

# Daily Nebraskan

February 17, 1994

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 93 No. 106



## SPORTS

### Taming the Tigers

The Nebraska women's basketball team battled back from a five-point deficit with less than four minutes to go to beat Missouri 77-72.

Page 7



Thursday

57/26

Today, sunny and mild becoming cloudy at night.



Jay Calderon/DN

Stacey MacTaggart, a sophomore secondary education major, studies by the pillars near the Ed Weir Track Wednesday morning. Today's high temperature is expected to reach the mid-60s.

## Spring fever arrives in Lincoln

### Warm weather expected to stay for rest of week

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

This week's warm weather has been somewhat of an academic boost for UNL freshman accounting major Maggie Beck.

"For the first three weeks of this year, I hardly went to class," she said. "This week's been perfect."

Sitting on the edge of Broyhill Fountain, dressed in shorts and a light jacket, Beck was enjoying the afternoon sun.

"I'm a lot happier," she said. "The cold weather just depressed me. I got in a slump and stayed home a lot."

The warm weather is expected to continue for the rest of the week. Today's high temperature is expected to reach the mid-60s. Fri-

day's forecast is a slight chance of rain but with highs remaining in the mid-50s to lower 60s.

Pam Duin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Lincoln, said last week's cold temperatures were caused by a dip in the jet stream that allowed arctic air to hover over the Midwest.

"It took a long time to push that out east," she said. Duin said a high pressure system eventually moved in, bringing generally clear skies and warmer temperatures.

She said these types of changes were not unusual for this time of year. However, she said, it seems unusual because the below-normal temperatures last week contrast with the above-normal temperatures this week.

"The warm weather is going to stay for most of the week," she said. "On Saturday, it will cool off a little, but it won't be frigid."

Although Duin said Nebraska was known for its fluctuating temperatures, she didn't see anything to indicate a recurrence of arctic air

— 66 —  
**Everybody is in a better mood. It will probably snow tomorrow, though.**

— Yost  
UNL junior home economics and education major

in the near future.

She said the 30-day outlook showed near-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation.

"The normal high temperature for February is 38 degrees," she said. "By mid-March it will be 50 degrees. We're heading into spring and it comes slowly."

Although the warm weather seems to make people feel better, Beck said, it also brings along a

See **SPRING FEVER** on 6

## UNL picks up tab for UNO addition

### Expanding campus engineering center temporary answer

By Angie Brunkow  
Senior Reporter

Necessity, not responsibility, led UNL to fund a \$345,000 addition to UNO's engineering building, officials said.

The project, approved by the NU Board of Regents last fall on emergency status, will expand the University of Nebraska at Omaha's engineering building by 3,800 square feet.



### ENGINEERING DEBATE

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham

Spanier's office provided \$140,000 for the project. Private donors, including the University of Nebraska Foundation, generated another \$145,000.

Stan Liberty, dean of the UNL College of Engineering and Technology, said UNL decided to provide an additional \$60,000 for an overhead crane and other equipment.

The addition, which will provide research laboratories for the Center for Infrastructure Research, is scheduled for completion in April.

Morris Schneider, a retired associate dean of the UNL engineering col-

lege who was in charge of the project, said the regents approved construction of the building, responding to the "desperate need" for more research space.

The center was established at UNO four years ago with special state funds designated for research. The Lincoln campus administers the Nebraska engineering college, while UNO plays host to some faculty, students and programs.

UNO Chancellor Del Weber said Wednesday UNO didn't have the funds for the project.

Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor at UNL, said that according to regent policy, UNO was responsible for providing the physical space for the engineering program.

Liberty said UNL decided to fund the building project because it couldn't wait.

Research was being bottlenecked at the center, he said, slowing down grant activity and applied research.

"It was an emergency," he said.

Demand for structural research of construction items such as bridges, roads and buildings has been growing in the last four to five years, Liberty said. The number of research projects at the center has jumped dramatically.

"It's really a hot area in the country right now," Liberty said.

Liberty said the lack of space in the UNO building caused logistic and safety problems.

Laboratories had to be rearranged for research and then undergraduate

See **ENGINEERING** on 6

## Speaker says basin needs to be preserved

By Todd Neeley  
Staff Reporter

Nebraskans have a responsibility to maintain the Platte River Basin as one of the most diverse natural areas in the state and in the country, a Platte River ecologist said Wednesday in the East Nebraska Union.

Gary Lingle, a member of the Platte River Ecology Team, said some 300 different species of birds migrating from all parts of the United States and converging on the Platte River made for a diverse wildlife area.

"We have just begun to discover the diversity of the area," he said to a group of about 40 attending the second in a series of six 1994 Environmental Studies Seminars at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Platte River is one of few places in the country where migration can be witnessed, Lingle said, and the sandhill crane is one of the numerous inhabitants of that region.

About 130 bird species nest in the region, he said.

Lingle said each April about 130 of the endangered whooping cranes passed through the Platte River area.

### Students to dine with senators

From Staff Reports

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will have an opportunity to share their opinions with state senators during lunch today.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's Government Liaison Committee is sponsoring Senators on Campus, a complimentary luncheon designed for students to voice their concerns to state senators.

In the 1930s, most of the Platte River was a sandy area where many species of birds nested. Now, about 70 percent of the basin is covered with trees and other vegetation.

He said much of the forestation was created by increased irrigation of the land by farmers.

In an attempt to improve the environment for the whooping and sandhill cranes and other species migrating to the Platte River area, the Platte River Whooping Crane Habitat Trust was formed in 1978.

The trust has about \$7.5 million at its disposal for such things as buying land, clearing trees and bringing sand from the river to expand nesting areas and improve habitats.

Also, the money is used to educate people about the importance of the region.

"We lose our connectedness to nature," he said, "and it's unfortunate because we're all a part of the system."

Lingle said the trust fund provided a good opportunity to preserve the habitat.

"We have a rich heritage and a chance to leave something for future generations," he said.

The free luncheon will be from noon to 1 p.m. at the Wick Alumni Center.

Scheduled to attend are: Sens. Michael Avery of Gretna, Chris Beutler of Lincoln, Dennis Byars of Beatrice, Jim Cudaback of Riverdale, Leo Engel of South Sioux City, Dan Fisher of Grand Island, Jim Jones of Eddyville, Dan Lynch of Omaha, Gerald Matzke of Sidney, Scott Moore of Seward and Don Wesely of Lincoln.