

## Back to work

Big 12 Women's Basketball Coaches and players met the media Wednesday to discuss the upcoming basketball season. PAGE 10

## What to wear?

Don't let assembling the perfect Halloween persona scare you. Whether you go gothic or as your grandma, do it with style. PAGE 8

SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY

Cloudy, high 55. Sprinkles tonight, low 40.

# Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 97

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 48

## Power posse plans post-snow provisions

By TED TAYLOR  
Senior Reporter

The wagons are circled, the weapons are drawn and the reinforcements have been called.

Troops from near and far are weary, but ready, to work through the weekend — all day and night if needed — to get power restored to the remaining 20,000 Lincoln area residents who still do not have electricity.

Lincoln Electric System adminis-

trator Terry Bundy said Wednesday LES's 70 line-repair technicians have been joined by about 200 private-electric contractors from across the region to help assist in getting the lights turned back on in areas of the Capital City.

The power posse could grow to 400 by Sunday, Bundy said.

"The support from outside the community is almost overwhelming," he said.

Crews have already been working around the clock trying to repair fallen power lines Sunday's massive snow

storm caused.

Warmer temperatures and melting snow allowed workers to get a better feel for the severity of the problem Tuesday, Bundy said, but fallen tree limbs continues to be a major obstacle in getting power restored.

"It's just been a massive destruction," he said, that was worse than they originally thought.

Initial reports by LES Tuesday afternoon said there were only about 5,000 customers without power, but revised figures later in the day indicated the

number was closer to 20,000.

Bundy said the power company has a new, more efficient plan of attack that it hoped would the pace of getting more homes lit.

Instead of having one crew go and cut broken tree branches and remove limbs, and another crew to come and fix the power, he said, "super crews" have been formed to take care of it all in one trip.

Mayor Mike Johanns said Lincoln was at the disposal of the power company.

"We are committed to help LES," he said during a morning news conference. "My direction is clear. Whatever we have, on the city side, to help LES restore power, that is where we'll be."

But Bundy hesitated to say when he thought Lincoln's week of darkness would finally come to an end.

"Monday is a long way away," he said assuring those without power that crews would be working through the weekend.

"I cannot tell you with any degree of confidence what our end date will be."

## Hot diggity dog



KEVIN COLE, associate mechanical engineering professor, takes a look at Der Wiener Schlinger Friday afternoon. First-year engineering students have been enlisted to improve the launching distance of the Fairbury Brand Meats hot dog shooter. SANDY SUMMERS/DN

## Engineering students schling wiener-launch ideas

By TED TAYLOR  
Senior Reporter

If you're going to have a hot dog launcher, it might as well be the best damn hot dog launcher around.

Fairbury Brand Meats, the official hot dog of Husker athletics, thought as much, so it began searching for a way to increase the fire power needed to fling its fairly famous Fairbury franks.

It wanted its cute hot dog-shaped shooter to be a lean, mean hot dog-slingin' machine.

Lucky for Fairbury, Rollin Hotchkiss is a volleyball fan.

The associate civil engineering professor happened to be in the crowd at an early season NU volleyball game and something away from the action on the court caught his eye.

"I noticed they were picking up a lot of drag and wind resistance," he said critiquing the hot dog's flight pattern that night. "It looked like an opportunity."

So Hotchkiss got up from his seat in the NU Coliseum and introduced himself to the man

pulling the trigger of Fairbury's "Der Wiener Schlinger."

"I told him there was probably a way to improve his efficiency," Hotchkiss said.

The Hotchkiss way involves the first-year students of the College of Engineering and Technology.

And now, after a few meetings and a handshake or two, finding a way to improve the launcher's efficiency (that to you and me is flinging frankfurters as far as they can fly) is an introductory engineering class project.

Fairbury's future in the frank-

furter-flinging business now rests in the hands of two classes, Associate Professor Suzanne Rohde's Mechanical Engineering 100 and Associate Professor Dean Sicking's Civil Engineering 112.

About 170 University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshmen and sophomores are responsible, in four weeks, to improve the existing plan — or construct from scratch — the best damn hot dog launcher in the world.

And you thought engineering

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## Cultural message delivered

By LINDSAY YOUNG  
Staff Reporter

Students, while they should think of themselves, also need to think of those who are different, a cultural diversity speaker told students Wednesday night.

Ray Davis, executive director of the Washington, D.C., Student Coalition Against Racism, told students that looking at the big picture will help in cultural understanding.

"If we don't have diversity we shortchange ourselves," Davis said.

Davis was brought to campus by the Diversity Council and the University Program Council. He spoke in the Centennial Room in the Nebraska Union.

Event Coordinator Jamie Grayson said UPC wanted to co-sponsor the event with the Diversity Council because "of the climate of campus last semester, there is a lot of tension between the races."

Having Davis come and speak, she said, was one way of promoting racial diversity.

Davis told students about diversity with social action. SCAR focuses on this aspect.

Davis said there is a difference between racism and the three words — prejudice, bias and discrimination.

Prejudice, bias and discrimination are not specific, but racism is, he said.

"We're talking about a system where a set of prejudices or biases or discrimination is based upon race."

To combat these attitudes, diversity is needed, he said. And, diversity is for all people.

"Whatever lineage you are, you should be celebrated for that," he said. "We're all different and we're all special."

He said all groups should work together, though, and not separate, to accomplish diversity and understanding.

The university is the ideal place to do this, he said, but it isn't being done. Often, separatism prevails.

"They need to create an environment where there is a better understanding of different people and different cultures. I think it's important that there is a global understanding," Davis said.

He said it seemed there were some good

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