse crowd, observes from his chair near the back door.

Wearing white jogging pants turned inside-out and a red T-shirt, Smitty could easily be mistaken for a teen — if it weren't for his moustache and quiet, authoritative voice.

Proficient at carrying on three conversations at once, Smitty occasionally reminds a

rambunctious teen of the rules.

The Lighthouse rules are simple, Smitty says. Rule No. 1 is that no one under the influence of drugs or alcohol is allowed. The second rule, he says, is "treat everyone and everything with unconditional respect."

Another "rule" is that everyone is on a first-name basis.

Dani McArthur, 15, who dots the "i" in her name with a heart, giggles as she stands around Smitty and a group of girls her age. The girls tease the 29-year-old staff member in the way younger sisters might provoke an older brother.

"Smitty's a stud-muffin," Dani says. Translation: Smitty's cool.

Dark-haired Karen Francis, also 15, wants to be sure everyone understands that the Lighthouse staff and teens make up a happy family.

"Everyone here cares about everyone else because we all share the same problems," Karen says.

When those problems become too great for teens to handle, Smitty says, the Lighthouse serves as a crisis-intervention center.

The Lighthouse offers "long-term care and nurturing and peer support for the youth," Smitty says. The support offered by the Lighthouse helps to counteract negative teen-age behavior, he says, which results from verbal and physical abuse.

Smitty says the Lighthouse is a refuge and learning place, as well as a hangout. As a refuge, the center offers hope and help, giving teens a sense of security and safety.

Lighthouse counselor Mary McCauley said that according to psychologist Abraham Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs, safety is the No. 1 need.

"Sometimes being at home doesn't feel that safe," she says, referring to the teens who come to the Lighthouse to escape abuse.

Some teens escape to the Lighthouse basement where graffiti covers the pink concrete walls. Staff member Bonnie Nichols watches a ping-pong match between two boys there.

Bonnie started working at the Lighthouse last August as a volunteer. She says the Lighthouse gives the kids an alternative to being on the streets.

When the teens come to the Lighthouse, she says, they know there are rules, yet no one balks. The kids have a good time, she says, adding that one youth had confessed, "This is more fun than alcohol."

Smitty says that if a youth came off the street with an attitude and cussed constantly, time spent at the Lighthouse would most likely change that.

See LIGHTHOUSE on 11

UNL recycling efforts need improvement, student says

By Sarah Duey
Staff Reporter

After scanning the Daily Nebraskan, students often toss it in the trash without thinking, and along with thousands of tons of trash, it heads for the landfill.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln alone generates 4,500 tons of trash. Most of the waste could either be reduced, reused or recycled, said Jeff Riggert, housing student staff assistant for recycling.

"UNL isn't doing much," Riggert said. "Support from administration has been minimal."

Although developing a sustainable waste-reduction and recycling program is challenging, environmental interest has sparked more efforts to make recycling at UNL a bigger priority.

The UNL Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee will meet today at 1:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union to discuss the university's recycling efforts and possibilities for the future.

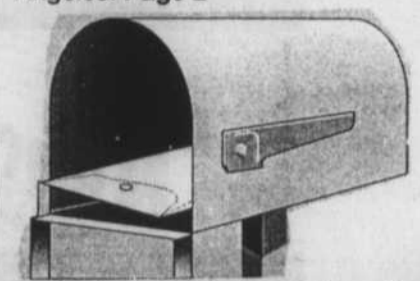
Environmental concern has spurred several recycling efforts in the past few years, Riggert said.

In late April, the UNL Housing Office approved the Residence Hall Association's call to stop using paper towels in residence hall bathrooms. Elimination of about 10 million towels will save housing \$30,000 annually, Riggert said.

See RECYCLE on 9

MONDAY

Death toll up to 45 in riot-torn Los Angeles. Page 2



Students look for internships. Page 7

Beatles impersonators not enough like the real thing. Page 14

INDEX	
Wire	2
Opinion	4
Sports	12
A & E	14
Classifieds	17