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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Selling the Plan

DIGEST



President Bill Clinton

SPORTS

Husker men seek first tourney win



FRIDAY



45/28

Today, partly sunny and warmer. Tonight, clear with lows in the mid-20s. Weekend outlook, partly sunny with highs in the mid-40s.

All welcome at mini-conference about diversity

By Matt Woody
Staff Reporter

Those looking for an opportunity to learn about racial and ethnic diversity need look no further than the UNL First Annual Diversity Mini-Conference.

Everyone is welcome at the conference, said John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs.

The conference will take place April 3 in the Nebraska Union from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is being co-sponsored by the Racial Pluralism Action Team and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

UNL student Charles McClendon said the conference was essentially a sequel to the diversity retreat that was held last fall. McClendon attended the retreat and is already registered for the mini-conference.

"We want to pick up where we left off," he said.

But organizers hope the mini-conference will be more accessible to students. Because the mini-conference is located on campus, more people will be able to take advantage of this opportunity, Harris said.

The conference will deal mostly with racial and ethnic issues, he said, including media, social and multicultural education aspects.

These topics are similar to those dealt with at the retreat last fall, McClendon said.

The 80 to 100 people who attended the retreat last fall identified racial barriers and race problems on campus and discussed possible solutions, he said.

One suggestion from the last retreat was to require diversity classes at UNL, McClendon said. University Foundations touches on diversity but doesn't really delve into it much, he said.

The mini-conference will include four discussion sessions and a video festival, Harris said. Some of the video titles are "Diversity in the Classroom" and "Racism 101."

Harris said one of the highlights of the conference would be a "Dear Abby"-type segment. Participants can write questions on a form, without signing it, and other participants will answer them.

As of Wednesday, Harris said about 130 people had signed up for the free conference. He expected about 150 to 200 participants by the sign-up deadline today.

Walk-in registration also will be allowed, Harris said. The deadline was set to help prepare adequate space and materials.

"Anybody will be able to come," he said.



Jeff Haller/DN

By the letter

Tom Anderson, a crew leader for Lincoln Electric System, works on rerouting electric lines near Memorial Stadium Thursday.

Completed dike eases threat on city's water

Rechanneling flood waters is only temporary solution, caution needed, mayor says

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns gave a cautious but optimistic all-clear signal Thursday to the city's potential water problem after a dike was made in the Thomas Lakes near Ashland.

The dike, completed Wednesday at 10 p.m., rechanneled about 90 percent of the flood waters back into the Platte River. This eased the stress placed on the 36-inch water pipe that was the last link to Lincoln's water supply.

The pipe is now virtually out of danger, Johanns said, if the weather cooperates.

"If we get a rainfall, this could change overnight," he said at a press conference.

Crews worked at the site until 4 a.m. Thursday building a temporary road by Thomas Lakes, which helped force the water back into its original channel in the Platte River.

Johanns praised everyone involved for their hard work.

"There was a tremendous amount of work accomplished in a very short period of time, but it's very temporary," he said. "This is not a situation where we can declare victory and move on to a new issue."

The 36-inch main located near the National Guard camp by Ashland could be seen above the water during an aerial inspection Thursday afternoon, Johanns said, which made the situation severe until the dike was finished.

"That's about as close as this mayor wants to get to catastrophe while working in this office," he said.

Work will continue on the Lincoln Water Treatment Plant by Ashland, Johanns said. A new valve will be installed within two days to make sure the pipe is working properly.

Repair work on the damaged 48-inch water pipe will begin immediately, Johanns said. The city has supplies on hand, which will cut the cost of the project.

The damage estimate is now about \$4 million, Johanns said after his Wednesday inspection. That figure is about \$1 million higher than Johanns' Tuesday estimate.

National disaster officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were expected to be in Lincoln Thursday night and all day Friday to inspect the damage. FEMA officials also will determine if Lincoln is eligible for federal financial aid.

Sarpy County officials continued to blast the

See WATER on 3

NU regents to vote on presidential proposal

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents will vote on a proposal Saturday that would allow NU President Martin Massengale to stay in office until the day a new president could begin work.

The main purpose of this proposal is to make the presidential transition easier by avoiding the hassle of hiring an interim chancellor, said James B. Milliken, executive assistant to the president and corporation secretary.

Massengale announced earlier this semester that he would not seek extension of his contract, which ends Dec. 31, 1993.

Also under the proposal:

● Massengale would receive his current salary until at least July 1, 1994, or until the new president takes office.

● After July 1, Massengale would receive transition development leave, which would provide

him with a salary while preparing for his new job.

● Once the new president takes over, Massengale would be named president emeritus and would be appointed as continuous professor of agronomy.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln said he thought the regents would pass the proposal.

"I think the board has pretty much agreed to try and not have an interim president for just a few months," Wilson said.

Milliken said the regents also would

discuss the timetable for the presidential search.

In 1990, Milliken said the presidential search began in March or April and was completed in November.

Wilson, chairman of the regents' governance committee, said the first step in the search was to write a formal job description.

"This time we are expanding this routine activity by allowing an open meeting," he said.

The governance committee will hold the meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Varner Hall, Wilson said.

Input from chancellors, faculty and expert consultants will be considered at this meeting, he said.

After this "input meeting," Wilson said the governance committee would formulate a job description, which will be presented to the whole board at its April meeting.

Also at the April meeting, the board will select a presidential search committee, which complies with the by-laws.

Wilson said the search committee

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Chicago Housing Authority chairman speaks at Sheldon

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

Vince Lane, the housing authority chairman who whipped a troubled inner-city Chicago housing project into shape, whipped a Sheldon Gallery Auditorium audience into a standing ovation following his speech Thursday.

About 60 University of Nebraska-

Lincoln students, instructors and administrators followed Lane as he reminisced on his five-year reign as chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority and discussed his future plans for public housing in the city.

His lecture was part of the Hyde Lecture Series and was partially sponsored by the Student Planning Association of Nebraska.

Lane was appointed chairman of CHA in 1988 after a distinguished career developing housing opportunities in the private sector for people with low and moderate incomes.

After becoming chairman, Lane quickly implemented changes to improve not only CHA's buildings and living units but also the quality of life for the more than 150,000 CHA resi-

dents.

When he inherited the worst city public housing authority in the United States, the U.S. government's Department of Housing and Urban Development was on the verge of coming into the city to take CHA away unless change came quickly, Lane said.

"The thought of HUD coming in

and running city housing was unthinkable," he said.

Lane said that when he looked at the high-rise public housing complexes, he found they were in dire need of renovation.

"The problem was, we found out that we owned these buildings but

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