

THURSDAY

23/10
Partly to mostly sunny today. Weekend outlook, dry Saturday and a chance of snow on Sunday.

Alumnus gets national recognition

Accomplishments include co-writing guide for students

By Mark Harms
Staff Reporter

It was a surprise to Bill Ekeler when a friend told him he had made the honorable mention list of the All USA Academic Team that was published by USA Today earlier this month.

Ekeler, who graduated from UNL with a degree in elementary education last December, said he did not even know he had been nominated until he received a letter from USA Today. It seems some of his professors had nominated him on the sly.

Ekeler was one of 73 out of a field of 1,342 students nationwide to receive honorable mention on the All USA Academic Team. He was the only Nebraska student included on the list. Sixty students made the first, second and third teams.

Ekeler had several achievements that helped him earn the honor. He had a 3.87 grade point average, did community service work for the United Way, was a member of organizations like the Golden Key National Honor Society, and wrote an article for the "Handbook of College Teaching: Theory and Applications."

But perhaps the main factor in his making the list was the work he had done while co-authoring a book called "The Black Student's Guide to College Success." The book, published by the Greenwood Publishing Group, should be in bookstores in May.

Ekeler said the book was like other college guides, but emphasized problems that confront black students. Part of what the book does, he said, is provide information about various university and college campuses and what they have to offer black students in the way of clubs, organizations, faculty and support groups.

The book also addresses whether or not to go to college, finding the right school and



Bill Ekeler, an alumnus of UNL, co-authored the "Black Student's Guide to College Success." The book will be published in May.

arranging financing.

One section of the book contains essays by Lyn Vaughn, an anchor for CNN Headline News, Greg Gumble of CBS News and others. Ekeler said the essays offered advice and inspiration for coping with the college experience.

Being white, Ekeler said, he occasionally had problems convincing people he was legitimate while he did research for the book.

"Some seemed to feel I was probing into places I shouldn't," he said.

Ekeler said he was hung up on several times, but that he always was able to call back and smooth any bad feelings.

One woman asked him if he was black, he said. Ekeler replied that he was not, but that he didn't think it made any difference. She hung up on him.

When he called back, Ekeler said, he found out that the woman thought he was saying that being black was not important.

"I've learned to see how some things can be perceived as offensive to blacks," he said.

Ekeler said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln presented certain problems for black students.

"There's little sense of community for blacks at UNL," he said.

UNL lacks black-oriented

social events, he said, and blacks have a hard time finding things such as health-care products and hair-cutting services.

Ekeler said many African Americans at UNL didn't feel as though they belonged to a group and often didn't seek out the support groups that were available.

As a member of the UNL's retention committee, Ekeler is looking at ways to keep minority students from dropping out of college.

"I want to see that more minority students have the opportunity to succeed," he said. "Until people start working to

See EKELER on 3

Candidates square off in debate

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

East Campus is an integral part of UNL and should not be forgotten in student elections, a member of the VOICE party said Wednesday in the East Union during the first ASUN election debate of the year.

Keith Benes, VOICE presidential candidate, said he had lived on East

Campus for three years and had seen the number of core classes located there decrease. East Campus students must be heard from,

Benes, a junior speech communication major, said.

The VOICE party has 14 senatorial candidates from East Campus.

PARTY presidential candidate Steve Dietz, a senior art major, said the East Campus questions were pre-formulated by VOICE supporters and weren't the most important campaign issues.

Dietz said one major goal of the PARTY group was to make students feel more at ease with the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"Right now, students feel completely separated," Dietz said. "We need to have a group of people to say, 'Damn it, this upsets me.'

"We need to talk to chancellors, not call press conferences."

With that relaxed attitude, Dietz

See DEBATE on 3

Woman cut by stalker at her office

From Staff Reports

A man, believed to be stalking a woman since Monday, allegedly stabbed her Wednesday afternoon in the Lincoln City Office Building, 129 N. 10th St.

A man approached a female employee on fourth floor of the building and threatened her, Lincoln Police Captain David Beggs said.

The threats were not related to robbery, murder or rape, he said, but a brief struggle ensued. The woman, who Beggs refused to name, received a minor facial cut from the assailant who carried a pocket knife.

Beggs said the 34-year-old woman was confronted Monday in her office by the same man. The suspect called the woman by name, questioned her and left, Beggs said.

Tuesday at 2:41 p.m., the man tapped on the woman's office window and fled.

Beggs said the woman didn't know the man and reported the second incident to the police.

The assailant is believed to be a 5-foot-6 African-American male with a slender build. He was wearing a black baseball cap, a blue denim jacket and blue jeans. He is believed to be about 25 years old, according to police reports.

The suspect was still at large late Wednesday night.

Student football seating may be relocated

Several reports of unruly conduct lead to proposal

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

At least one UNL athletic department official is certain a proposal to relocate student football-ticket seating in Memorial Stadium won't be taken sitting down. And that is the inspiration behind the idea.

Athletic Director Bill Byrne said it was proposed last week that student seating be moved to Sections 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11, which are all in the east stadium behind the Cornhuskers' sideline. The student seating would fill the entire sections from top to bottom. Currently, student seating is scattered throughout various sections in Memorial Stadium.

Byrne said the proposals were discussed during a Feb. 15 meeting of senior staff members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Athletic Department.

After he received several letters

from fans about increasingly rowdy student behavior at football games, Byrne met with Joe Selig, the athletic department's ticket manager. They and other athletic department officials discussed ways home football games could be made more enjoyable for all fans, Byrne said.

"Most of the complaints we've gotten have been about students standing up throughout the games, blocking the view of people behind them," Byrne said. "This way, if all the students were together, everyone would be standing and it wouldn't matter."

However, he said, other complaints have included more serious allegations of rowdy student behavior.

"We've had people complain about students constantly throwing things, like cups, and there have been other, much worse incidents," he said. "If some of these things are true, then it's pretty bad."

Byrne would not specify what the most serious allegations were.

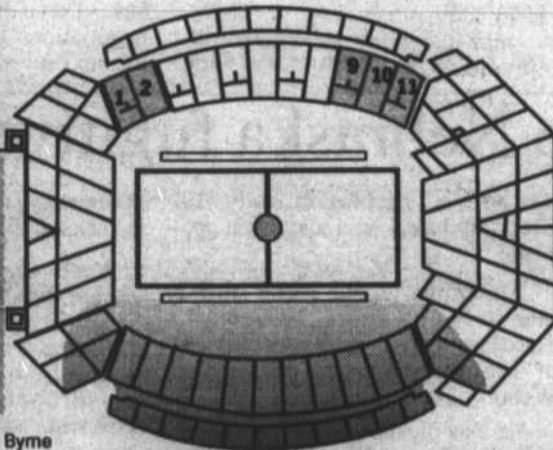
The Daily Nebraskan received a letter last semester from a fan who claimed to have seen a Cornhusker Marching Band member hit with a cup full of vomit during a game.

Another proposal made during the

Proposed student seating

Sections 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 are the proposed new student sections. The new seating in these sections would be filled from top to bottom, to cut down on complaints of students standing up during the games.

Source: Athletic director Bill Byrne



Scott Maurer/DN

Feb. 15 meeting was to reduce the total number of student tickets allotted to 8,000.

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said the lowering of the student-ticket ceiling was proposed by Selig.

"Joe thought that, given the decline in student-ticket sales during recent years, not a lot was going to change in the future, and dropping the total to 8,000 wouldn't be a problem," Fouraker said.

In 1983, 15,400 student tickets were sold. Since 1988, student ticket sales have steadily declined from

10,500 that year to last season's figure of 7,500 sold.

Byrne said the decrease in student-ticket sales was a nationwide phenomenon.

"College student demographics have changed dramatically in the last

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