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Boris Yeltsin



OPINION
GUN CONTROL?



WEDNESDAY
28/20
Cloudy today with a 30% chance of snow. Warmer tomorrow, high near 40.

Mayor urges calm despite city water jam

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Water could become scarce in Lincoln, but Mayor Mike Johanns said the water level was still normal, and he urged residents not to stockpile supplies.

"The water supply in place is the same water supply we've always had," Johanns said at a Tuesday press conference. "(There's) absolutely no health hazard whatsoever."

Two water pipes near Ashland that

supply the majority of Lincoln's water were partially destroyed late Sunday by massive floods that rerouted the Platte River.

The city's main source of water, a 36-inch pipe, remains intact, but it is in possible danger of collapse.

Lincoln officials are trying now to divert the flood water by opening up Thomas Lake in Saunders County, which would send the waters back to the Platte River. This process is being hampered by an ice jam over 1.5 miles long.

Diverting the water supply back to the Platte River hopefully will get water to flow underneath the ice jam, Johanns said, but it will be only a temporary solution.

"We cannot do that and pack up our bags and leave," he said.

By Friday, the diversion process should be completed at a cost of more than \$2.5 million, Johanns said.

Sarpy County officials attempted to solve the problem by blasting through the ice jam with dynamite Tuesday afternoon. A sheriff's offi-

cial said late Tuesday the ice jam would be blasted again today.

Lincoln officials said they were skeptical of the blasting's chances of success and would rather wait and see if the diversion process worked before trying to blow up the ice jam.

"It seems like a lot of material to blow away somewhere," Johanns said.

Jerry Obrist, Lincoln water system chief engineer, agreed.

"What we are trying to do really operates independently of what they are trying to dynamite with the ice

jam," he said. "(But) anything that moves the ice jam solves the problem."

In addition to diverting the water around Thomas Lake, city officials also are trying to restore the 48-inch water main. Engineers expect the process, which can't be started until the flood waters go down, to take a minimum of two weeks.

Johanns issued an emergency declaration as a preventative measure in

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International students balance both worlds

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

"It's hard to try and walk both worlds," said Melani Delilkan, an international student at UNL.

Like many foreign students, Delilkan said she often was torn between trying to blend in with the mainstream of American students on campus or sticking to her own culture.

Delilkan, a senior advertising and broadcasting major, came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall of 1990 from a college in Malaysia affiliated with UNL.

She said she was luckier than many foreign students, because there are nearly 400 other Malaysian students at UNL, making it the largest international group on campus.

But Delilkan said the large number of people from her native country had both positive and negative aspects.

When foreign students first leave home, they miss family and friends and want to find people they can relate to. That's the biggest reason international students tend to stick together, Delilkan said.

"But that starts a vicious cycle," Delilkan said. "American students sometimes stick together and don't get to know us, but when we in turn stick together and stop making an effort to know them, the cycle goes round and round."

However, the more Americanized international students' native countries are, the less problem they seem to have with this cycle of separation.

For Melanie Dodd, a freshman fine arts major from Sydney, Australia, coming to school at UNL was "no problem at all."

Dodd said her country was "becoming so Americanized that it wasn't hard for me at first or now. The biggest difference is just that there are so many more opportunities here."

One thing, Dodd said, which made the transition easier, was that she came to UNL on a swimming scholarship. She said many international students,

including a few fellow Australians, were also on the swim team.

Judy Wendorff, an international student adviser, said having a pre-built social group made the transition easier. Graduate students have a social group with professors and students in their own field, she said, but undergraduates are more on their own.

The social lives of American undergraduates, especially regarding alcohol use, are very different from what many international students are used to.

Delilkan said the problem of trying to fit in would not seem so large if American students would take more of an interest in what makes international students different.

“The biggest difference is just that there are so many more opportunities here.”

--Dodd

freshman fine arts major

Delilkan said misconceptions and lack of interest in foreign students' cultures were the two biggest reasons that international and American students have a hard time relating to each other.

If initial efforts to get to know American students fail, many international students try to become more like American students.

Delilkan said that many international students think those who switched over did the right thing and imitate them, but others don't react that way.

"It offends me," Delilkan said. "I feel like they are trying to get as far away from being like me as possible, and that's insulting."

"There is good and bad in both cultures and they should try to pick the best of both."



Travis Heying/DN

Winter Wheat

Benjamin Moreno-Sevilla, a graduate student in agronomy and a greenhouse technologist, waters wheat samples in an East Campus greenhouse Tuesday afternoon.

Vacation getaways still possible

Trips planned late are more costly, travel agents say

By Lori Witte
Staff Reporter

It is not too late to plan a trip over spring break.

Transportation space is limited, and travel may cost more, but escape to the beaches and slopes still is possible.

South Padre Island is the place to be for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students this year, several Lincoln travel agents said.

"The most popular spot among students this year has been South Padre Island. It's a lot cheaper because

you can cram so many people into the condos down there," said Cheri Crist of Good Life Tour & Travel.

Transportation to the island is available. The cheapest airfares are out of Kansas City, Mo., and no advance reservation is required. Tickets currently are two for the price of one at \$298.

Some flights may be booked, but if a departure time of 2 a.m. is not a problem, the possibility still exists, she said.

Flights from Omaha to Harlingen, Texas, about 11 miles from South Padre Island, would cost about \$800 per person without a seven-day advance reservation.

The cheapest form of travel is bus. Greyhound is having a special on tickets for \$99 each way if the destination is farther away than 500 miles.

Lodging in the Padre area is scarce. Sunchase Tours Inc. has beachfront lodging available. There are four-person units open for the dates of March 20 to March 25 at \$159 per person. Groups smaller than four people may still be able to be set up with roommates through Sunchase.

Off-the-beach lodging should cost about \$150, said Laurie Clark, Four Seasons travel agent.

Clark said beachfront lodging still might be possible at Pompano Beach, 15 miles from Padre.

Many UNL students who prefer hitting the slopes to hitting the beach are headed for Colorado.

Sunchase Tours Inc., has packages available for Steamboat Ski Resort for the weekend of March 26-28.

See BREAK on 3

The price of Spring Break

Travel expenses for some spring break destinations

COLORADO

Train: \$156 to Winter Park
Plane: \$640 Lincoln to Denver
Bus: \$116.50 to Denver

FORT LAUDERDALE

Plane: \$420 from Omaha
Bus: \$198

SOUTH PADRE

Plane: \$298/ 2 people
Bus: \$198/ ticket

Bus tickets are Greyhound, Train is Amtrak.

Brian Shellito/DN