

# Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 69

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DECEMBER 2-4, 1994

## Report: \$33 million new college tab

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

A potential engineering college in Omaha now has a price tag to go with it.

And it's costly.

The engineering task force report, released Thursday, estimated the expense of creating a separate college in Omaha at \$33 million over three to five years.

The report includes cost estimates for short-term and long-term improvements to engineering programs throughout the state, and a possible

separate Omaha engineering college.

But for now, regents and University of Nebraska officials are waiting to hear NU President Dennis Smith's recommendation. Smith will bring his recommendation to the December meeting of the NU Board of Regents.

"I'm anxious to hear what President Smith has to say," Regent Don Blank said. "That will be the enabling action that we (regents) will vote on."

Joe Rowson, NU spokesman, said Smith had not finalized his recommendation as of Thursday, but that a statement would be released prior to

the Dec. 9 meeting.

The report states that "the future economic health of the state depends on its ability to attract, develop and retain businesses dependent on engineering and technology in their operations."

In meeting the state's needs, programs should be coordinated among university campuses and state and community colleges to avoid duplication and waste of scarce resources, the task force wrote.

"Reliance on tax dollars has proven to be insufficient," the report states, recommending that more em-

phasis be placed on developing partnerships with industry.

The state-aided budget of the College of Engineering and Technology was \$11.6 million in 1993. The Omaha campus received \$2.4 million of that money. In 1983, the Omaha campus received \$1.3 million of a total \$5.8 million budget.

Improvements in the near future could follow the 10 short-term goals identified in the report:

- expand master's degree programs, primarily in Omaha, estimated at \$375,000.
- expand continuing education

options for practicing engineers throughout Nebraska, estimated at an additional \$50,000.

- establish scholarship programs and marketing efforts to attract and retain minority and returning students, estimated at \$165,000.

- enhance and expand undergraduate programs, estimated at \$400,000.

- establish two-year, pre-engineering transfer programs at some two-year and four-year colleges, estimated at \$46,000.

See ENGINEERING on 6



Michelle Paulman/DN

University of Nebraska-Lincoln English professor Alpana Knippling, a native of India, said she tried to include multicultural issues in all her classes, not just her literature of India course. "There is more risk involved in going against the grain," she said.

## Professor internationalizes English

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Alpana Knippling wants to teach UNL students that there is more to the English department than English and American literature.

The professor of post-colonial literature at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln invented a literature of India class last spring and now teaches it every spring. The class fulfills the liberal education requirement for a non-Western or minority culture course. "That's what I was hired to do — inter-

nationalize the English curriculum," Knippling said. "And it is also my research interest."

### FACULTY profile



nationalize the English curriculum," Knippling said. "And it is also my research interest."

"But I did it mainly because I wanted to do it," she said. "Where better to do it than in Nebraska?"

Knippling grew up in India, where she also earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree of arts. She came to the United States in 1982 and earned her doctorate at the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh in 1990.

She taught in Delaware for three years as an assistant professor of multicultural literature and then came to UNL last year to teach post-colonial literature.

"Both multicultural and post-colonial point to the same types of texts to use in class," she said. "But 'po-co' allows more use of literature of India."

"The objective is to examine studies of cultures in the aftermath of colonialism."

Knippling compared the type of school-

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## Indictments handed down in Renteria case

From Staff Reports

UNL police officer Charlotte Veskrna returned to work Thursday, the same day it became known a grand jury will hand down four indictments in the mysterious death of a Lincoln Hispanic man.

Veskrna has been on administrative leave since the Sept. 30 struggle with Francisco Renteria. Renteria died the day after the confrontation.

Officials said Renteria suffered a seizure when he was placed in a police cruiser after being subdued by Veskrna and five Lincoln Police officers. Autopsy results have not been released.

Omaha television station WOWT reported Thursday night that a high-ranking Lincoln police official will be indicted for giving misinformation to investigators. Two police officers and a fire captain also will be indicted.

See INDICTMENTS on 3

## Community colleges affect NU system

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

The influence of community colleges is growing on the Nebraska education scene, but not everyone welcomes the change.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said UNL now had student-transfer agreements with every Nebraska community college.

The agreements make it easier for students to transfer credits from community colleges to UNL — something that should have been done decades ago, he said.

But Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Ne-

See COMMUNITY on 3

## Star City parade-goers can become clowns for a day

By DeDra Jansson  
Senior Reporter

This weekend's Star City Parade will feature people wearing red noses and crowns, waving flags and tooting whistles.

And that's just the audience.

The 10th annual Star City Parade will be the second in the nation with an interactive program that lets onlookers participate in the parade, said Barb Bangert, the parade's executive producer.

Bangert said 5,000 interactive parade kits

would be distributed free to parade spectators who were near the bleachers where the parade would be broadcast.

The parade is set to begin Saturday at 11 a.m. at 10th and O streets. It will end at 12:30 p.m. at 13th and M streets. KOLN News will broadcast the parade live.

The parade, featuring 72 displays, will follow the theme "I love a parade," Bangert said.

The kits each will contain six items, including red noses, whistles, flags, crowns and snowflakes, Bangert said. The kits also will

include directions on when and how to use the

contents, she said. Parade spectators can use the bags' contents when the appropriate display passes, Bangert said. For example, she said, those who attend can wave flags when the color guard passes.

Parade spectators can don the red noses when clowns pass, she said, and they can toot the whistles when the Burlington Northern display and Molley the Trolley go by.

"I think it will be really neat," Bangert said. "The TV audience probably will get the biggest thrill."

Bangert said she thought the interactive kits

would add to the visual scope of the parade. Children, especially, will enjoy the kits, she said, because they get so excited about the parade anyway.

Home Real Estate donated the bags, and the Association for Retarded Citizens stuffed them, Bangert said. Other local sponsors donated the contents.

The only other parade in the nation that uses an interactive program is the Indianapolis 500 Parade in Indianapolis, Bangert said.

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