



Injury-plagued

The Nebraska volleyball team, which lost two matches in a row for the first time in four years, is dealing with injuries to key players. PAGE 15



Cutting loose

After two years playing some of Lincoln's most original music, Kid Quarkstar calls it quits so its members may pursue other avenues. PAGE 9

October 15, 1997

GRAY MATTER

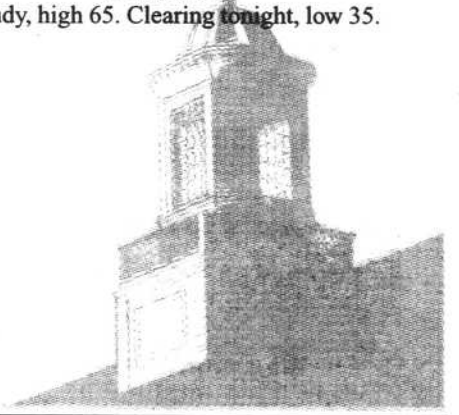
Cloudy, high 65. Clearing tonight, low 35.

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Cardboard huts construct awareness



JOSH BERGLAND, left, a sophomore computer engineering major, and Susan York, a junior biochemistry major, sit outside the cardboard shacks that Habitat for Humanity built.

SANDY SUMMERS/DN

Involvement

By BRIAN CARLSON
Assignment Reporter

Two ramshackle cardboard huts in the middle of the UNL campus have been turning heads this week.

And that's exactly what the organizers of Shantytown want.

The Shantytown huts, set up this week between Andrews and Burnett halls, were built by members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Habitat for Humanity chapter in conjunction with World Hunger Awareness Week.

Students are staffing the huts in shifts from Monday morning until after the Nebraska football game Saturday, 24 hours a day. On Monday night, 15 students braved the fall's first freezing temperatures to camp out at Shantytown.

Sean Lewis, a senior sociology major and member of UNL's Habitat for Humanity, spent early Tuesday afternoon in one of the huts. He was participating in Shantytown to help call attention to a problem of which he said

many students weren't fully aware.

"The main reason is to bring awareness to the UNL community as a whole that poverty housing is a problem," he said. "We want people to be aware it exists and to see what people deal with."

Lewis said many students who have passed by the huts have shown an interest in the project. Many have asked how they could become involved in Habitat for Humanity's goal of eliminating poverty housing.

"We've had quite a few comments," Lewis said. "People have said, 'Wow, I didn't know people actually lived like that.'"

Mary Cornell, a sophomore psychology major, and Sara Lilly, a sophomore fashion design major, also took their shifts in the huts Tuesday. Although not members of Habitat for Humanity, they were recruited by some of their Alpha Xi Delta sorority sisters who were involved in the project.

Cornell and Lilly said they had received their share of funny looks, but that their interest in the problem of low-quality housing had increased through their involvement in Shantytown.

Please see HUTS on 6

UNL employees lose exemption

Congress failed to renew a law that allowed employers a break on tuition benefit taxes.

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

About 300 University of Nebraska-Lincoln employees who have enrolled in a university course since January will find a few extra tax withholdings from their paychecks during the next three months.

According to a UNL Payroll Office memo dated Oct. 8, Congress failed in its biennial Tax Act to exempt employees from paying taxes on tuition benefits provided by their employers for the first time since 1978.

The last exemption expired before Jan. 1, 1997, and employees must now pay retroactive taxes on all benefits received after that date. Those taxes will be subtracted from their paychecks by the end of the year.

For UNL employees, that means they have paid \$1 per credit hour in tuition for up to 15 hours of courses at the university, but they will be

taxed on about \$96 per credit hour — the amount the university deducts from their tuition bill as an employee benefit.

That benefit amount will count as employees' taxable income.

As a result, the university will withhold all taxes on spring semester tuition benefits from monthly paid employees' October paychecks. Summer benefit taxes will be withheld from the November paychecks, and fall semester benefits will be withheld from December's paycheck.

Employees who are paid bi-weekly will follow slightly different withholding schedules, beginning Nov. 6 and ending Dec. 31.

An employee who took 15 hours in courses will be responsible for paying taxes on about \$1,440 in benefits within the next three months.

That employee would pay about \$110 in Social Security and Medicare taxes (at 7.65 percent), while the amount of federal and state income taxes owed on benefits would be established by individual tax brackets.

Courses taken by graduate teaching assistants and by any employee

Please see TAXES on 3

UNL students bounce off wall, hang from cliffs on fitness tour

By SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

This week University of Nebraska-Lincoln students can challenge a rock wall, try their luck at human bowling or stick it up with the Velcro wall, and they don't even have to leave campus to do it.

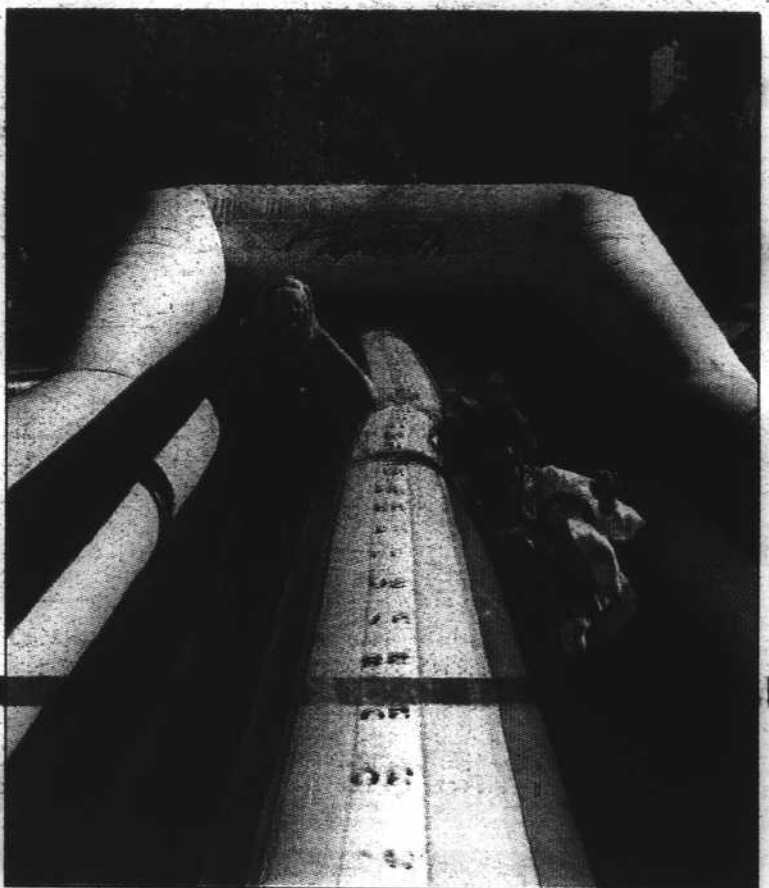
The Jeep/Plymouth Collegiate Health and Fitness Tour is visiting UNL as part of this year's Homecoming Week festivities. The event is sponsored by the UNL Well Worth It Program and the Social Responsibility Committee.

The tour is in Lincoln through Thursday and runs each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Events are in the loop east of Memorial Stadium at 14th and Vine streets.

Today and Thursday, the Homecoming Wacky Olympics will be on the site of the Collegiate Health and Fitness Tour. The Wacky Olympic events will be held throughout the three days.

John Tokar, intercollegiate communications director of special events, said this was one of the most popular national college

Please see TOUR on 3



UNL FRESHMEN pre-med majors Jenn Heimann, left, and Melissa Ciesielski, compete in the Bungee Run at the Collegiate Health and Fitness Tour at the Vine Street Loop Tuesday afternoon.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN