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WEATHER

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Today, mostly sunny and nice. Tonight and tomorrow, increasing clouds and a chance of storms.

Ownership of bones disputed by officials

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Kentucky officials have some bones to pick with the Nebraska State Museum. And directors at the Kentucky Department of Parks are hoping to pick them as soon as possible, one Kentucky attorney said.

Fossilized remains of mammoths, bison and other animals unearthed at a Kentucky archeological site have resided in the Nebraska State Museum since the early 1960s, where they have been catalogued, preserved and studied by University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and researchers.

Now, officials in Kentucky apparently want them back.

But Hugh Genoways, director of the Nebraska State Museum, said that exactly who wanted the remains returned was unclear.

"The last correspondence we've had with anyone in Kentucky was in 1988," Genoways said. "We haven't heard anything from anyone personally since then."

That year, Genoways said, he received a request from the Kentucky Department of Parks for records of the 1962 digs. Genoways said he complied with their request and had not heard

Kentucky Department of Parks wants fossils returned; UNL reluctant to give back major scientific collection

from them since.

"I don't know where they're coming from," he said. "I think that maybe this is just some slick Kentucky lawyer trying to negotiate through the newspapers."

The bones were uncovered between 1962 and 1966 during a series of digs at Big Bone Lick State Park near Union, Ky. The fossils accumulated because of salt and sulphur springs at the site, which attracted animals between 20,000 and 12,000 B.C. Once there, bison, horses and other animals apparently became trapped in the soft soil, where they died.

When the project began, the National Science Foundation provided UNL with a series of grants to finance the dig and specifically called for the bones to be housed and studied at UNL.

The excavation was led by C. Bertrand Schultz, the Nebraska State Museum's director in the 1960s, and was conducted by UNL researchers.

Henry Curtis, an attorney for the Kentucky Department of Parks in Frankfort, said he didn't

understand why Nebraska State Museum officials were reluctant to return the remains.

"Nobody really wants to take this deal to court, but we will if we have to," Curtis said. "Hopefully, we can get it resolved before anything like that transpires. But I don't understand why they're dragging their feet."

Genoways said one major issue was money. "We've sunk several thousands of dollars into these artifacts," he said, "and we're not ready to turn them over to Kentucky, where they would no longer be available for scientific study."

Curtis said the bones were part of Kentucky's history, and that Kentucky park directors wanted to put the bones on display at Big Bone Lick State Park.

Genoways said he knew of no existing facilities in Kentucky that could adequately display the 2,000 specimens currently housed at UNL.

The specimens include everything from bone fragments to intact, individual bones, but the

collection "certainly is not a massive one," Genoways said.

Remains from Big Bone Lick — considered by researchers to be one of the most important archeological sites in North America — are displayed and studied at museums throughout the world, including London's British Museum, the Philadelphia Academy of Science and the Natural History Museum in Paris. The first digs at the site were ordered in the early 1800s by President Thomas Jefferson.

Genoways said he didn't know if any of the other museums displaying the artifacts had been asked to return them.

He said the fate of UNL's collection depended on researchers in Kentucky, and added that he would be willing to negotiate the return of the bones if they would remain available for scientific examination.

But, he said, the loss of the collection would cause problems for UNL.

"Obviously, the artifacts are of major scientific importance to us," Genoways said. "These bones are from the Ice Age, and we at UNL study artifacts from that time period very closely."

"To just give up something we've had here for 25 years or more would be a little hard to do."

Officials advise students about parking changes

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

UNL Parking Services has been working hard to advise students of changes made this summer in parking on campus, an official said.

Parking officials are taking extra initiative to warn students of changes that were made for their benefit, said Mike Cacak, manager of UNL's Transportation Services.

"We've done what we can to notify students and be helpful," he said.

For example, Cacak said, parking officials are posted around the loop near Memorial Stadium to let students know of the changes there.

Forty-two meters were pulled from the loop and added to the parking lot north of Mabel Lee Hall at 14th and W streets, he said, and 22 meters were added to the lot. The existing space near the stadium was made into an Area 10 lot and is reserved for faculty.

Parking officials also mailed and delivered reminders to students who parked in the two rows designated as reserved spaces in lots near Pound and Abel residence halls, Cacak said.

In the past, he said, reserved spaces have been located around the edges of the lots. This year, the first two rows in each lot are reserved parking.

Cacak said the reserved spaces were moved closer to give students who paid extra for their money's worth. Annual permits cost \$54, while reserved spaces are \$155 for a year.



Shaun Sartin/DN

Takin' a dive

Jenny Brabec, a freshman accounting major, plunges for the ball Sunday afternoon during a game at the Harper-Schramm-Smith Complex sand volleyball court.

NU to continue offering free tickets

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

The disclosure of \$12,045 in tickets given to state senators and elected officials over the past year will not change NU's practice of offering free tickets for football and basketball games and other events, officials said Sunday.

The University of Nebraska reported the value of event tickets given to state officials for the first time Friday. It did so because of a Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission ruling that the value of the tickets and other entertainment spending by NU must be reported under state lobbying laws.

The disclosure put the university at the top in entertainment spending among groups that lobby the Nebraska Legislature.

Richard Wood, NU's chief legal counsel, said giving away tickets to

state senators and elected officials was a regular practice.

The value of the tickets always has been a matter of public record in the chancellor's office, he said, and the amount of money reported this year is not uncharacteristic of past years.

"The university is not actually spending the money; it is only the value of the tickets," Wood said.

Dannie Trautwein, executive director of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, said that prior to the disclosure of the tickets' value, the commission became aware that NU wasn't reporting the value of admissions to social events. She said she contacted Wood, university lobbyist Lee Rupp and NU President Martin Massengale to discuss the issue. After the meeting, she said, they reached an agreement and the ticket amount was reported to the commission.

The university didn't report the value of the tickets in past years, Massengale said, because NU officials thought the university wasn't required to. He said the meeting with Trautwein simply clarified the law, because it was NU's first disclosure of that kind.

"The meeting was held for the refinement of the interpretation of the law," Massengale said.

Each year, the university offers 49 state senators and six constitutional officers — the governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer, auditor, secretary of state and attorney general — a pair of season football tickets, for a total of 55 pairs.

Last year, 19 officials paid for the tickets or declined them.

Massengale said the university would continue to offer free tickets, but officials could choose to buy them instead.

NU Ticket Handouts 1991-92

●72 season football tickets, worth \$136 each. Total value of \$9,792. Additional single-game tickets given out worth \$187.

●Basketball game tickets valued at \$1,316.

●Tickets for events at the Lied Center for Performing Arts worth \$750.

TOTAL: \$12,045



Scott Maurer/DN