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DIGEST

SPORTS

FRIDAY



President Bill Clinton

Men's basketball travels to Kansas City



23/8
Partly cloudy today with occasional flurries. Clear and cold tonight. This weekend, mostly sunny Saturday, cold and dry Sunday.



Jeff Haller/DN

Kathy Phillips, a UNL police officer, patrols near the edge of campus. University police jurisdiction ends at the campus boundary, although city police can call them for assistance.

UNMC chosen as testing site for new HIV treatment drug

Combination of AZT, ddI stops reproduction of virus

By Mark Harms
Staff Reporter

The National Institutes of Health has selected the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a test site for a new combination drug that could stop the HIV virus from reproducing in the cells of people infected with the virus.

Working with an organization of doctors and researchers called the AIDS Clinical Trial Group, NIH selected the University of Minnesota Medical Center to administer the testing of the drug. UNMC is a subunit of the the Minnesota facility.

Dr. Susan Swindells, chief of UNMC's AIDS clinic, said she had received many phone calls from people all over Nebraska and surrounding states who were interested in volunteering for the test of the new drug combination.

Swindells said she had a list of 65 prospective patients for the study, which could begin as early as this summer.

"I'm always pleased that people with HIV who live in Nebraska can get access to experimental treatments," she said.

Oftentimes, she said, people in the Midwest are left out of the testing of new drugs because much of the research is done at major facilities on the East and West coasts.

She said the publicity the new combination drug had received helped attract people to the study.

Yung-Kang Chow, a Harvard medical student, came up with the idea for the new drug which combines AZT and ddI — drugs currently used to combat AIDS — with a third drug called pyridinone.

In laboratory tests, the drug combination has stopped the AIDS virus from reproducing.

"It looks very good in the test tube," Swindells said.

The drug combination currently is going through safety testing, she said. When that is done, it will be ready for human testing.

"I think the combination could be very useful." But, she said, "There's more exciting drugs coming down the pipeline."

Swindells said drug companies were working on combinations that could be much more potent than Chow's combination.

Hoffman-LaRoche, a drug company based in Minnesota, is working on a drug that interferes with the way HIV viruses reproduce in the cell. When the drug is acting on a virus, Swindells said, the virus produces harmless offspring.

She said combining this drug with AZT and ddI, drugs that tend to block HIV virus reproduction, could be "very effective."

Misleading numbers

Lincoln's 'worst' areas not so bad, residents, police say

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

On this day, as on most, the hood was quiet.

Some shouting was going on between houses; there was a bulldozer buzzing, but mostly, it was quiet.



The area that is known for its big-city atmosphere and its high crime rate had perhaps been given an unjust reputation.

Capt. Jim Peschong of the

Lincoln Police Department said he thought the reputation was undeserved.

"The point is that I don't know that you can wind up saying that this is a bad area of town," he said. "I don't think that we have those in this town."

And several University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who live in the area agree.

J.J. Hubbard, a senior criminal justice major, said he felt safe in his neighborhood around 23rd and T streets.

Hubbard said he often went jogging in the area without feeling nervous or feeling the need to check over his shoulder every block.

"The only thing I've ever felt threatened by was a dog," he said.

Hubbard said he sometimes saw what appeared to be drug busts. But he stays clear of those situations and they never have affected him, he said.

Marcus Anderson, a senior speech communication major, said he didn't think the area was unsafe at all.

"I've heard it's supposed to be kind of bad, but it's not," he said. "I feel safe because nothing has ever happened to me."

Hubbard and Anderson agreed that the area was populated mainly with college students who tended to mind their own business.

The same holds true for one of Lincoln's other hoods with something of a tough reputation — the area around the state Capitol.

Doug Sebastian, a senior architecture major, said he felt completely comfortable in his neighborhood.

Although he has called police two times for strange activity in the area, he has never been scared.

"As far as myself, I've never been worried," he said. "In any area, you're going to have to take some sort of precautions."

Nichole Lee, a junior mathematics and education major who lives in the area, said she often heard stories about how bad the neighborhood was, but that she rarely saw anything.

"They say it's bad, but it's pretty calm," she said.

A recent article in the Lincoln Journal-Star identified the areas as among the highest in both violent and property crime rates.

The lowest crime rates were reported in southeast Lincoln.

The Malone area had a total of 67 violent crimes and 362 property crimes in 1991. The violent crimes included three

See CRIME on 3

Minority classification laws need updating, officials say

By Juliet Oseka
Staff Reporter

For Yen Nguyen, being a member of the Minority Summer Research Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center was not easy.

Nguyen, a Vietnamese student majoring in nursing at UNL, is not considered a minority student because she is Asian American.

Nguyen, who has lived in the United States since 1980, said she applied last summer for the eight-week research program open to any college junior interested in the medical field.

Nguyen said that when she was placed on the waiting list, she understood that she would only get a spot if

the 25 openings were not filled by minorities with protected class status, she said.

"It was so frustrating," she said, "knowing that Native Americans, African Americans and Hispanics would be accepted before I was, because they were not Asian."

Nguyen received a spot in the program, but Ronald Ross, associate director of affirmative action and diversity programs, said Asian-American students recently had "become more enlightened" to these kinds of problems.

Asian-American citizens do not have protected class status because they were not denied economic opportunities in the past, Ross said.

The federal government decides which minority classes are protected,

he said, and have decided to handle the Asian-American issue case-by-case.

But Yenbo Wu, program coordinator for UNL's International Affairs, said he thought the federal government was not looking at all Asians.

For example, in the 1960s and early 1970s when the government decided which classes would be protected, the Japanese and Chinese were succeeding financially in the United States, Wu said.

But now, different social and economic conditions exist, he said. These new conditions have contributed to less success for Asian Americans.

"The whole picture is different," Wu said, "but the laws are not."

Helen Long Soldier, Native American and Asian counselor in the Multi-

“The whole picture is different, but the laws are not.”

—Wu
program coordinator for UNL International Affairs

Cultural Affairs office, said the laws needed to distinguish between Asian-American and Southeast-Asian-American students.

The Southeast-Asian-American students, such as Laotians, Vietnamese and Cambodians, are the ones in need of support, Long Soldier said, yet they cannot receive this support because they are not considered an "underrepresented minority."

"It's hard to believe they're not a minority, especially in the Midwest,

but that's what the government says," she said.

Nguyen said she agreed that there needed to be a distinction between Asians.

"Specific Asians are very poor," Nguyen said. "Sure, China and Japan are rich countries, but the others are not as prosperous."

Nguyen said although the process she went through to reach the program was difficult, she would recommend it to anyone.