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Committee report outlines plan for diversity

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Conducive climate, attitude change top list

Serving on a committee designed to improve life for minorities at the University of Nebraska has excited and incited one of the group's co-chairmen.

NU Regent Don Blank, co-chairman of the Regents' Committee on Minority Affairs, said he had personally benefited from working with the committee, and was optimistic about its report, which makes recommendations on how issues and problems

faced by minorities at NU can be addressed and solved.

"I've learned a tremendous amount, and I'm still learning," Blank said. "I must confess, I have a certain amount of ignorance just because of my lack of experience with minorities. I grew up in a town with no

minorities, there were few minorities in my college and now I live in a small town with few minorities.

"Until you walk in someone else's shoes—and really, I can't—you just never know what it's like to face the problems minorities in our society do."

The 16-member committee, which was formed in November 1991, released its report last Saturday at a meeting of the NU Board of Regents.

The report, which took more than a year to complete, called for administrators, faculty and students on all four campuses in the NU system to recognize the value of diversity.

The report said: "Not only people of color, but members of the majority culture as well, should demand that their state institution of higher education provide a quality education that is reflective, respectful and supportive of many cultures."

The committee was comprised of faculty, staff, regents and students from the four NU campuses, and will remain on call for possible future use. It was formed to "address issues of concern to the university, particularly affecting minority faculty, students and staff on the university's campuses," according to the report.

Blank, who co-chaired the committee with attorney Gene Crump, said he thought attitude remained the biggest obstacle to overcome when

See REGENTS on 6

50 people attend candlelight vigil for King holiday

Speakers say university should honor slain leader

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

"Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King was a great civil rights leader," said UNL student Elise Dobyne at a program commemorating the life and dreams of King on Monday night.

Dobyne, a first-year law student, spoke to about 50 people at a candlelight vigil sponsored by the University of Nebraska College of Law Multi-Cultural Student Society.

The law college teaches students about several rights, Dobyne said, including civil rights, natural rights and inalienable rights.

"But the university does not observe this holiday," she said.

"If our king is to be recognized we must do it ourselves."

The people who attended the commemoration marched from Broyhill Fountain to the Culture Center for the program singing "We Shall Overcome." Dobyne said the program was an expression of how Dr. King's struggles continued to live today in everyone's hearts.

When Anthony Williams, president of UNL's Afrikan People's Union, addressed the audience, he said, "We must remember and commemorate the Malcolm X's and the Martin Luther Kings."

"It is so important for us as individuals to make the world around us a more peaceful place where African Americans, European Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans can someday look each other in the face and see nothing but love and peace instead of color and difference," said Williams, a junior mechanical engineering major.

"Dr. King had a dream, and even though the man was complex, his dream wasn't," Williams said. "He wanted equal rights for all. His dream continues today."

LaShawn Sayers, a member of the multi-

See VIGIL on 6



Jeff Haller/DN

Stacey Nerud, a sophomore psychology major, travels down a rough and icy sidewalk north of Andrews Hall Monday. According to Nerud, most sidewalks are OK.

Snow stalls campus wheelchair users

By Karen Okamoto
Staff Reporter

Interviews with five students in wheelchairs brought mixed reviews about last week's snow removal.

Doug Stutheit, a senior finance major, said the snow removal crew did a good job. "Compared to past years, this has been the best year since I've been here," said Stutheit, who is in his fifth year at the university. "I know there's only been one

bad snow, but it seems they got out there a lot quicker than they normally do."

In past years, crews had taken a long time to clear curb cuts, Stutheit said, but this year they were cleared on the first day.

Stutheit also said handicap ramps had not been a big problem, because generally they were more protected by buildings than sidewalks.

However, earlier in the week he did have trouble and needed assistance in getting up the City Union ramp, he said. Water drip-

ping from the roof had made the ramp slick.

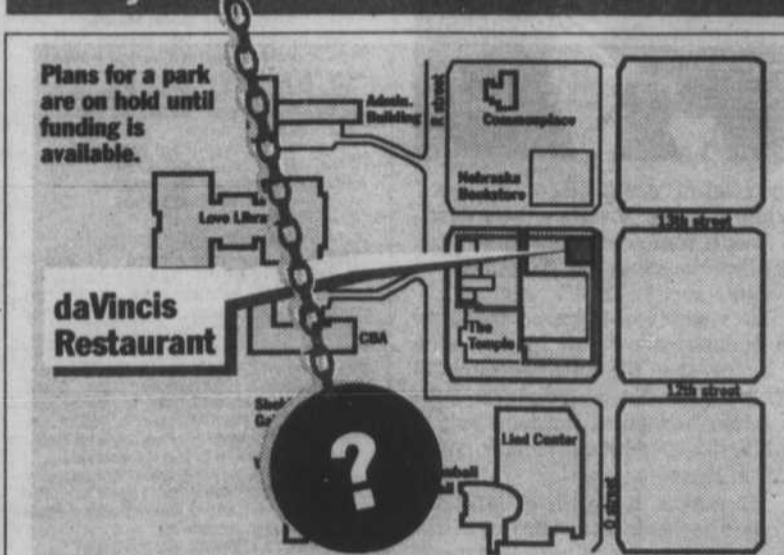
Sidewalks were rough, though, and he had to allow an extra 10 minutes to get to class in his manual wheelchair, he said.

Stutheit said he would have liked the sidewalks cleared sooner so that footprints would not have made the walks so uneven.

Another student, Stacey Nerud, said last week's effort wasn't bad, but he had trouble with several ramps.

See SNOW on 3

Delay in restaurant's destruction



Source: Paul Carlson, UNL interim business manager

Lack of funds delays Lied park plans

Downtown daVinci's leasing from UNL on monthly basis

By Jan Calinger
Staff Reporter

Plans to demolish daVinci's restaurant, 13th and Q streets, in order to build the proposed Lied Center Park have been delayed, UNL officials said.

John Benson, director of institutional research and planning, said the pizzeria, which is on university property, would remain open indefinitely and was leasing from the university on a monthly basis.

"An agreement was set up to allow us to proceed until there is time to make changes," he said. "To my

knowledge, there is no deadline set at this point."

Paul Carlson, director of operations analysis and interim business manager, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln signed a contract to purchase the daVinci's property in the mid-1980s. UNL planned to use the land to build a park adjacent to the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The University of Nebraska Foundation, which is responsible for soliciting funds for the park, has been paying for the land since then, and made the final payment in December, Carlson said. The property was transferred to UNL Dec. 30.

Carlson said UNL had hoped to be ready to begin converting the property when it acquired the land, but it encountered obstacles.

"When we first did the contract for deed, we were hoping to have all

contracts in place," Carlson said. "As Dec. 30 approached, we didn't have funds."

"We're trying to decide where the money will come from, what to do."

Carlson said no university money would be used for the demolition of the restaurant and building of the park.

"This is not state funds," he said. "This fund is part of the Lied Center, which means it has to be donated funds."

Jennifer Brown, a manager at daVinci's, said business there had been busy since students returned from semester break, but not all of the restaurant's clientele knew it was still open.

"We're still trying to let people know we are still open," she said. "We have been advertising the closing all this time."