



Travis Heying/DN

UNL Maintenance worker Bart Newton fishes a 50-gallon drum out of the lower level of the Walter Scott Engineering center.

Flood

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Avery Hall was caused when a worker left a valve open.

Chilled water pipes being drained and refilled were the indirect cause of both floods, McDermott said.

The pipes, which go to all City Campus buildings, were being drained to bring chilled water into the Beadle Center, which is located at 19th and Vine streets.

McDermott said when the pipes were refilled, a great deal of stress was put on them.

Because some of the buildings are old, McDermott said, the floods were not surprising.

"In the older buildings, anything could happen at any time," he said in the flooded basement of the Scott center. "This building is filled with items on deferred maintenance that need to be replaced."

The pipes on City Campus are now full, he said.

"We should have all the surprises out of it."

McDermott said he received a call at 9 a.m. Thursday informing him that the basement was flooded. Crews

were called in, and by 11:15 a.m., two inches of water had been pumped out of the building.

Crews had not yet found the coil or valve that failed, McDermott said.

Early estimates on the amount of water released were 110,000 to 175,000 gallons. Later measurements

"In the older buildings, anything could happen at any time."

RICH MCDERMOTT

Director of facilities management

found the 135-by-80-foot room to be flooded with 30-inch-deep water.

McDermott said he expected the Scott center to be closed until Monday, but if pumping went well, it could open sooner.

The journalism and geography wings of Avery Hall were open Thursday morning, because asbestos tests in that area came up negative, McDermott said. Clean-up continued in the chemical engineering wing.

Internet

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may have to resort to other means, such as fax machines."

Although the Internet may seem infallible, she said, the system is a complex network of networks, and is susceptible to occasional problems.

"Always here and there there's going to be a disaster, whether it's a flood or a power outage," she said. "Incidents like these are few and far between."

Long-term effects would be few, if any, she said, and none of MIDnet's equipment was damaged by the flood.

"It may seem like a crisis, but we know how to deal with it," she said. "We take it in stride."

In the nearly pitch-black engineering center's basement, where a flashing red light panel and a few computer terminals were the only sources of light, Guy Jones took the flood in stride.

Jones, Computer Resource Center support manager, was trying to restart NRoll.

"It's not a bad day," he said, laughing. "It's just interesting."

When the power went off in the building, Jones said, the computers did not shut down "gracefully" and were therefore hard to bring back up.

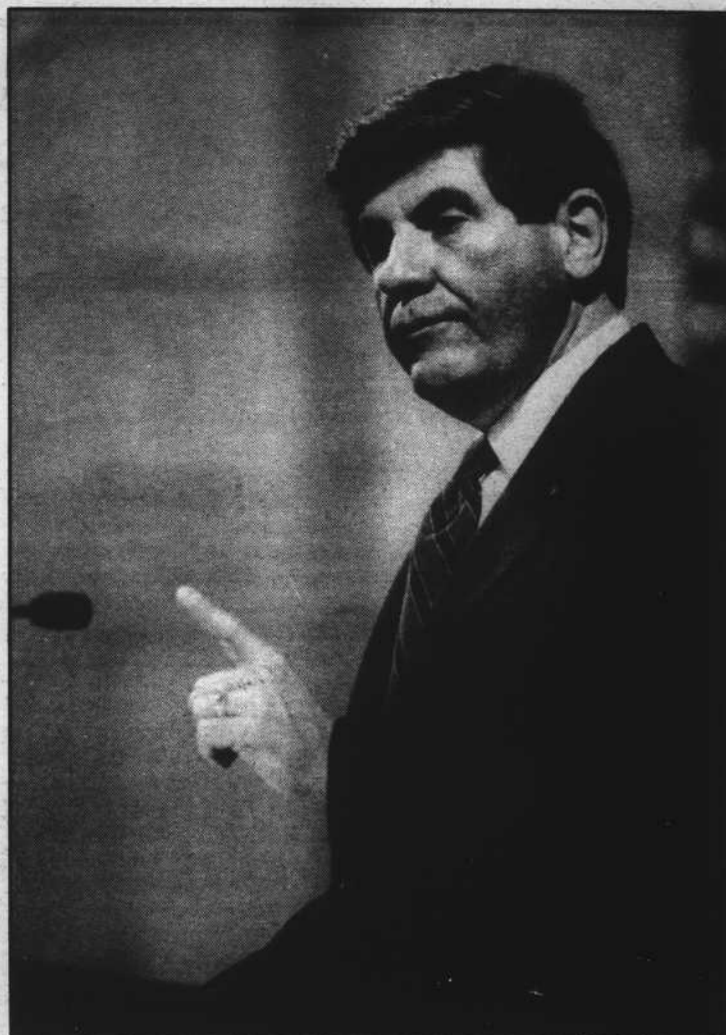
Jones said the machines would use generated power until the building's main power could be turned back on.

The crash shut down the network's central campus backbone, he said, which included NRoll, MIDnet and the primary computer mainframes.

UNL's computing resource center also services almost 10,000 electronic mail accounts at UNL.

He said he hoped most of the systems would be working by today. Because of limited power, he said, CRC may wait to bring up the remaining systems.

Until then, he still will need a flashlight.



Jay Calderon/DN

Governor Ben Nelson deliver the State of the State address in the Capitol Thursday.

Governor

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"A lot of the governor's package is going to have trouble," said Sen. David Landis of Lincoln.

But Landis said he liked the governor's initiative providing a child care credit, a medical savings account and the merging of the Equal Opportunity Commission into the Department of Labor.

Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison said he was pleased to see

the governor set an aggressive agenda, but he wondered why Nelson chose to offer an income tax cut when people were still in need of property tax relief.

"I'm willing to listen," Wickersham said, "but I'm not enthusiastic."

Wickersham said Nelson's income tax proposal was particularly puzzling because it was aided by federal funds that could dry up in the future.

"Does that mean in two years we will be back asking for an income tax increase?" he asked.

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