

# Regents ready to vote on e-mail system bids

By ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents could approve a new, standard e-mail system and Love Library renovations for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this weekend.

The regents will vote on the proposals during their February meeting Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Varner Hall on East Campus.

If both proposals are approved, the regents would sign a three-year contract with the Lotus Development Corp. to use Lotus Notes communications software and hardware as the NU standard e-mail system. The new system would cost \$312,224 over the three years.

Love Library South renovations would be added to existing plans for \$95 million in major renovation and maintenance projects on NU campuses.

Other agenda items include:

■ A vote on raising UNL residence hall room and board rates by about 5 percent for the 1997-98 academic year. The proposed increase includes raising the cost of a double

room and 19 meals per week from \$3,525 to \$3,700.

The proposal, sponsored by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, cites the current double-room rate at UNL as the lowest among institutions in the UNL peer group.

■ A vote on approving the construction of Husker Athletic in the future City Campus Parking Structure near Memorial Stadium.

The shop would require \$587,000 in UNL Athletic Department operating funds and would operate in 5,500 square feet of the parking structure.

The proposal, sponsored by Bill Byrne, UNL athletic director, and Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance, said the store would showcase athletic department merchandise. It would feature 25 television sets, video hookups, a variety of athletic displays and an NU athletics hall of fame, according to the proposal.

■ The NU Committee on Diversity will be present and report to the Board of Regents.

# Law & Order

## PUBLIC INDECENCY

A man was found masturbating in his car Wednesday afternoon after a student called him into police as a suspicious party.

The student, who had parked near the man, told University Police that a man had been sitting in his car on the north side of R Street near the Canfield Administration building for almost four hours.

The student, when he went to plug his parking meter, observed the man sitting in his car with a black jacket covering his waist.

When officers approached the man around 4:15 p.m., they saw that he had his pants and underwear pulled down and was masturbating.

University Police officers arrested David Lewis, 35, of Lincoln for public indecency, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## BURGLARY

Police are unsure of how burglars entered two portable classrooms at Lincoln East High School Tuesday night, but a television and two videocassette recorders are missing as a result.

School officials reported that between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning someone broke into the two portable class-

rooms on the north side of Lincoln East High School, 1000 S. 70th St.

Officers could find no evidence of forced entry, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Stolen were an RCA TV, a Sharp VCR and a JVC VCR. Total losses were reported at \$1,040.

## BURGLARY

Two computers and two printers were stolen Tuesday night out of the Calvert Recreation Center, 4500 Calvert St.

Center officials reported that someone broke into the building between 10:30 Tuesday night and 1:30 Wednesday morning.

Police could find no signs of forced entry.

Stolen were an IBM-compatible computer, a Macintosh computer, an Apple Imagewriter printer and a Hewlett Packard DeskJet printer.

Total losses were reported at \$8,869.

## ARREST

Police cleared eight vandalism cases in one arrest Friday night when an officer caught the suspect in the act.

Officer Donald Hansen was on patrol Friday morning about 6:10 when he saw a man standing near a vehicle at 16th and G streets.

Hansen watched as the man wrote on the side of the vehicle.

When he caught up to the man, he noticed blue ink on his gloves. When he searched the man, he found a blue marker.

Hansen cited Matthew Lux, 21, of Lincoln for injuring or destroying property. Lux had written on the side of a Nebraska State vehicle "Hubcap" and "Armatron."

The arrest cleared seven other cases where "Hubcap" or "Armatron" have been written on property.

## AUTO THEFT

A woman who locked her keys in her car came out of a bowling alley to find it had been stolen. Police later found the car smashed into a tree.

The 1996 Dodge Neon was stolen from the west side of Madsen's Bowling & Billiards, 4700 Dudley St., Wednesday evening. Keys were in the ignition, but the car was locked, the woman told police.

About 10 p.m., officers located the car at 46th and W streets.

According to police reports, someone had put a concrete block on the accelerator, put the car in drive and let it go. The car struck a tree on the south side of the MoPac Trail.

Damage estimates were not available.

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# InterTribal organization restores bison population

By JIM GOODWIN  
Staff Reporter

The adrenaline rush of a thundering bison herd returning to the open plains of a familiar land is as much Fred DuBray's thrill as it is the animals'.

DuBray, an officer of the InterTribal Bison Cooperative, said the return of the once-innumerable creature to American Indian tribal lands was nothing short of the economic, physical and spiritual restoration of all American Indians, he said.

"We've got a direct relationship with the buffalo," DuBray said. "That's why we want him back. They're a very sacred animal to us and they provide so much. There's a real intimate relationship we've been sharing for hundreds of years."

Through his work with the InterTribal Bison Cooperative, based in Rapid City, S.D., DuBray assists his and 39 other member tribes in re-establishing their bond with the past and their reverence for the animal that once centered upon it, he said.

To do so, the non-profit organization educates its members and Congress about the animal's importance, lobbying the latter for funds to increase member tribes' herds.

An estimated 2,000 bulls, cows and calves have been placed since the organization began in 1992, said Lynn Beem, the cooperative's office coordi-

nator.

Viewed as cosmological equals by Great Plains tribes, bison provided many American Indians with food, tools, shelter and a spiritual and cultural focus for centuries.

In return for the bison's sacrifices, tribes honored the creature, killing it with great esteem and only when necessary, DuBray said.

The strength of this contractual relationship became the American Indians' weakness as westward expansionists decimated the estimated 30 to 60 million bison once roaming North America, said Susan Richter, a UNL graduate who researched the topic for her master's thesis.

The mass killings reduced bison numbers to less than 1,000, placing the species on the verge of extinction and permanently altering the American Indians' way of life, Richter said.

DuBray said he and other American Indian leaders saw themselves as returning pride and honor to their tribes and the bison through a renewal of their symbiotic relationship.

"They've taken care of us and sustained us for a long time," DuBray said. "Now, they're in the position that they're threatened. It's our obligation to give them the quality of life we're looking for."

Now, the bison are again providing a healthier diet to a people not acclimated to the high-fat, high-cholesterol rations provided by the U.S. gov-

ernment, DuBray said.

Anna Marie Bosma, a research nurse coordinator at the Winnebago Reservation in northeastern Nebraska, said the high rates of juvenile and adult diabetes, heart disease and alcoholism she had witnessed in the American Indian population were the result of a number of factors, including poor diet.

Additionally, an imbalance of activity and the physical and emotional stress of being forced to move from reservation to reservation has led to a diabetes rate almost nine times that of the general U.S. population, Bosma said.

"What happened very rapidly within a population concentrated in a small area was a depletion of the wildlife that provided these people their diet," Bosma said. "Also, their forced moves interrupted their horticultural practices. The result was a dependence on unhealthy government rations."

DuBray said American Indians needed to reverse the trends that have been working against his people.

He said he felt the bison restoration was the most important step in accomplishing that end.

"People are getting more interested in bringing the buffalo back," DuBray said. "A lot of things have happened over the last 100 years, and it takes time to adjust. However, in re-establishing our relationship, I'm seeing a lot of excitement in the young people and old people, alike."

# Flooding imperils Nebraska rivers

From Staff Reports

Spring-like temperatures are causing lowland flooding along Nebraska's Platte, Elkhorn and Loup rivers, Adjutant Gen. Stanley Heng said Thursday.

Ice jams along the rivers and rapid snow melting could create significant rises in water level and endanger cattle, people and structures near the rivers, Heng said.

"It's going to be a threat for a few days," he said.

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak authorized the

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Thursday to take action, including helicopter flights to patrol stretches of the Platte and Elkhorn rivers while carrying county officials and emergency personnel.

Heng said threatening floods have already caused the evacuation of military personnel from Camp Ashland and about 50 people in the Beacon View area near Ashland.

The Red Cross has set up an emergency shelter in Gretna, he said.

Ice jams at the Burlington Northern Railroad crossing over the Platte River

near Highway 6 and Ashland already caused the closure of a Burlington Northern Railroad bridge, he said.

The Papio-Missouri Valley Natural Resource District is standing by to dynamite the ice jam if necessary. Low-lying areas surrounding the Platte River downstream of Columbus and around the Elkhorn River downstream of West Point have the greatest risk of flooding, Heng said.

Gov. Ben Nelson, who was in South America Thursday, said that he would return today and assess damages caused by the flooding.

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