

UNL quintet honored to play in D.C.

By Julie Sobczyk
Senior Reporter

Members of the UNL Brass Quintet received a high honor that landed them in Washington, D.C., earlier this month.

Last fall, U.S. Sen. James Exon chose the group to play at the grand foyer of the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts to celebrate the center's 25th anniversary.

Exon cleared his selection with Larry Mallett, director of the UNL School of Music.

Mike Nass, a senior music performance major, said the trip was one of the best he had ever taken.

"It was very exciting," Nass said. "The Kennedy center is one of the premier fine arts centers in the nation."

Each state is allowed to send groups to play at the center this year for the center's 25th anniversary.

Nass, a trumpet player for 12 years, said the best part of the trip was being at the Kennedy Center.

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The quintet — formally known as the Star City Brass — has played together for more than a year, which is one reason why it was chosen.

"We're older and experienced," Nass said. "We also do some jobs outside the university, like weddings and things."

As the quintet played, he said, about 30 audience members sat and listened, while many others walked through. Rob Lubbers, a junior

music education major, said although he had been to Washington before, the trip was still exciting.

"It was just incredible," said Lubbers, who has played since the fifth grade.

During free time on the two-day trip, the group toured Washington, including stops at the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Holocaust Museum and the Washington Monument.

"We saw President Clinton from like 150 yards away," Nass said. "That was more than I bargained for."

Although the trip was exciting, not all went well.

"The flight was very bumpy," he said. "I don't know if the pilot was inexperienced or what, but the flight was very rough. I was getting airsick."

Lubbers said they had another problem when one of the horn players lost her return plane ticket.

"We've had our hard times, but one thing that keeps us together is that we're playing as a team," he said. "We're respecting each others' opinions."

Audi to speak at graduation

From Staff Reports

A national writer and editor with 20 years of service to UNL will deliver the commencement address Saturday.

Robert Audi, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln philosophy professor, has written and edited publications relating to ethics, theory of knowledge, philosophy of mind and philosophy of religion.

His publications include "Rationality, Religious Beliefs and Moral Commitment," "Practical Reasoning" and "Action, Intention and Reason."

Most recently, Audi served as editor in chief of "The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy" and "The Journal of Philosophical Research."

He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to direct institutes and seminars nationwide.

Audi received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and English from Colgate University in 1963 and received his doctoral degree in 1967 from the University of Michigan. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Helsinki in 1995.

Audi has taught at UNL since 1973 and is the Charles J. Mach Distinguished Professor of Philosophy.

About 1,900 students will receive their degrees at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Companies claim to erase bad credit

From Staff Reports

Looking for a quick fix to bad credit?

There's no such thing, Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg said Thursday.

Stenberg said a number of "credit repair" companies have surfaced across the country and in Nebraska, claiming to erase bad credit reports for a fee. Stenberg warned Nebraskans to avoid companies that make such claims.

The attorney general's consumer protection division has received several reports of companies offering to "repair" credit reports for fees

ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

But according to Stenberg, no amount of money can clean up a bad credit report.

"If consumers have a poor credit history," he said, "they simply have to wait for time to pass to clear up the report. Credit repair companies can correct genuine mistakes or outdated information that may appear in a report."

Credit reporting bureaus can legally report accurate negative information for up to seven years, and bankruptcy information for up to 10 years, Stenberg said. Credit repair companies cannot erase this information, he said.

Under Nebraska law, credit services organizations cannot: "Make or use false or misleading representation in the offer or sale of the services of a credit services organization, including guaranteeing to erase bad credit ... unless the representation clearly discloses that this can be done only if the credit history is inaccurate or obsolete."

Stenberg encouraged Nebraskans who have questions about credit repair companies to contact the consumer protection division of the attorney general's office.

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Regents debate new plan to fund building upkeep

By Julie Sobczyk
Senior Reporter

A new plan to fund deferred maintenance projects at all NU campuses was unveiled Saturday at the April meeting of the NU Board of Regents.

Jim Van Horn, NU vice president for business and finance, told the board that issuing \$95.2 million worth of revenue bonds would provide the money for urgent building repairs.

"One advantage of doing this is we avoid the further deterioration of our buildings," he said. "We'll get improved facilities."

The money would also help fund updating libraries for information technology, Van Horn said.

If the university issues bonds now, he said, the interest rates will be 5.25 percent.

"That's a very, very low debt burden," Van Horn said.

NU President Dennis Smith said he supported the concept.

"Even assuming we are extremely faithful, buildings wear out, and the needs of buildings change," Smith said.

The regents unanimously approved a proposal to let Smith begin discussion with state government officials about issuing bonds.

"We have to remember that these buildings are assets of the state," said Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha. "It's important to maintain these assets. We've been on the ostrich farm with our heads in the sand when it comes to this."

But Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln was hesitant to agree to the plan.

"The advantage is we get done sooner," Wilson said. "The disadvantage is we have to pay interest. Every year is a tough year. If you do this, we are locked in, and that money has to come from somewhere."

Regent Chairman Don Blank of McCook said some type of action needed to be taken soon regarding

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ROSEMARY SKRUPA

NU regent

deferred maintenance.

"We should call it ignored maintenance, because that's what it is," Blank said.

The board also received copies of the six-year capital plan for building maintenance.

At the top of the list is the University of Nebraska at Omaha's building for the Institute of Engineering, Information Science and Technology.

The projected cost for that building is \$37.5 million.

The list's top priorities are:

● Fire and light safety for all campuses, at about \$7.4 million.

● UNO's Allwine Hall renovation at \$5.6 million.

● UNO's Arts and Sciences Hall renovation at \$5.6 million.


● UNL's Richards Hall at an estimated \$8.5 million.

The regents will vote on these priorities at their June meeting.

In other UNL business, the board approved:

● Discontinuing the educational specialist degree in vocational education and health, physical education and recreation.

● Increasing high school independent study course tuition by 3.7 percent.



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