

Microsoft lends access to future

Libraries Online! will allow people to check out Internet in libraries

By **LOBI ROBISON**
Staff Reporter

The future is now. And thanks to a new program by Microsoft Corp. and the American Library Association, more Americans will have access to the future.

Libraries Online!, a philanthropic program reminiscent of U.S. steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie's library reform efforts of the last century, will provide Internet access and multimedia personal computers to libraries across the country.

The program is being funded through a \$10.5 million grant by Microsoft and will target economically disadvantaged communities.

Expanded from a successful nine-city pilot project begun in October 1995, Libraries Online! will be offered to 215 communities across the country, including Nebraska libraries.

Mary Jo Ryan, spokeswoman for the Nebraska Library Commission, described Microsoft's donation as

"seed money" that in turn may provide an opportunity for Nebraska libraries to tap into other sources of corporate donations.

This, Ryan said, would enable Nebraska libraries to continue to offer the latest in technology and resources.

"The role of the library will be even more important in the future," she said. "It's important that the information on the Internet be made available to everyone," Ryan said, "not just to those who can afford it."

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Bill Gates said in a press release that providing multimedia PCs and public access to the Internet may revolutionize the traditional role of libraries in U.S. communities.

"Libraries will play a pivotal role as we enter the 21st century in providing access to knowledge and opportunities for everyone," he said.

Libraries Online! will be available for public use in Nebraska libraries by March 1997.

The NLC will release the criteria for Nebraska library sites next month,

Ryan said. Eligibility will be determined through the cooperative efforts of the following: the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, Nebraska's Regional Library Project, Nebraska Department of Economic Development's Governor's Global Community Initiative Project, Nebraska Development Network and the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.

After the criteria are determined, communities will submit applications to receive a slice of the \$125,000 grant pie. The NLC will choose library systems based on economic need, staff ability to meet technological needs and community potential for development.

Ryan said the NLC hoped to share grant resources with libraries across the entire state with the goal of providing the same resources offered at University Libraries.

"The ideal," Ryan said, "would be for students who come home during vacations to have access through their local library to the same resources they have access to at school."

Inclement weather policy goal of ASUN

By **TASHA E. KELTER**
Staff Reporter

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

On the icy road to fulfilling one of ACTION's campaign promises, an ASUN senator has started researching the university's policy on canceling classes in severe winter weather.

ASUN Arts and Sciences senator Sara Russell said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not have a policy stating when classes should be canceled because of blizzards or other winter conditions.

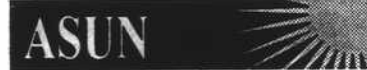
The university bases class cancellation on suggestions to the vice chan-

cellor for business and finance from the snow removal crews and staff members in telecommunications, facilities management and other relevant departments.

The vice chancellor advises the chancellor, who makes the final decision.

"We think there were days when classes maybe should have been canceled," Russell said. Whether to cancel classes should be based on driving conditions and concern for students' health, she said.

Russell said she wants to get feedback from the senators on any changes they would like to see. She said she wants to see if the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska can implement a formal policy.



In other ASUN action, legislation was passed detailing the guidelines for the Outstanding Educator Award. The senate also passed the Student Organization Orientation legislation, which states that ASUN will help the Student Involvement Office in promoting and planning the orientation.

Also at the meeting, Speaker of the Senate Curt Ruwe announced the need to fill the vacated law senator position.

Applications may be picked up in the ASUN office and are due Friday. The position is open to any law student in good academic standing.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

SEXUAL ASSULT

Lincoln police are investigating two unrelated rapes that occurred earlier this week.

One woman told police she was raped by her ex-boyfriend in her home at 3 a.m. Tuesday, Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Her ex-boyfriend began kissing her, and she told him to stop, Heermann said. He became rough with her and allegedly sexually as-

saulted her, Heermann said.

Another woman told police she was raped in her south Lincoln home Monday between 8:40 p.m. and 9 p.m., according to police records.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Police arrested a 39-year-old Lincoln man Tuesday night for allegedly molesting his 13-year-old stepdaughter.

The girl was sleeping in her

home when she felt her stepfather touching her inner thigh, Heermann said.

He left the room when she told him to leave her alone, but returned several times, Heermann said. One time he came back wearing only a bathrobe and allegedly began masturbating, Heermann said.

Police arrested and took the man into custody for sexual assault on a child.

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