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## UNL modem pool drained in spring

By JOSH FUNK  
Staff Reporter

For UNL's 16,000-plus off-campus students, the information superhighway soon will become a toll road.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will eliminate the dial-in modem pool early next semester. The pool currently gives off-campus students free Internet access without making them travel to campus computer labs.

Beginning in February, all off-campus students will have to subscribe to a commercial Internet access provider and pay a monthly fee to access the Internet.

The change will not affect most students living in residence halls, who have Internet access from their rooms — provided their computers have Ethernet cards.

Kent Hendrickson, associate vice chancellor for information services,

said demand for access to the pool and the cost of keeping up with advancing technology has made the modem pool too expensive.

Despite UNL's ongoing efforts to upgrade the system, students often encounter busy signals and outdated hardware when they call. Connecting to the system can take dozens of tries during peak evening hours.

Information Services considered many different proposals to improve the service for students before deciding to turn over university Internet access to a commercial provider.

"We finally reached an agreement with the vendors to provide service to students," Hendrickson said.

Hendrickson, who was in California on business Wednesday, did not have specific information about providers or costs. Last year, when the possibility of abandoning the univer-

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## Donated bridge offers link for trails

By ERIN GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

An abandoned railroad bridge over the Platte River will provide the vital link between Omaha and Lincoln hiker-biker trails, Nebraska trails officials said Wednesday.

The bridge, about four miles southeast of South Bend, will be donated to the state by a private donor, said Andy Bailey, project manager for the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

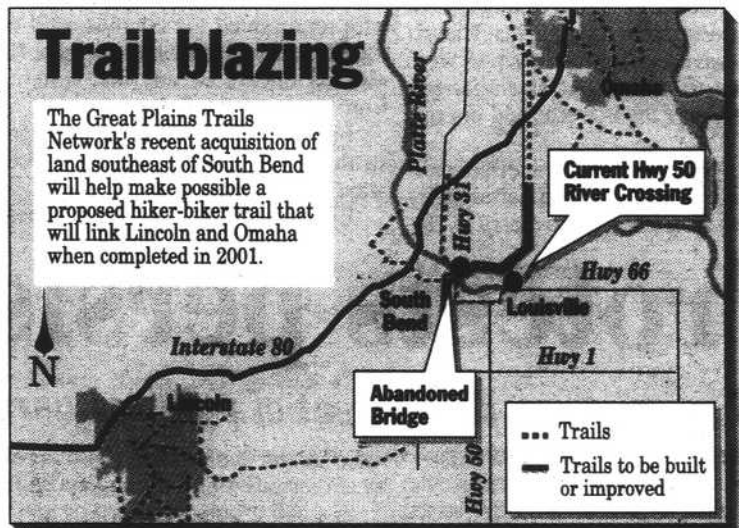
Although the bridge needs some work — \$1.5 million to make it hiker and biker-friendly — it will greatly enhance the metro area trail system when completed around 2001, he said.

The bridge's railroad tracks will be converted to a path, and trails will be built on both sides of the bridge to link it with existing trails and roadways, Bailey said.

And Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) President Susan

### Trail blazing

The Great Plains Trails Network's recent acquisition of land southeast of South Bend will help make possible a proposed hiker-biker trail that will link Lincoln and Omaha when completed in 2001.



SOURCE: GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK

NATALIE LINSTROM/DN

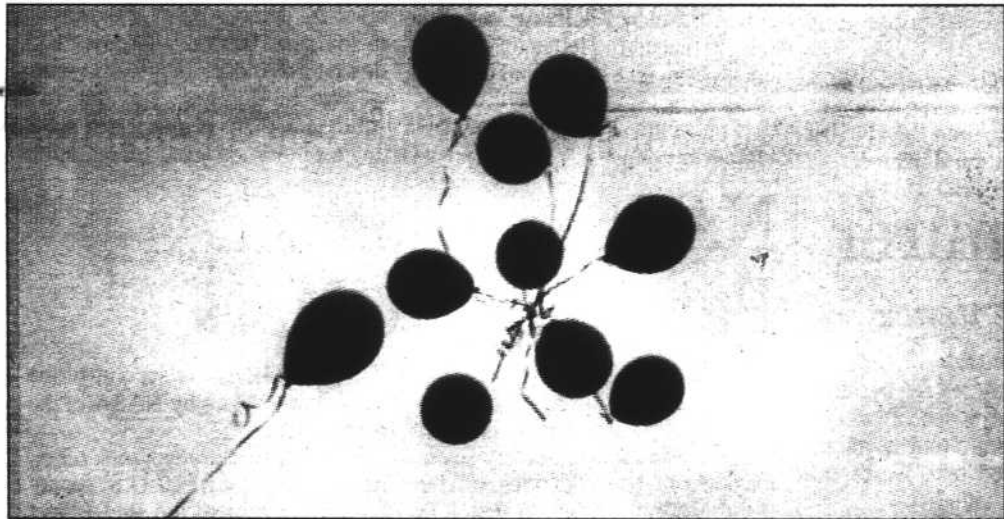
Rodenburg said the converted bridge will speed the completion of an off-road trail system between Lincoln and Omaha.

"It's just very vital to the area trails system," Rodenburg said. "We're working on the bridge first

because the opportunity is there."

In support of the bridge conversion, the GPTN has agreed to expand the Mopac trail that runs from 84th Street between A and O streets

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LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

**THIRTY-TWO WHITE BALLOONS** with red ribbons were launched Wednesday in commemoration of World AIDS Day. Each of the 16 years of the epidemic was marked by the release of two balloons.

## UNL commemorates World AIDS Day

Students distribute information and release balloons to mark the 16th year of the epidemic.

By TASHA E. KELTER  
Staff Reporter

A small group of UNL students gathered in front of the Nebraska Union Wednesday to release balloons in commemoration of World AIDS Day.

Students walking past the union were invited to release a balloon as a symbol of AIDS awareness.

The Mueller bell tower chimed an extra 16 times after its usual 12 chimes at noon — one for each year AIDS has been recognized as an epidemic in America.

Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator at the University Health Center, said the release of the balloons and the booth inside the Nebraska Union caught the attention of many students.

"It was an uplifting, hopeful kind of display,"

she said.

Neil Vacek, a senior family science major, said the release of the balloons would have been more effective at reaching a larger number of students if it was at 12:30 p.m. or another time when students weren't in class.

Glynnis Smith, a sophomore special education major, said one of the purposes of the activities was to not discriminate against people who are HIV-positive or have AIDS.

The theme of World AIDS Day last Sunday was "One World, One Hope," signifying the global unity needed to face the challenges AIDS presents, Tetreault said.

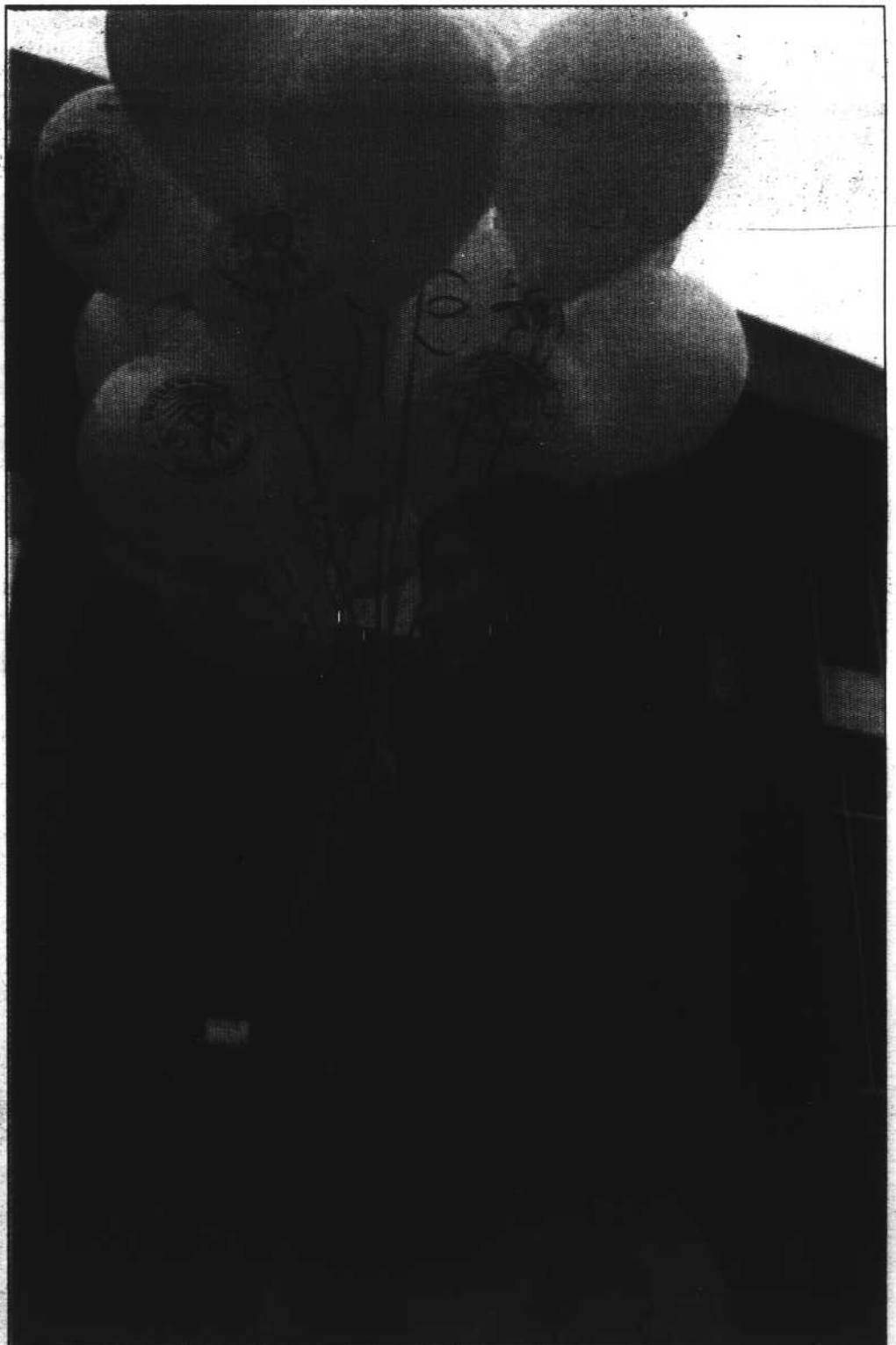
"We really need to look at this as a global issue," she said.

Frieda Fowler, graduate assistant in community health education, said it was important to keep attention on the problem of the AIDS epidemic.

One out of every 250 Americans, and about one out of every 500 students, is thought to be HIV-positive, Fowler said. This includes people who are unaware that they have the virus because they haven't been tested.

"People get too comfortable and forget to

Please see **AIDS** on 8



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

**GLYNNIS SMITH**, a sophomore special education major, prepares to release a handful of balloons Wednesday in celebration of World AIDS Day. Smith is a peer sexual educator at the University Health Center.