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CORRECTION

A story in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan misquoted Eric Jolly, director of the Affirmative Action and Diversity Office. A quotation about minorities making the University of Nebraska-Lincoln responsive to their needs should have read: "You (students) don't need to solve problems. You should hold the administration responsible for solving the problems, and you should tell us what they are." The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

SPORTS



FRIDAY



Committee votes down prayer resolution

Representatives plan petition to reinstate prayers at ceremony

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

Student government representatives said Thursday that they planned to start a petition to reinstate prayers in the graduation ceremony.

The UNL Commencement Committee banned prayers at graduation in a meeting Thursday morning. In a 9-2 vote, the committee decided to remove the prayers because it thought they would not represent the diverse student body present at the ceremony.

ASUN Speaker of the Senate Andrew Loudon said during Thursday afternoon's press conference that the committee's decision ig-

nored student opinion. Loudon said 90 percent of the members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska supported keeping the prayers in the ceremony.

He said the prayers could be presented in a non-offensive way that would be a learning experience for students who attended the ceremony.

"It's an educational experience for any student whether they believe in a God or not," he said.

General Studies Sen. Narroyl Parker, who co-sponsored the ASUN bill to reinstate the prayers, said the committee did what it thought was right, rather than listening to what students wanted.

"This decision is going to spoil commencement for a lot of students," he said.

The Rev. Norman Leach, executive director of the Interfaith Council, said the decision was part of a "dangerous trend" of excluding religion in the name of pluralism.

"Separation of church and state does not mean the elimination of religion," he said.

ASUN officials argue invocation traditional part of commencement

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

An ASUN resolution calling for the return of prayers to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's graduation ceremonies was voted down Thursday by the UNL Commencement Committee.

The committee voted 9-2 against an appeal to include the traditional invocation and benediction in UNL's graduation ceremonies.

The prayers had been removed from graduation ceremonies by the committee last month amid concerns of insensitivity for students' diverse religious backgrounds.

A resolution, submitted by Andrew Loudon, speaker of the senate for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, and general studies and architecture senators Narroyl Parker and Ryan Swanson, urged the Commencement Committee to reconsider its decision and include prayers in the graduation ceremony.

The resolution pointed out that invocations and benedictions at commencement ceremonies had been a long-standing tradition, and that the prayers "offer a cultural and educational experience by displaying different religions traditions."

The resolution also addressed a recent Supreme Court decision — Lee vs. Weisman — that banned prayer in kindergarten through the 12th grade, noting that the ruling did not apply to postsecondary institutions.

At the Commencement Committee meeting last month, Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor and a member of the committee, had raised questions about the graduation invocation and benediction, and cited the Supreme Court ruling.

The committee found that the decision was not binding to college graduation ceremonies.

But James McShane, an associate professor of English and a committee member, said that although the Supreme Court's ruling did not include college graduations, UNL had a responsibility to be sensitive to students with diverse religious backgrounds.

In a written statement, McShane called for prayers to be left out of the ceremonies for that

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Firm donates billboard space to Harms hunt

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

A local outdoor advertising company has donated billboard space to help in the search for a missing University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.

Imperial Outdoor Advertising of Lincoln has donated eight billboards to help promote awareness of UNL freshman Candice "Candi" Harms, who has been missing since Sept. 22.

The billboards are yellow and black, with Harms' photo and a Crime Stoppers telephone number. Along with the photo is the word "Missing."

Martha Lee Church, director of Imperial, said she decided to donate the space when Todd Sears, Harms' boyfriend, called and asked for the company's rates. Church said some of the company's employees had suggested donating space before Sears had called.

The first billboard was placed last week at 27th and Holdrege streets. Church said other billboards would be put up in Lincoln, Omaha and smaller southeastern Nebraska cities, such as Ceresco.

Sears said he was surprised Imperial donated so much space for the advertising.

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Left hand red

Gary Doyle, president of University Program Council, calls out the moves as Stephanie Meyer, a freshman accounting major, and Andy Free, a junior business management major, await their next twist at the Twister-Rama Thursday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Jody Price/DN

Graduates face tough market

Economic growth doesn't guarantee job opportunities

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

Recent figures showing growth in the U.S. economy have not boosted the job market significantly, a UNL official said.

The job outlook for December graduates is not much better than it was for students who graduated last spring, said Larry Routh, director of Career Planning and Placement.

Although the job market usually improves with economic growth,

people tend to think that employment opportunities rely only on recession and recovery, Routh said.

The job market is related to the economy, Routh said, but many companies also have gone through structural changes that will affect employment.

For example, he said, companies are keeping their payrolls to a minimum, and are hiring fewer white-collar workers and middle managers.

Cuts in the defense industry also have contributed to the poor job market, Routh said.

Workers who used to be employed in the defense industry now are back in the job force and competing with college graduates, Routh said. This makes it especially difficult to find jobs in areas such as Southern Califor-

nia, where the defense industry was once a dominant employer.

The best place for December graduates to find jobs is in the Midwest, where there are fewer defense companies and more agribusiness companies, Routh said.

"Agribusiness has weathered the recession quite well," he said. "People will always need to eat."

Graduates need to be aware of the industries that are growing or contracting, Routh said. And they should focus on jobs related to health, human services and agriculture, he said.

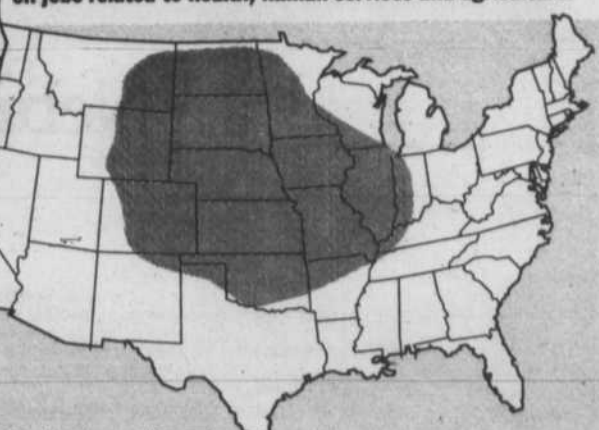
However, Routh said, students shouldn't pick careers based solely on "supply and demand." Instead, he said, they must be aware of available op-

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Job market for graduates



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Source: Office of Registration and Records

Scott Maurer/DN