

# \$15 million given for transplant center

**From Staff Reports**

UNMC has received a \$15 million gift, the largest donation ever given to the University of Nebraska. The Lied Foundation Trust donated the money to the NU Foundation, the University of Nebraska Medical Center announced Thursday. The money will go toward construction of a national transplant center in Omaha.

Construction is expected to begin in April 1996 on the proposed 13-level center. The \$42 million center will include a patient care center for treatment after transplants, 44 rooms for patients to participate in a planned cooperative care program, 44 guest rooms, and office and research space for transplant activities.

The remainder of the project will be funded by public and private funds.

The U.S. Senate appropriated \$5 million in August for the project.

The 208,000-square-foot structure would replace the 30,000-square-foot Conkling Hall, a building that houses UNMC student services and education staff offices. Demolition of Conkling Hall and site preparation is set for November 1995.

The project should be completed in January 1998.

# South Lincoln hit by thefts

**From Staff Reports**

South Lincoln has been hit by a string of burglaries in the last two weeks, police reported Thursday.

Police reports show four burglaries on Wednesday night, totaling about \$2,300.

Lincoln Police Capt. David Beggs would not comment on the burglaries except to say they occurred at four South Lincoln

homes. Sgt. Ann Heermann said police teams in southwest and southeast Lincoln had seen a noticeable increase of burglaries. Most reports were between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., she said.

Electronics, jewelry and guns were the items taken most often, Heermann said.

Beggs said more details should be available today.

## Poet

Continued from Page 1

When Anfuso was 3 years old, the Bureau of Indian Affairs took her from her Mohawk family — a common occurrence in American Indian families — and placed her with a white Italian-Irish family in New York, she said.

Anfuso said she was in an alien community with a different language and a foreign culture.

"I knew I wasn't home anymore. I was living with someone new, and I had to call them Mommy and Daddy now."

She was the only nonwhite student in a school of children who hated her because of her appearance and accent. Bloody noses and bruises scarred her, she said, but they never broke her spirit. Her words kept her alive.

"I would sit there in my back yard all alone reading my poems," she said. "I was in bliss sitting there reading aloud."

She said her poetry dealt with issues of identity, bitterness toward the government and media stereotypes.

But as a young girl, she said, she never knew other people would read her thoughts.

"I wish time travel really existed and that someone could go back ... to when I was a child writing my words down in secret behind the school and say to me, 'Keep doing this. This is a good thing to do and take courage, because it will only get better,'" she said.

"I'd gotten beaten up by other kids, because I didn't meet their bill of being acceptable," she said. "I wish someone would have told me that one day these kids would write me fan mail."

Anfuso said the Bureau of Indian Affairs stole hundreds of other American Indian children from their families to supposedly "give them a better chance at life and a good home in white American culture."

"The story of Native American people is the story of all exploited people on this planet. It's the story about humanity," she said. "No matter who we are or what side of the political structure we're on, we were all victims."

Anfuso said she discovered her words had strength to relay her strong feelings.

"I knew that lovers' promises could make you dream of a whole different future, and I knew that hateful words — words that cut and pierce your heart — could kill you," she said. "I never knew I had the power to wield these words."

Words also have been Anfuso's business weapon. She said she had mastered the language of corporate America.

Presenting her work to the public was her greatest joy, she said.

"The fact that I made my third million this year is incidental."

Anfuso uses her fortune in much the same way she uses words.

She wants to use her strength to help others overcome their own obstacles, she said.

"I had everything going against me — being a woman in a male-dominated society, being a minority in a white society, being disabled in a society that idolizes health and physical ability," she said. "I had so much going against me, but I made each of those things into a tool to make me able, to make me strong."

Anfuso said strength was inside everybody, waiting to be found.

"Dare to dream the impossible, because you can make it come true," she said. "I was bedridden. I couldn't walk. I couldn't turn over in bed. I had no job. I had no money."

"I had dreams."

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