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inside **Wednesday**

Sports

Swimmers prepare for Big Eight Championships, page 7

Arts & Entertainment

Professor tries to spice up classical concerts, page 9



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NU athletics face internal audit

By Jeff Zeleny
Editor

An alleged misuse of funds prompted a one-month internal audit into the NU Athletic Department, the Daily Nebraskan learned Tuesday.

The possible abuse of funds was behind the examination into the office of Chris Peterson, associate athletic director for external affairs.

Linda Enck, University of Nebraska-Lincoln director of operations analysis, confirmed Tuesday that she had been auditing Peterson's office

for one month.

Peterson said Tuesday that his office cooperated with the audit, and all issues surrounding it had been resolved.

"There was not much of a matter to discuss," Peterson said. "Everything's fine."

In addition to Peterson's office, three to four areas of the athletic department also were involved in a personnel audit, said Paul Carlson, interim vice chancellor for business and finance. He declined to say if the audit of Peterson's office was connected to the personnel audit.

The athletic department is audited annually to comply with NCAA regulations, Carlson said. But Carlson said he ordered the personnel audit.

"Based on information received, I ordered the audit about a month ago," he said.

The alleged abuse of funds was discussed Saturday in a closed session of the NU Board of Regents meeting by Athletic Director Bill Byrne and Chancellor Graham Spanier, two sources said. It is the board's policy to discuss personnel issues behind closed doors.

When contacted by the Daily Ne-

braskan Tuesday, Spanier refused to comment. Spanier discussed the situation with athletic department officials during a Tuesday afternoon conference call.

Byrne did not return calls Tuesday but released the following statement: "Matters raised in a closed session of the regents meeting have since been resolved."

"Furthermore, it is the policy of the University of Nebraska Athletic Department not to make public comment on personnel matters."

See **ATHLETICS** on 2

Chris Peterson

Peterson is in his second year as associate athletic director for external operations. He oversees the development, marketing, sports information and ticket offices.

He has watched the school's fund-raising revenues double in his tenure and has established a marketing department.

Peterson had worked in his same position at Kansas State.



Water woes



Gerik Parmele/DN

Water is pumped from a hole outside Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls Tuesday morning after a water main broke, leaving all of the residents in the halls without water or food service. Workers wait in the background for the water to go down so they can fix the pipe. The break started around 1 a.m. and flooded a nearby parking lot.

Acidic soil eats away water main at HSS complex

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Bad hair days were the rule Tuesday for Harper-Schramm-Smith residents after the city water main servicing the complex broke earlier that morning.

Water for showers, brushing teeth and

flushing toilets was unavailable all day. Residents were encouraged to eat lunch at other halls and shower at the Rec Center or at Abel Hall. A picnic-style dinner was served in the evening.

The problem was caused by a 12-inch water pipe that broke at 1 a.m. By 1:30 p.m., a repair crew from Lincoln Water System had found several holes in a 20-foot length of the pipe, located just south of the Smith Hall between the building and the HSS tennis courts.

LeRoy Meints, LWS assistant superintendent, said the acid in the surrounding soil eating away at the pipe over time caused the break.

Mike Kansier, HSS maintenance manager, said Smith Hall received no damage.

John Frese, a senior history major, was prepared for the drought at HSS.

"I took a shower in a 32-ounce glass of water this morning," he said. "I used it to wash my hair."

Ann Johnson, a freshman general studies major who also lives in Smith Hall, took a shower at the Rec Center. When she got up Tuesday morning, she didn't see the signs about the water main break. She said she thought it was a joke at first.

"I went into all the restrooms and they all had something in them," she said. "It wasn't a joke."

Senators pass incentives for Micron plant

By J. Christopher Hain
Senior Reporter

State legislators took their talk to late night Tuesday trying to pass legislation enticing an Idaho computer chip company to build a plant in Omaha.

Meeting at night, lawmakers voted 30-12 for first-round advancement of LB830, an economic incentive package that is one of three bills primarily designed to lure Micron Technology, Inc., to build a 3,500-job, computer chip plant near Omaha.

LB830, the Nebraska Redevelopment Act, allows cities to designate property as blighted or substandard so that companies wishing to develop it can receive tax incentives.

"We're taking a traditional approach toward redevelopment and broadening it," Speaker Ron Withem of Papillion said.

Withem, who sponsored all three bills, said he would do whatever he can to get the bills considered as quickly as possible.

Micron will decide by March 1 whether to locate its \$1.3 billion plant in Omaha, Oklahoma City, Okla., or Utah County, Utah.

Withem said Omaha did not get into the final three locations being considered without his package of incentives.

He said Omaha's proposal to Micron anticipated the consideration by the Legislature of these economic incentives.

Senators almost didn't get to vote on the bill. After eight hours of debate, Withem motioned to end debate on the bill at 9:01 p.m.

At least 33 votes were needed to end debate. Only 32 votes for the motion were initially cast, but Sen. David Bernard-Stevens of North Platte changed from abstaining to a yes vote, and the motion passed 33-9.

Earlier in the day, Gov. Ben Nelson met

See **MICRON** on 6

State begins preparation for Williams' execution

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

The execution of Harold Lamont Otey marked the first time in 36 years that Nebraska carried out a death sentence.

Today, fewer than six months later, officials at the State Penitentiary begin preparations again.

Robert E. Williams is scheduled to die in the electric chair shortly after midnight on March 22. Williams was convicted for the 1977 murders of two Lincoln women.

Charles Hohenstein, administrative assistant to the warden, said prison officials and the Nebraska State Patrol had instituted some subtle changes because of the scene that surrounded the Otey execution on Sept. 2.

"We are making some changes," he said. "But it's not going to be something that we're going to talk about at length ahead of time."

Williams was convicted for the murders of Patricia McGarry and Catherine Brooks. Both were found dead Aug. 11, 1977 in McGarry's apartment with numerous bullet wounds to the head, back and neck. A medical examination

found McGarry had been raped, possibly following her death.

Williams was sentenced to death in 1978.

Williams was also tied to three other rapes in Iowa and Minnesota. Two of the rape victims were murdered. His execution was stayed by a court order only once.

On March 22, Hohenstein said windows would be covered in the room where Williams will spend his final hours before the scheduled execution. Otey waved to the crowd from those windows throughout the night before he was taken to the death chamber.

A greater attempt will be made outside the prison to distance death penalty supporters and opponents, he said.

In the next 30 days officials will choose media representatives and prison staff to supervise Williams on a 24-hour death watch before the execution and escort him to the death chamber.

Two weeks before the scheduled execution, prison and state patrol officials coordinate crowd control. With 24 hours to go, officials test the electric chair and support equipment.