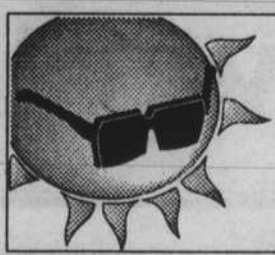


Daily Nebraskan



TODAY'S WEATHER

87/58

Today, mostly sunny and warm, with highs in the upper 80s. Friday, more of the same.

August 20, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 92 No. 1



Jeff Haller/DN

A gush of rush

Sophomores Jennifer Dawson, left, Lesley Brandt, Gina Radicia and Melissa Stubben get soaked in Broyhill Fountain Tuesday after getting their pictures taken for sorority rush.

New program to guarantee general skills of graduates

By Lori Stones
Staff Reporter

The university stands behind its students, and it will prove that to potential employers with the new UNL Guarantee Program.

"The university guarantees that its graduates will possess the basic skills reasonably to be expected from graduates of their degree program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln," Chancellor Graham Spanier said at a press conference this week.

If an employer finds a UNL graduate to be deficient in basic skills within one year of graduation, UNL will pay for the graduate to take care of the deficiency. Spanier described basic skills as those skills obtained through a general education, which includes writing, communication and an appreciation, sensitivity and tolerance of issues such as diversity.

He said basic skills in a major can be defined by a few examples: A lawyer should know how to write a legal brief; a business graduate should know how to write a business proposal; and a journalist should know how to write a story.

Employers who find a graduate with a deficiency will notify the dean of the graduate college or Joan Leitzel, the new senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. Those officials will assess the deficiency, Spanier said, and work with the employer and graduate to decide what educational assistance will be provided.

The program, which takes effect in December, was started to send a message to employers that UNL students are good, he said. Strengthening admission standards in the future also would help UNL project this image, he said.

Although the program was not officially announced until Tuesday, Spanier said, some discussions with community businesses have shown a favorable response to the program.

"There may not be any takers," he said. "They may remedy the problem among themselves. The university will learn something from this."

The guarantee states that graduates are not required to know everything in their field. It also states that UNL is not responsible for deficiencies based on a student's selection of classes. And it doesn't guarantee the employment success of any student, Spanier said, because success depends on personal as well as basic skills.

UNL is the first university to offer a program that applies to the whole university. Prior to this, guarantee programs existed only at teachers colleges.

Bush may need strong boost to win

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

President Bush should get a jump in popularity from this week's Republican National Convention, but it probably won't be enough for him to overtake Bill Clinton's lead in the polls, a UNL professor said.

"I don't think anyone is suggesting it will be the magnitude Clinton has received, or that it will erode Clinton's lead," said John Comer, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Historically, Comer said, presidential nominees have received a boost in the polls following their party's political convention. But several factors may prevent Bush from receiving

as big of a boost this year.

Conflicts in the party over abortion, taxes and Vice President Dan Quayle may overshadow the president's nomination and lessen his post-convention boost in the polls, he said.

"It may not be the kind of bump we've seen in the past," he said.

Comer said that although he didn't expect Bush to overcome Clinton's lead immediately after the convention, he thought the race would be close.

"I think all the indicators point to a Clinton win," he said. "But don't underestimate the power of the presidency or of George Bush to make this a very close race."

Comer said an important element of the race might be people's evaluation of Quayle and Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Al Gore of Tennessee. He said research indicated that the vice presidential nominee could deter-

mine as much as 3 percent of the vote.

"In a close race, that can be quite a bit," he said.

Votes from supporters of former independent presidential candidate Ross Perot also could influence the race, Comer said, but it is too early to determine which candidate they will support.

During the Democratic convention, he said, Clinton and Gore were able to take advantage of Perot dropping out of the race to appeal to the Texan's supporters. However, he said, those voters may not vote Democratic in November.

Comer said he was surprised by Perot's decision to drop out. He may have withdrawn because he disliked the intense media scrutiny presidential candidates are under, Comer said.

"Politics, as they say, isn't bean bag," he said. "I think it was a little more painful than he anticipated."

THURSDAY

Welcome Back UNL Students!

UNL student found guilty in fatal slaying. Page 3

Fast-food restaurants replace Union cafeteria. Page 8

Coliseum construction almost finished. Page 12



UNL CONSTRUCTION

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UNL tackling students' parking problems

Long lines gone, but gripes remain

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Students accustomed to spending hours at the Bob Devaney Sports Center to buy a parking permit can enjoy a few extra hours of sleep this year.

Gone are the tiresome days of rolling out of bed at 6 a.m. to stand in a seemingly endless line, submitting an automobile registration form, then waiting for more than an hour to receive a permit for campus parking lots.

Because of a new bar code on the rear-view mirror hang tag, students will be able to get their permits quicker — probably in less than a minute per

student, said Mike Cacak, manager of UNL Transportation Services.

"Last year, I walked through the sports center and saw 400 people in line and thought, 'There's got to be a better way to do this,'" Cacak said.

Windshield stickers no longer will be included with the tag, and students will need their ID cards to speed the process of buying a permit.

Permits will be on sale today and Friday at the sports center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will be available at the UNL Police Department next week.

An annual permit for campus residents and commuters, which will be valid until next August, will cost \$54 for students, staff and faculty; \$33 will buy a permit for one semester.

A reserved-parking permit will cost \$205-\$270 annually depending on whether it's a five- or seven-day-a-week permit. The new remote lot/night permits will cost \$17.

Cacak said he was urging students to buy permits early because there was a limit on the number available. During the last two years, UNL

Parking Services sold an unlimited number of commuter lot permits. This year, however, the Parking Advisory Board authorized the sale of 95 percent of the 5,126 annual permits, Cacak said.

"Personally, I don't agree with the policy of placing a limit on the number of permits sold," Cacak said. "But that's the way it is, and that's what we'll have to work with."

Although the window stickers and long waits for permits will be gone, complaints about the lack of parking spaces probably won't be, said Paul Carlson, interim business manager for business and finance.

"We work very hard to accommodate students, and we do the best we can, but there will always be some complaints," Carlson said. "Students want to park as close to class as possible, and they can't always do that. But that doesn't mean that parking stalls aren't available."

Cacak said students who parked in the remote lots, located near the sports center, are served by a shuttle bus to



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and from campus, which takes about 12 minutes per circuit.

"There were times last year, at any time of the day, when I would drive by these lots and see 300 or 350 empty parking spaces," Cacak said.

Some spots that won't be there,

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