

## Swinging through

NU place-kicker has hit his stride making his last seven attempts including a season best 41-yarder against Texas Tech. PAGE 7

## Brewhaha

Spilker Ales' rising popularity has owner Sam Spilker laughing all the way back to the converted Cortland bank in which he brews. PAGE 9

October 21, 1997

## WINTER PREVIEW

Partly sunny, high 49. Clear tonight, low 27.

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## UNMC, VA center join to fight debt

Two hospitals promise to share research and patient responsibilities.

By ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

Better patient care and stronger medical research programs should result from a new relationship between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Omaha.

The two health-care providers, which have kept ties through research and education since 1946, recently announced plans to form a stronger cooperative relationship in the areas of education, research, clinical services

and administration.

"We hope for a reduction in costs," said VA hospital director John Phillips.

Because University Hospital now operates jointly with privately owned Clarkson Hospital under the name Nebraska Health System, the planned relationship will be one of the nation's first to include federal, state and private health agencies.

Phillips said the move would help the hospitals develop means of better treating patients while cutting expenses and maintaining quality in hospital facilities.

"We must address budget deficits as a government agency," Phillips said, regarding the national debt's effect on veterans' health care services. "This move will help us do that in the most

cost effective way."

For instance, the VA moved its bone densitometer, a device to measure patients' bone density, to University Hospital's radiology department, where both hospitals can use the device to diagnose and treat patients.

Otherwise, the university would have had to purchase its own device, he said.

Other collaborations of money and resources will help develop medical centers of excellence, said Harold Maurer, dean of the UNMC College of Medicine.

The university presented a \$100,000 research grant to the VA's alcohol and liver treatment program, Maurer said. Liver disease treatment is a strength of both institutions, he said.

The institutions also hope to develop a cutting-edge arthritis treatment program. Nationally known doctors in this area now practice at Clarkson and VA hospitals, Maurer said.

University and VA hospitals have collaborated on many research and educational programs, he said.

Seventy-three physicians now have appointments at both hospitals and generated more than \$2.7 million in research grants last year.

Maurer said the move would not affect UNMC students' access to the VA hospital, where 51 resident physicians are involved in residency training.

About 123 students each year receive some medical training and patient-treatment experience at the VA hospital, he said, resulting in every

UNMC student receiving some medical training there.

Additional medical education courses will develop to offer practicing physicians continuing medical education courses and to offer out-state Nebraska doctors distance-learning courses on new medical technology, Maurer said.

Phillips said such courses would be developed by a variety of teams, representing UNMC and VA hospitals, which would identify opportunities for collaboration in education, research and clinical operations.

Maurer said UNMC faculty is positive the collaboration will benefit the citizens and veterans of Nebraska.

"I think this is just a very positive endeavor," Phillips said.

## UNL professor, 59, dies of heart attack

By MATTHEW WAITE  
Senior Reporter

Remembered for his wit and his ability to reach students in large lecture halls, political science Professor Robert Miewald's funeral services will be today.

Miewald, an expert in the politics of public administration and state government, died of a heart attack Saturday. He was 59.

Services for Miewald will be at 4 p.m. in the Butherus, Maser and Love Funeral Home, 4040 A St.

"He was outstanding, especially in the large introductory sections of American government," said David Forsythe, chairman of the political

science department. "He somehow found a way to communicate really well with UNL students despite that format."

"Some of the rest of us struggle to find a way to reach students when you have a class of 200 people."

Born May 16, 1938, in Chinook, Mont., Miewald got his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Oregon in 1960. In 1961, he joined the Army for two years, and in 1966, he obtained his doctorate in political science from the University of Colorado.

His first political science teaching job was at California State University, Long Beach from 1966

Please see DEATH on 6

## Johnsgard completes book on nesting habits

By HUI-CHIN LIM  
Staff Reporter

Paul Johnsgard is trying to fill his 3-foot bookshelf ...

... with books he has written himself.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln biological sciences professor is one step closer to his goal with his 36th book, "The Avian Brood Parasites: Deception at the Nest." Two more books are written and waiting to be published, he said.

Johnsgard is one of the most published UNL professors, his colleague and fellow biological sciences Professor John Janovy said.

"(He is) a remarkable person that never fails to accomplish anything he has ever started."

Though most of Johnsgard's works are reference books about birds, he has also written about the Sandhills, the Platte River and mythological animals. Some books are written for scientists and researchers; others for children, he said.

Johnsgard said his love for birds started with a red-winged blackbird.

As a 5-year-old in a small North Dakota town, his grade-school teacher showed him a stuffed red-winged blackbird, a moment that blossomed into a life passionately devoted to studying birds, he said.

Such artifacts still hold his fascination. His tiny office in Manter Hall is home to his collection of artifacts from all over the world. Wooden birds, carved by his own hand, sit on

Please see BIRDS on 6



COMEDIAN WENDI FOX speaks to a near capacity crowd Monday evening at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. She talked about being raised in an alcoholic environment and the effects it had on her life.

## Sober sentence given

By SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

For stand-up comedian Wendi Fox, the partying never lasted long while she was drinking.

Fox, who is sober now, said she'd buzz for 15 minutes after she started drinking, then she would pass out.

Fox was the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Do it Sober assem-

bly, which was sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority. The event's, which aim is to show students how alcohol can affect them, was in Lied Center for Performing Arts Monday night.

Fox, who has spent the past six years speaking about alcoholism to college students, has a unique approach to her "Alcoholic Insanity Tour" speech.

"If you came here for a lecture, you're in the wrong place," she

said. "We're here to have a good time."

Fox said she recently quit drinking because she "sucked at it."

"One time I was drinking at a bar in Texas, and they stopped serving me, so I went to Mexico," Fox said. "When you cross the border to get a beer, it's time to take a left into some kind of program."

Fox said she came from an

Please see SOBER on 6