

# Big Red Welcome to rock the block

By AMY KELLER  
Staff Reporter

The university is urging 3,500 new students to start a successful school year with a party.

Big Red Welcome, an all-day festival for new and returning University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, will include activities ranging from orientation assemblies to a block party with a Run-DMC concert.

From 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, students can go on tours of City and East campuses to find out where their classes are.

Also at 1 p.m., students in the University Honors Program and University Foundations Program who participated in summer reading will discuss "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho with professors. Students will gather in groups of eight each with a faculty member, which will let each student meet a professor before school starts, said Pat McBride, director of New Student Enrollment.

At 4 p.m., a new student convocation in the Lied Center for Performing Arts will include speeches from Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne, Chancellor James Moeser and a performance by the Cornhusker Marching Band.

The block party will begin at 5 p.m. on R Street from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> streets. Pepsi will serve free refreshments to kick off the its first year as UNL's official beverage company.

Other sponsors of the party include the University Bookstore, Fairbury Brand Hot Dogs, National Bank of Commerce, Gallup, Apple Computer and KFRX, 102.7-FM.



MATT HANEY/DN

McBride said this year's Big Red Welcome will be different because there has never been a block party. "The primary difference is the welcome festival on R Street. It was held on the green-space or in Devaney before."

Students can stop at more than 225 booths from restaurants, businesses and organizations, said Bill Anderson, the 1997 Big Red Welcome coordinator.

The UNL Yell Squad, Scarlet and Cream Singers, and Scarlet Sensations will also perform, followed by groups from the Lincoln area. These include Kid Quarkstar, Beyond and China Digs, which will lead up to the headline act, Run-DMC.

The concert and block party will end about 9 p.m. Sunday to give the booth participants time to clear the booths to reopen R Street for traffic Monday.

## Housing has enough room

By SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

Students who dread the thought of living in a residence hall TV lounge during their first semester of college can rest a little easier. Although all 13 UNL residence halls will be full for the fall semester, the number of students living in the halls has decreased.

Doug Zatechka, housing director, said he would be surprised to have students living in TV lounges.

"There are still housing contracts coming in at this late time, so none of this data is concrete," Zatechka said. "But from what I have seen so far, I don't think we will have any lounge assignments."

Although final numbers aren't available for the semester, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Housing provided ten-

tative figures. As of Aug. 2, housing is using 4,900 spaces this year, compared with 5,083 this time last year, a difference of 183 spaces. Of the 4,900 spaces in use, 800 are single rooms.

Though the number of freshmen entering the halls has dropped, the housing department has seen more returning students this year. Housing calculated that 1,749 students are returning to the halls this year, compared with 1,579 last year.

Although options are limited, Zatechka said, university housing won't turn away any students. "Everyone will get some kind of living accommodations," he said.

Students who aren't assigned to their preferred room may move into a triple room instead, especially if their contracts arrive late, Zatechka said. In past years, these students likely would

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## Parking services make changes

By DARREN IVY  
Staff Reporter

Many students think of UNL Parking and Transit Services as the bad guys on campus, but Parking Services Manager Tad McDowell said his employees are just doing their jobs.

"People think we give tickets for the money," McDowell said. "We give tickets because we have to maintain order on campus. If we didn't give tickets, we would have people parking

on the lawn and wherever else they could find a spot."

To try to clean up their bad guy image, UNL Parking Services has made several changes including making it easier to pick up permits, resurfacing parking lots, changing several streets and meters and adding a new parking garage.

Upperclassmen know that picking up parking permits has been a painstaking task in the past. Students have waited more than 30 minutes for

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## Commuter permits are almost sold out

By DARREN IVY  
Staff Reporter

Students who want a space in one of UNL's green commuter lots are out of luck.

As of Wednesday morning, Parking and Transit Services

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