

OPINION

ELECTION DAY VOTE!

TUESDAY

35/25
Cold with a chance of snow falling through a brisk wind. Tonight and tomorrow, more of the same.

Students say inquiry increases tensions

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Unanswered questions and inadequate explanations about a police investigation targeting five African-American men at UNL have heightened racial tension on campus, said two of the students questioned by investigators.

Phil Bates and Anthony Briggs said they were contacted about a 1 1/2 weeks ago by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln police officer who told them she was following up on an investigation into the disappearance of UNL freshman Candice Harms, who has been missing since Sept. 22.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at UNL, said the investigation was initiated when a student enrolled in an anthropology class —

“We all feel like suspects. We keep hearing that we're not, but it sure seems that way. It almost seems like it's open season on black men.”

in which the men and Harms are enrolled — reported to police that Harms was scouted by and talking to an African-American man the day of her disappearance.

Police then contacted the five African-American men enrolled in the class.

Bates and Briggs said they thought the inquiry was racially motivated.

“We all feel like suspects,” said Briggs, a junior psychology major. “We keep hearing that we're not, but it sure seems that way. It almost seems

like it's open season on black men.

“If this were the 1950s, you would have found five brothers hanging from a tree.”

Police acquired the names of the five men through the Registrar's Office, whose computer banks include race and gender information on students, Griesen said.

Officers then contacted the men, asking for their Social Security numbers, previous addresses and other information. The men then were photographed.

Briggs
junior psychology major

feel throughout all of this.

“It's not that we're insensitive to the Harms case, but the manner in which police presented the case to us . . . demands a public apology.”

Bates agreed, adding that people “can't discount these types of trends.”

“If Griesen released the information on us, he'll do it again to other students,” said Bates, a graduate student. “There are larger ramifications to consider. It's just like censorship. One day it's this, the next day it's something else. Where does it end?”

Briggs said other African-American students at UNL were angry about the incident and Griesen's explanation. He also said the incident had heightened racial tension in the anthropology class.

See INVESTIGATION on 3

Poll says state favors lottery by slim margin

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

The odds favor a lottery for Nebraska by a slim margin, a recent poll indicated.

The latest Omaha World-Herald poll, conducted Oct. 20-22, indicated that 57 percent of the 847 people who had opinions would vote for a state lottery.

That figure is down from 62 percent in an Oct. 6-8 World-Herald survey. In an early September survey, the figure was 69 percent.

Randy Moody, campaign manager for Friends of Education and the Environment, a grass-roots campaign organized in support of a Nebraska lottery, said he was confident Nebraskans would vote for a state lottery. His organization has had strong support throughout the campaign, Moody said.

“I think it will win solidly,” he said. But Chris Eskridge, a criminal justice professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a member of Citizens Against More Gambling, said the lottery would do more harm than good.

“The lottery has a hollow allure,” he said. “It is misleading, especially to the poor.”

People in favor of Friends of Education and

See LOTTERY on 2

Budget cuts to leave snow on some paths

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

Students may have to drag out their cross-country skis if they want to navigate some areas of campus this winter.

Bud Dasenbrock, director of landscape services at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said some sidewalks would not be cleared of snow this winter.

Dasenbrock said 1992-93 budget cuts forced him to cut back on personnel and machinery. About \$12,000 was trimmed from his budget July 1, he said.

Sidewalks and steps that students use the least will be the ones that snow crews ignore, he said.

“We try to choose sidewalks that aren't going to impose an inconvenience on people,” he said. “If people choose to walk on them, it will be at their own risk.”

Some sidewalks on both City and East cam-

See SNOW on 3



Roll the vote

Michelle Paulman/DN

Charlie Jordan wheels voting booths out to the loading dock at the Lancaster County Election Commission's warehouse Monday in preparation for today's general election.

Bush likely to lose, professor says

Campaign strategy reduces likelihood of election upset

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

President Bush has managed to close in on Gov. Bill Clinton's lead in the waning days of the presidential election, but it won't be enough to carry him to victory, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor said Monday.

Robert Sittig, a political science professor who specializes in elections, said that although Bush had managed to stage a comeback similar to Harry Truman's in 1948, he wouldn't be able to duplicate Truman's final result — a win.

Incumbent Truman was forecast by many to lose his 1948 race with Republican Thomas Dewey. Truman staged a comeback in the final weeks of the race and was re-elected.

Sittig said Truman was able to stage his comeback in 1948 because polling was not as sophisticated then. Had Republicans at the time realized that Truman's last-minute charge was working, they might have been able to minimize it, he said.

“Truman could surprise the opposition and make a cross-country train trip, and the opposition didn't respond,” Sittig said. “And apparently, he made incremental improvements in his showing steadily during the last two or three weeks of the campaign.”

“Now that would be impossible,” he said. “The opposition has a strategy to deal with almost every effort the other campaign makes.”

Sittig predicted Clinton would prevail over Bush in a close race in the popular vote and a larger margin in the electoral vote.

“I think Clinton will win,” he said. “I think Bush will do relatively well — he'll win enough states that he won't be humiliated or embarrassed — maybe 10, at the most 20.”

“But the trouble is, within that category, most of them are going to be small or at most medium-sized states, and so the Electoral College reality is that it won't be very competitive.”

A candidate wins the presidency by winning a majority — 270 — of the nation's electoral votes. Electoral votes are gained by winning

individual states. California has 54 electoral votes, while Nebraska has 5, so a candidate could win a close race in the popular vote while winning by a much wider margin in the Electoral College by winning big states.

Sittig predicted Clinton would receive about 47 percent of the popular vote, Bush about 44 percent and independent candidate Ross Perot about 9 percent.

“But again, the popular vote isn't the determinant vote, so as close as that looks (in the popular vote), it looks like it's going to be more handsome for Clinton in the Electoral College,” he said.

Sittig predicted Clinton would win the presidency with about 300 electoral votes.

Bush could still win, Sittig said, but the chances at this point are very remote.

“I think there's a chance, but I think it's one in 10,” he said. “There are 10 to 15 other states that he is within striking distance — mostly Midwestern and eastern industrial states like Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.”

“By some stroke of fortune, maybe he could carry most of those,” he said. “If he did, along with the 10 or 12 I expect him to carry, that would be enough for him to make it close.”