



Healthy hopeful

Nebraska football player Jay Sims just wants to stay healthy this spring. With a depleted I-back corps Sims has picked up playing time. **PAGE 7**

'Tree's' stands tall

Indie film regular Steve Buscemi makes his writing and directing debut with "Tree's Lounge," which is now playing at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. **PAGE 8**

April 10, 1997

SNOW JOKE

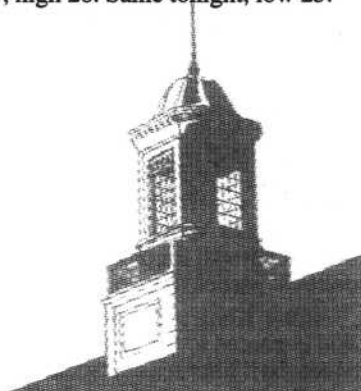
Blustery snow, high 28. Same tonight, low 25.

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EXCEL party gets majority of RHA vote

By SARAH BAKER
Staff Reporter

The EXCEL party hopes to bring new "integrity and unity" to residence hall students next year after winning the Residence Hall Association elections Wednesday.

"The people that I talked to were confident with our party's experience and leadership skills. They really believed in us."

BEN WALLACE
RHA president-elect

EXCEL took 55 percent of the vote, with the opposing IMPACT party taking 45 percent of the vote. A total of 1,056 residence hall students voted, which equaled 25 percent of the residents living in the halls.

Elections were held in eight of the residence halls, but not Burr-Fedde, which has elections in the fall. Both Neihardt and Abel residence halls ran out of ballots, but election workers hurried to photocopy more before the election was over.

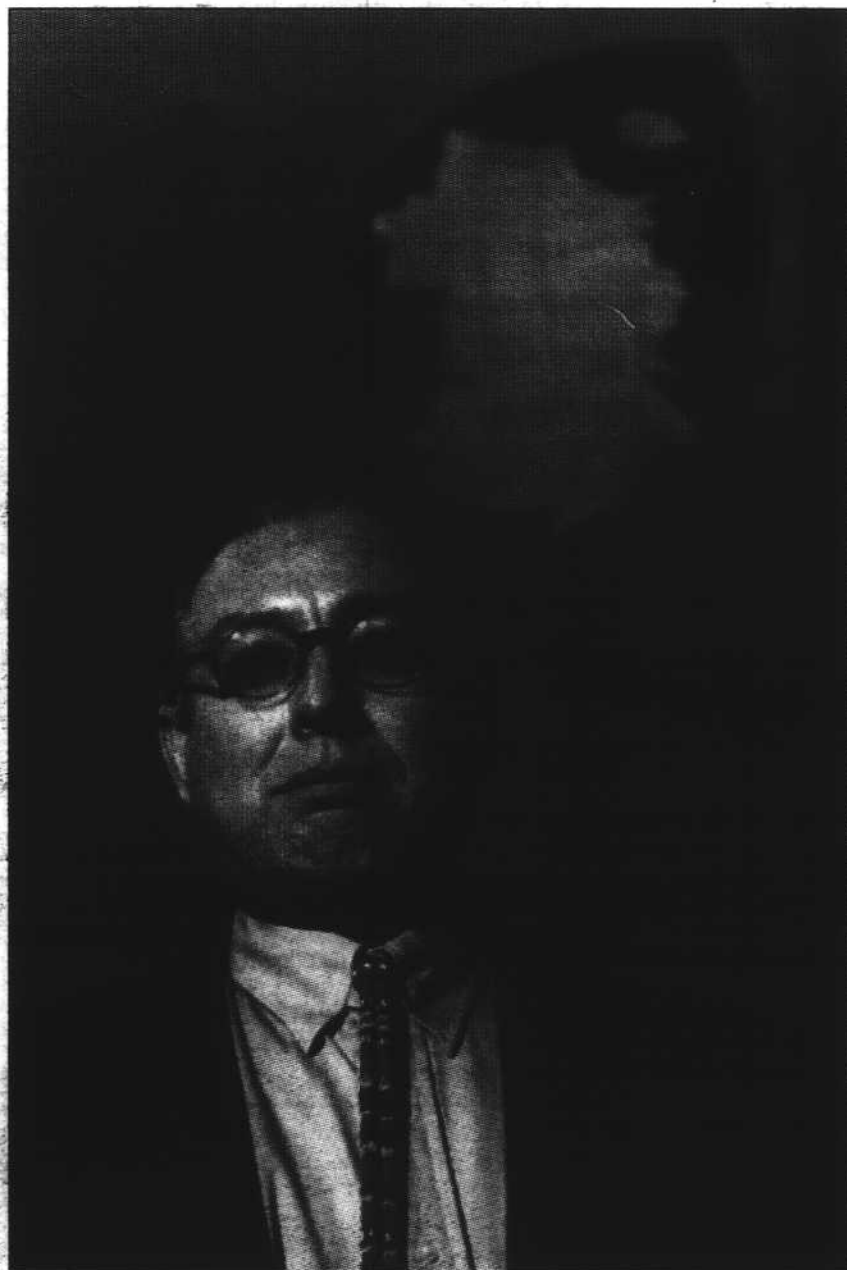
Voter turnout, however, was still lower than last year. In 1996, 1,151, or 36 percent, of the residents voted in RHA elections.

RHA Election Commissioner Becky Carlson

said she felt the lower turnout rate was because of less campaigning by the parties.

"The EXCEL party did some campaigning, but the IMPACT party didn't do any," Carlson said. "I am happy with the number of students that did go out and vote, but

Please see RHA on 6



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

WALTER ECHO-HAWK, senior staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, spoke at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Wednesday afternoon. Echo-Hawk helped lead the campaign to obtain the passage of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act.

Indigenous people need more rights, activist says

By KIMBERLY SWARTZ
Staff Reporter

Throughout Walter Echo-Hawk's lifetime, he has seen the effects of stereotypes, economic exploitation and racism against indigenous people.

Echo-Hawk, an American Indian activist, lobbyist, tribal judge and attorney, gave a speech entitled "Indigenous vs. Nonindigenous Rights, Responsibilities and Relationships" Wednesday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Echo-Hawk was the final E.N. Thompson Forum speaker this semester.

Indigenous people are non-European groups, Echo-Hawk said, who existed before Europeans colonized the land. They make up 6 percent of the world's population and are found in 72 different countries.

Indigenous people are not in a position of political dominance and have no desire to assimilate into the culture that surrounds them, Echo-Hawk said.

"Discrimination turns native people into aliens and strangers in their own lands," he said.

Each group is culturally distinct and wants the right to decide its own destiny, Echo-Hawk said.

"These people can't be found on any map because they are nations within nations," he said.

Please see ECHO-HAWK on 6



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

EIGHT UNL STUDENTS were among this year's black scholarship recipients. They are (back row, from left) Donny White, junior; LaTonya Floyd, freshman; Leslie Bell, junior; Ken Ford, sophomore; LaSharah Bunting, freshman; (front row, from left) Michael Watkins, senior; Michelle Aduloju, sophomore; and Minisa Chapman, sophomore.

Black student scholars honored as university 'ambassadors'

Full tuition will be paid for students showing academic excellence and community leadership.

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior News Editor

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln considers scholarship funds for black students money well-spent, UNL officials said.

Jim Smith, director of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, said the black students at UNL were showing they could be leaders as well as scholars.

"You've done something a lot of students don't do," Smith told eight scholarship recipients Wednesday. "It's

your ambassadorship that shows you care about the university."

Black scholarship winners for the 1996-97 school year gathered at the Culture Center on Wednesday for Picture Day.

Cynthia Gooch, educational specialist for the multi-cultural affairs office, said she will display their photographs on the walls of her office to motivate younger minority students to aim for academic excellence.

"So often when you hear 'scholarship' with 'African-American,' people tend to think of athletics," she said. "This will show other students that they can be successful academically."

Smith said the top scholarships offered to black students were seven full-tuition Davis Scholarships. Recipients are required to show academic excellence and leadership in the community,

he said. Black students also were offered scholarships through the Larson, Gupta, David and Schorr scholarship funds, which vary from \$1,000 to full payment for students' housing.

Four Schorr scholarships were awarded to black students in the Teachers College, Smith said. As the number of minority students increases, schools will need more black teachers, he said.

Smith said he urged students not to see their scholarships as gifts, but as something the students should return to the university by leading others and setting examples.

"Somebody's invested in you, start investing back," he said.

"In our day, more well-rounded, more voluntary spirit is needed so our communities become wealthier and safer."