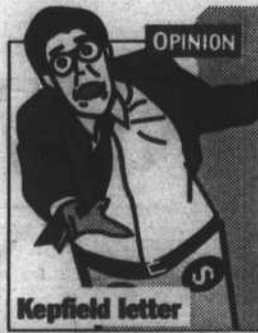


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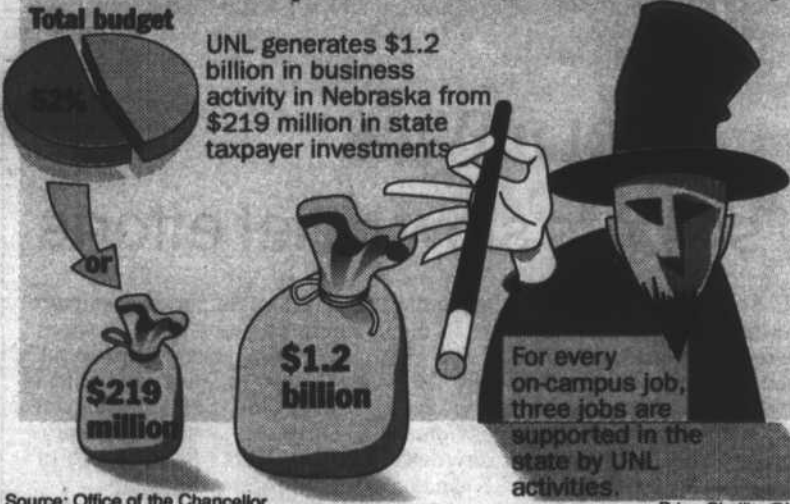


OPINION
MADMAN



UNL good for state's economy, study says

UNL's impact on Nebraska's economy



Source: Office of the Chancellor

Brian Shellito/DN

Over \$1.2 billion generated yearly through university

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

Investment in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a wise decision, according to an economic study. Charles Lamphear, director of UNL's Bureau of Business Research, said the resources that taxpayers, students, parents and benefactors had invested in UNL were returned time and time again. "They see benefits not only in economic growth but also in a better quality of life," Lamphear said.

Lamphear said he was approached by the Office of Public Relations to analyze survey information, which was gathered from university students, faculty and staff. UNL's Office of Business and Finance provided the detailed accounting data.

Chancellor Graham Spanier said his office commissioned the study last fall because "it is very useful to know what the university means to the state in terms of economic development. "We're doing a lot of long-range programming, which will affect the state and its citizens," Spanier said. "We want to be sensitive to how any changes would affect the state."

Spanier said the report would be beneficial to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, which proposed a 5 percent budget cut for the University of Nebraska earlier this month. "The proposed budget cuts did not motivate this study, but as it turns out, (the report) is very relevant," he said. "The university is the largest employer in Nebraska following state government," Spanier said. More than \$200 million of the university's appropriations goes toward salary and wages. According to the preliminary report, UNL employs about 5,100 Nebraskans, including 800 people outside the Lincoln area. "Budget cuts would have a ripple effect on the economy," he said. "We would have to lay off a lot of employ-

See STUDY on 2

East Campus remark draws campaign fire

Candidate accuses PARTY of neglecting some students

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

With only 12 campaigning days left until the election, the presidential candidates of two ASUN parties are wasting no time jabbing their opponents.

During a press conference Thursday, VOICE presidential candidate Keith Benes accused PARTY presidential candidate Steve Dietz of downplaying the importance of East Campus and the students there.

Benes said that during Wednesday's East Union debate between the parties' candidates for Association of Students of the University of Nebraska executive positions, Dietz described East Campus students as a "special-interest group."

"A special-interest group is a narrow-focused, limited-interest political entity," said Benes, a junior speech communications major. "Examples of special-interest groups are Young Democrats, College Republicans and ECOLOGY NOW."

"The issues of students in this campaign are the same no matter what demographic group you come from. East Campus is not a special-interest group," he said.

Dietz, a senior art major, said he did not recall labeling East Campus in a negative way.

"I don't know where he got that interpretation from," Dietz said of Benes' allegation. "The only thing I might have said was that I thought (VOICE candidates) were trying to work East Campus to get a good voting block."

"Other than that, I don't remember calling East Campus a special-interest group and I don't view it that way."

Dietz said he viewed all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students as equally important. "I'm just working on trying to get a government put together for all the students," he said. "I don't think East Campus is the main issue of

See VOICE on 2



Jeff Haller/DN

Camping out?

Jack Shively, a cable splicer for Lincoln Telephone, talks to a fellow employee who was working on telephone lines in a manhole Thursday near the Administration Building. Shively said the tent was to keep snow out and heat in.

Viaduct construction to close gravel commuter lot

By Corey Russman
Staff Reporter

As construction of the new 10th Street viaduct continues, access to a gravel commuter parking lot will be hampered, an official said Wednesday.

Michael Cacak, transportation services manager, said the intersection at 9th and V streets would be closed as soon as Monday, causing the entrance to the Area 20 lot to be closed.

Cacak said this latest parking impediment was small in comparison to the university parking already affected by the construction.

He said workers plan to construct a new driveway to allow access to the lot.

Eventually, the small lot may be lost completely, he said, although he didn't anticipate it would happen when the March 1 construction phase began.

The closing of the intersection at 9th and V streets is part of the continuing construction process that will lead to the destruction of the old 10th Street viaduct and the construction of

a new viaduct connecting 9th and 10th streets.

Developers will be tearing down the former Early Learning Center building to clear the way for the construction, he said.

Toward the end of March, Cacak said, construction of the new road connecting 14th and 10th streets will begin.

Developers plan to start at the east end, near 14th Street, and proceed west toward 10th Street.

Cacak said he was not sure which university parking lots would be affected by the construction of the new road.

University ready for tourney crowds, officials say

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

High school state tournament season is here.

Masses of students, parents and die-hard fans from schools across Nebraska are planning trips to Lincoln to cheer their teams to a state championship.

With the crowds of people expected to flock to the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln campus, the weekends could become hectic.

But campus officials say they know what problems to expect and are well-prepared to handle the rowdy crowds, thousands of cars and overnight guests.

Larry Kalkowski, corporal in crime prevention for the UNL police, said more disturbances were reported dur-

ing tournament time, but most were minor.

At the state wrestling tournament last weekend, police broke up many fights, but they were not serious enough to record, he said.

The state swimming competition, which takes place this weekend, usually doesn't draw large crowds and

shouldn't cause problems, he said.

The crowds for the girls' state basketball tournament, March 4-6, usually aren't too rowdy, either, he said.

But during the boys' state basketball tournament, March 11-13, the crowds of about 13,000 per game can get out of hand, Kalkowski said.

Fights usually start when students

from rival schools are looking to get revenge because of a bad game, Kalkowski said.

To prevent major problems, he said, the UNL police work overtime — some up to 12 or 13 hours a day.

Seventeen officers will be patrolling areas inside and outside the Bob Devaney Sports Center and around the UNL campus.

See TOURNAMENTS on 2