



Winning ways

The Nebraska baseball team snapped a 13-game losing streak, winning two of three games from Missouri this weekend. **PAGE 6**



Welcome 'Return'

"Return of the Jedi," the final film in the revamped "Star Wars" trilogy, opened Friday with new scenes and cleaned-up effects. **PAGE 8**

March 17, 1997

AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW
Cloudy, high 58. Light rain tonight, low 27.

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UNL professors return home from Albania

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor who remained trapped in Albania until Friday stepped off an airplane and back into America and into the arms of loved ones in Lincoln Sunday night.

"I'm very happy to be home," Harish Gupta said after a series of hugs and warm welcomes. "It's wonderful to be home."

The professor emeritus of economics took nothing but the clothes he wore and a small carry-on case when he escaped an Albania he described as "very scary." He left by U.S. Navy airlift last Friday morning.

Gupta and Diane Hambley, UNL marketing professor, were teaching at the University of Tirana in Albania's capital last week when the U.S. State Department ordered all Americans out of the country, which had collapsed into anarchy.

Both professors booked Friday or Saturday flights out of Albania on commercial airlines, but became trapped in the country after airports closed Thursday.

Gupta said he and Hambley "were counting the minutes and seconds" until they could leave the torn country, where ordinary people shot machine guns from their cars while driving down streets in a deadly show of chaos.

But Gupta said he hoped the situation would improve so he could return to Albania and complete his work.

Sang Lee, director of UNL's Center for Albanian Studies, said Gupta traveled to Albania three weeks ago to teach a 10-week, graduate-level business course at the university.

Gupta's course was cut short when all Americans were ordered out of Albania Wednesday, Lee said. Hambley, who had been in the country for two years, also left her work and belongings behind.

Albania's government and economy fell to anarchy after citizens lost their life savings in failed pyramid investment schemes.

Lee said he called the U.S. Agency for International Development in Albania Monday to make sure teaching could continue and the UNL professors were safe.

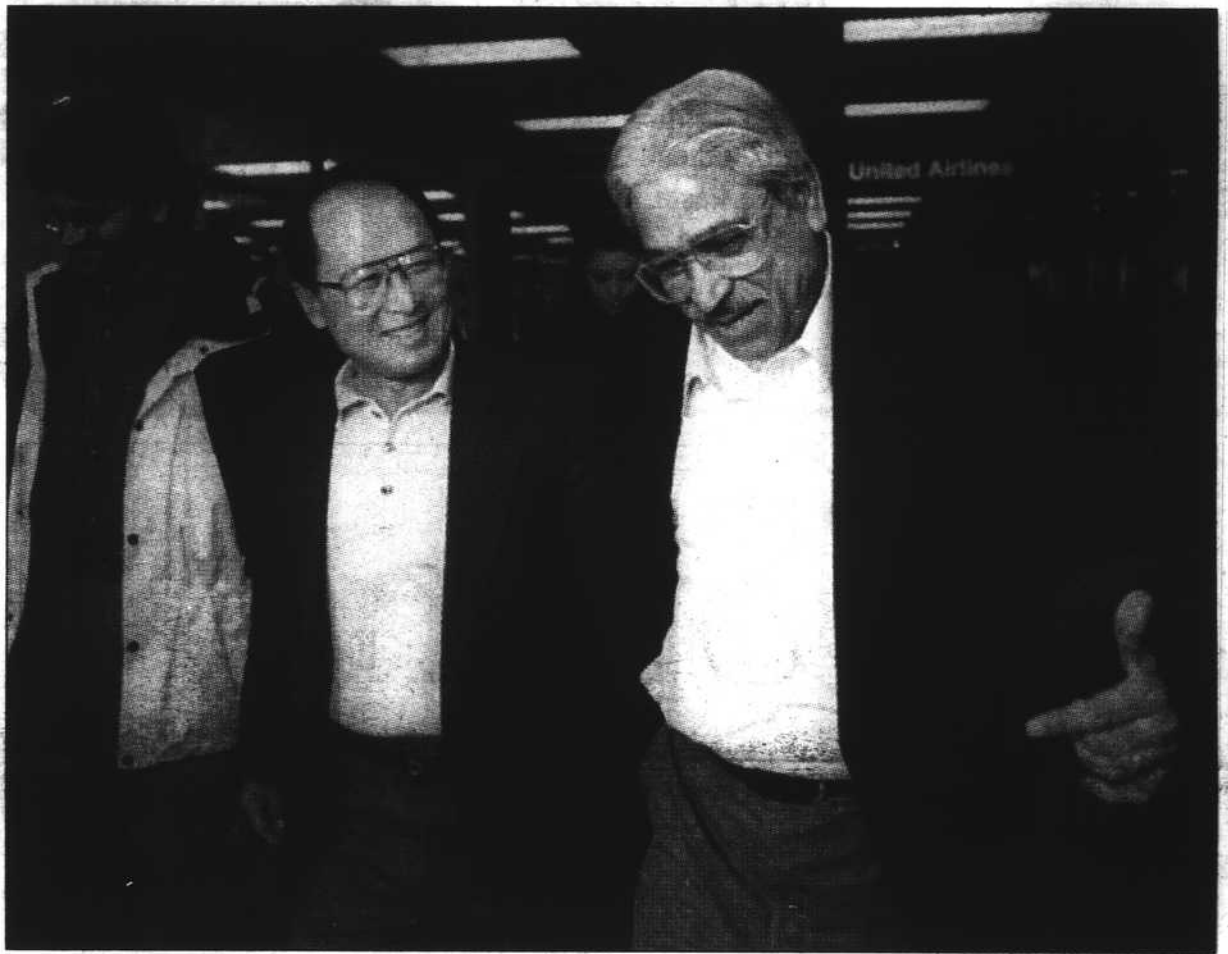
"They assured me there was no problem," Lee said. "It was calm in Tirana."

Within two days, gunshots kept the professors awake at night, and all order in the country had collapsed, Lee said. Every town in Albania spawned its own rebel group, which looted the towns and stole guns from military depots.

In the fury, typically calm Albanians were "shooting their guns like crazy," he said.

Lee talked to Gupta Thursday

Please see **ALBANIA** on 3



MATT MILLER/DN

SANG LEE (left) welcomes home Harish Gupta, who was teaching at the University of Tirana in Albania when the country fell to anarchy. The UNL professor worked in Albania as part of the U.S. Agency for International Development project, which works with Albanian officials to establish a foundation for a market economy.

UNL boasts innovative teaching lab

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has gained one more shining gem in its crown — the nation's No. 1 center for research of innovative teaching methods.

Christy Horn, who co-directs the Center for Instructional Innovation Research with Roger Bruning, said UNL has finished building an ideal lab for testing technology that assists teachers and students.

The lab, in the basement of Mabel Lee Hall, includes a multimedia research classroom, a lab to test learning structure and strategy and state-of-the-art equipment to assist students with disabilities, she said.

"It's not enough to just bring them on campus and let them sit in a classroom if they can't interact," Horn said.

For UNL, the real worth of the center is not the bragging rights for the nation's premier facility, she said.

The center's true value may lie in

Please see **CENTER** on 3



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

FORMER SEN. JAMES EXON, his wife Pat Exon and Sen. Bob Kerrey, cut the ribbon Saturday to the new Exon Center.

Research library marks Exon's work

By JIM GOODWIN
Staff Reporter

With congratulatory gestures, more than 100 Democrats mingled and reminisced with former Sen. James Exon Saturday afternoon at the grand opening of his Lincoln library and research center.

Sen. Bob Kerrey, Lt. Gov. Kim Robak and former Exon aides were among those attending the ceremonial homecoming, which also marked Exon's 26-year public service career. Exon retired from the Senate in January.

The two-story Exon Center, 985 S. 27th St., houses campaign and senatorial papers and memorabilia of Exon's two terms as Nebraska governor and three terms in the U.S. Senate.

Kerrey said the repository honored a man well known for fighting to maintain a philosophy held important by both Democrats and Nebraskans.

"This library is a tribute to his legacy and what we can accomplish through political action," Kerrey said of his professed mentor. "It is Jim Exon's ideas. It's his visions that have made him so popular with Nebraska voters."

Exon said he intended for the library to

“
It's his visions that have made him so popular with Nebraska voters.”

SEN. BOB KERREY
D-Nebraska

serve as a meeting space for the discussion of government-related issues and as a research center touting the Senate's worthy merits.

"I want to dedicate this to a better history and a better understanding that the U.S. Senate is a wonderful institution," Exon said.

Among mementos of Exon's political career are autographed photographs of Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson. A placard signed by Exon's colleagues from the 104th Congress fills prominent wall space in an upstairs office.

The Exon Center also shares planning and committee meeting space with the Lancaster County Democratic Party. It is free to the public by appointment.