

Soccer sweeps

The Nebraska soccer team recorded its third and fourth consecutive shutouts of the season with victories over Baylor and Texas Tech. PAGE 6

Rockin' the Ranch

Pavement delivered a retrospective of its discography to an enthused crowd Saturday night at Omaha's Ranch Bowl. PAGE 10

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HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS

Sunny and windy, high 78. Fair tonight, low 47.

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Merger awaits regents' vote

■ If the union is approved, joint hospital operations will begin Wednesday.

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents will vote tonight on an agreement to merge the patient-care operations of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's University Hospital and Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital in Omaha.

If the agreement is approved at the 7 p.m. meeting in Varner Hall, joint hospital operations will begin Wednesday under a new, nonprofit corporation called Nebraska Health System. Clarkson Regional Health Services, which includes Clarkson Hospital, has already approved the agreement.

The agreement would create a "competitive, single health care organization" that would provide "innovative, quality, cost-effective health care services," the merger proposal states.

A board of six representatives from each institution would govern the new system, which would be led by the system's new president and the dean of the NU College of Medicine.

The leadership team would help bring together both institutions' physicians, combining academic research and health care with privately practiced medicine.

The team would consist of: Louis Burgher, Clarkson Hospital chief executive officer, who would serve as the new system's first president and chief executive; and Harold Maurer, dean of the College of Medicine, who would oversee academic and research programs and the UNMC faculty.

Regents

After the merger, the new system would remain the primary teaching facility for UNMC educators, and UNMC would continue to have authority over curriculum and other academic policy matters, research administration, and faculty promotion and tenure.

Clarkson physicians would share leadership of four departments: radiology, pathology, anesthesia and occupational medicine; but all physicians will continue to work for their respective institutions.

Under the agreement, all physicians' services would be leased to the new system. And upon a physician's request, all consenting system patients may be available for teaching and research purposes.

Medical facilities would not change ownership because both hospitals would lease facilities to the new system.

Other terms of the agreement include:

■ That the institutions will provide a combined \$38 million start up contribution to fund initial system operations.

■ If the system has sufficient funds after paying operating and maintenance costs, the system will pay annual profit distributions of \$6 million to UNMC and Clarkson Regional Health Center beginning in the last half of fiscal year 1999. These payments would take priority over the system buying new property or equipment.

The hospitals' merger proposal resulted from their desire to settle a legal dispute that arose over a 1953 association agreement.

Regents' approval of the agreement would settle the pending litigation.



TOMMY WILDCAT leads the Cherokee Dancers of the Fire in their performance Saturday night at Lincoln's Indian Center, 1100 Military Road.

Dancers uphold past

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Assignment Reporter

The nine dancers moved around the fire, clapping hands and murmuring to the rhythm of the heavy turtle shells filled with water pebbles that were strapped around the ankles of the female dancers. They sang from deep in the heart of their Cherokee tradition.

As a crowd of several-hundred people watched, with only the small fire to light the dancers' faces, the Cherokee Dancers of the Fire performed the stomp dance

Saturday night at Lincoln's Indian Center.

The group's lead performer, Tommy Wildcat, said there was a variety of stomp dances in the American Indian tradition. Endemic to the Cherokee and other tribes from the Southeastern United States, the stomp dances carry religious as well as cultural and social significance, he said.

Since his teen-age years, Wildcat said, he has been interested in preserving the Cherokee heritage. He studied American Indian languages, and learned to make river-cane flutes and blow guns tra-

ditionally used in hunting small animals.

And he took an interest in the stomp dance.

"If we were to lose this dance, we would lose not only our history, but everything we've built in this great land we call America," Wildcat said.

Saturday's audience witnessed a realistic stomp dance setting.

Under the starlit sky, the wind gently brushed through trees and goaded the fire as the dance continued. The dancers broke away from

Please see STOMP on 3

Saigon Enchantment honors culture

BY KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

Involvement

The Nebraska Union echoed with the banging of drums Saturday while lions danced and chased evil spirits away from the Centennial Ballroom.

Underneath the Chinese lion costumes were members of the Vietnamese Student Association. The dance, choreographed by Gary Yuen, associate professor of plant pathology, originates from Chinese tradition. Later, the dance spread to Southeast Asia and Vietnam. Vietnamese perform the lion dance to invoke the powers of animals. The lion is most powerful, Yuen said.

The lion dance was one of the many Vietnamese traditions shared with those at the fourth-annual Saigon Enchantment. Guests were treated to

authentic Vietnamese cuisine while various groups entertained them. Included in the entertainment was a fan dance performed by the Heart of the Motherland dancers. Vietnamese youth performed a straw hat dance; members of VSA sang and played some songs on piano.

The enchantment gave more than 100 people a chance to experience the culture firsthand.

"This makes me want to go to Vietnam. I want to experience the country myself," said Kirti Doshi, a junior management information systems major.

Others appreciated the insight into Vietnamese legends. VSA students performed a skit to illustrate the famous

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This gives me a broader appreciation for another culture.”

MICHAEL WATKINS
senior psychology major

legend of the areca tree, one that is still used today in traditional wedding ceremonies.

"I liked the legend. It represents customs, something I'm interested in," Michael Watkins, a senior psychology major, said.

The legend describes how one man is in love with his brother's wife. The man, full of grief, ventures into the forest and turns into a white stone. The brother later finds him in the forest, and turns into a tree out of love and sorrow for his brother.

The man's wife goes into the forest

and turns into a vine, supporting the tree and allowing it to stand. Later, King Huong Vuong II went into the forest, and declared that the fruit and leaves of the tree would be used at weddings to symbolize love and fidelity.

The audience included ages from young to old: Some were about 7 years old, a few were about 70. That impressed VSA Vice President Duc Tram. Attendance also was larger than the group expected. Tram is optimistic that the large turnout will help increase visibility of the group.

"This is the only annual festival we

have," Tram said. "This way we can make our organization known on campus."

Overall, VSA had a larger goal in bringing the Saigon Enchantment to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: To stress that the university is made up of many different kinds of faces.

Watkins said he thought VSA reached that goal.

"This gives me a broader appreciation for another culture," he said. "This is a great opportunity to see Vietnamese culture, one I've never been exposed to before."