

# Daily Nebraskan

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NOVEMBER 15, 1994

## Florida, Haiti hit by storm

By Chris Torchia  
The Associated Press

Tropical Storm Gordon stirred up turbulent seas and pelted Florida with horizontal rain driven by 50 mph winds early today after at least 100 people were killed Monday by the storm in Haiti and Jamaica.

The heavy rains and floods swept across Haiti Monday triggering landslides and washing away makeshift homes in the slums of Port-au-Prince.

Terrified people fled their homes in the morning darkness as floodwaters poured in. Some spent the night huddled on their rooftops in the downpour.

"I didn't save anything, only myself," said Lekeas Dorvilier, 35, who jumped out the window of his two-room home minutes before it crumbled into a ravine.

Bodies lay in the sun in some neighborhoods. Many of the victims lived in flimsy tin shacks on hill-sides. Rescue workers said they expected the death toll to climb.

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide flew over his battered nation in a U.S. military helicopter to survey damage from the 1994 Atlantic hurricane season's deadliest storm.

"Obviously we will do what we can to help the Haitian government," said Col. Barry Willey, a U.S. military spokesman.

Thousands of U.S. soldiers arrived in the Caribbean nation in September to help restore Aristide's elected government. Aristide, who was ousted in a 1991 coup, returned Oct. 15.

The main highway from Port-au-Prince to Jacmel was cut and trucks from the charity CARE, which feeds about 300,000 people, couldn't cross shaky bridges to reach the group's warehouse in Gonaives, north of the capital, officials said.

U.S. Army meteorologists said more than nine inches of rain fell in Port-au-Prince during the 24-hour period ending Monday morning and 14 inches fell in Les Cayes on the southern peninsula.

Two deaths also were reported in Jamaica, where the storm caused widespread flooding and mudslides.

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Jeff Haller/DN

Glenn Simonsen ties his 2-year-old daughter, Caya's, shoe in the vestibule of the Nebraska Union. Last week, Simonsen brought a sign and a candle in honor of David Ball, a friend who died in the union earlier this month.

## Board faces homeless' use of Union

By Jeff Randall  
Staff Reporter

The death of a homeless man in Nebraska Union has raised campus awareness of homeless people's use of the building.

The Nebraska Union Board has formed a subcommittee to identify problems with homeless people using the union and to find solutions.

Subcommittee member Stephanie Nelson said the Nebraska Union Board had been considering dealing with the problems for awhile, but the Nov. 6 death of David Ball, a 47-year-old homeless man, pushed the issue to the forefront.

Nelson said the main goal of the board was to serve students, and the presence of some of the homeless people in the union may be interfering with that goal.

"The problems we have are with just a few of them," Nelson said. "For the most part, there aren't any problems, but there are a few who have bad tempers and make the students nervous."

Helping homeless people who currently frequent the union find other places to go for shelter was one way to solve the problem, Nelson said.

She said the best solution would make the union accessible to both students and the homeless, an option she hoped the subcommittee could achieve once its study is completed.

"Just as much as we would like to move them (homeless people), we would like to help them," Nelson said. "We don't want to extend cruelty at all."

Robb Goff, a junior secondary education major, said he had no problem with homeless people using the union.

"They have as much a right to be here as anyone," Goff said. "This is a state-funded building, and it's as much of a home to homeless people as it is to students."

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska Union, said vagrants may stay in the union during the day because it is open to the public. Police can ask them to leave only

when they panhandle, sleep, consume alcohol or disrupt others. Police are called when any of these situations occur, Swanson said.

"I believe our community has been very tolerant of these people," Swanson said. "The number of complaints has been very low."

Brian Parish, who is homeless, frequently visits the union because he likes to watch television and get something to drink. If he couldn't stay in the union, he said, he would probably hang out on the streets of downtown.

He said he usually arrived in the union around noon and spent the next four or five hours walking around or watching television. The students seem to accept him, he said.

"They don't care if I'm here," he said. "I think they understand me, what I'm doing, and don't worry about it too much."

Parish will generally stay in the union during bad weather until it closes at 11 p.m. He walks around downtown after he leaves the union, he said. He said he sleeps

anywhere he can.

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said homeless people rarely caused trouble at the union.

"Obviously, it's no crime to be homeless," Manning said. "If we receive a complaint, our first question to the caller is what specific problems are occurring."

"The union is a public building. If they aren't breaking any laws, we don't even get involved."

Swanson said he was worried homeless people may deter students from using the union.

"The most frequent complaint from students concerning the homeless is their personal hygiene, or lack of personal hygiene," he said.

"We've had reports that students won't use the 24-hour ATM machine in the south branch because of them," he said. "We're working with NBC Bank on that problem."

Swanson said more homeless people began loitering in the union

See **HOMELESS** on 3

## December vote probably won't end engineering debate

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

An apparent end to the engineering debate may be just another beginning.

A December vote by the NU Board of Regents was meant to bring the year-and-a-half-old debate over a separate engineering college to a close. The decision, however, may only spawn further debate, one regent said.

Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said that with two new regents joining the board in January, he would expect the losing side to make another push.

Losing side of Lincoln vs. Omaha likely to make another push

"I doubt if this would be the end of it," Allen said. "The fight will go on."

The fight began Aug. 10, 1993, at a meeting of private businesses in Omaha. From there, a coalition would develop, eventually totaling 80 Omaha businesses advocating a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

That month, disgruntled UNO faculty also met with UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier and Stan Liberty, dean of the college of engineering.

UNO had a college before joining the NU system in 1968. After the merger, some programs were combined with UNL's. Night classes at UNO were closed in 1980. The drafting and design program was eliminated in 1991.

In September 1993, regents began exploring options for meeting the needs of UNO engineering students. Among them was the possibility of a separate college.

On Sept. 10, Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha proposed a separate college to the board.

Regent Chairman Charles Wilson said it would have been inappropriate for the board to vote at that time without further information and going through the proper channels. The proposal bypassed all administrative and academic channels, he said.

Regents did postpone the vote, opting instead to hire independent consultants to review NU programs. They later approved four consultants Oct. 15.

"Because of the way it (the pro-

posal) was done, it really arrived in the public conscience as a bombshell," Wilson said. "It arrived highly polarized and it has been that way ever since."

At that time, J.B. Milliken, corporation secretary for the board, said the plan was to wrap things up by the end of the year. The projected cost of hiring the consultants was \$15,000 to \$20,000, which would be paid for by University Foundations.

Wilson said the report, which came back in March 1994 "offered an opinion, but it failed to providing any supporting information." He said that information was what regents were looking for.

After L. Dennis Smith took over as NU President in March, the university assembled a second, nine-

member task force. It was charged with developing a plan for engineering in the state, including a plan that would implement a separate college in Omaha.

The panel submitted its report to Smith on Friday.

Smith is expected to bring a recommendation to the board for its Dec. 9 and 10 meetings.

Allen said the confusion and delay created by the second task force allowed both sides to become more entrenched.

The question now is simply who will prevail, Allen said — Omaha or Lincoln.

While the debate continues, students will suffer, he said.

Walter Scott, who provides money for engineering scholarships

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**ENGINEERING  
DEBATE**