

## Enthusiasm

Nebraska sophomore middle blocker Tonia Tauke isn't afraid to let her enthusiasm show on or off the NU Coliseum floor. PAGE 7



## Juicing up Jasper

Frustrated by the crazies who surround him, Jasper finds respite in "extraordinary" people he meets in "Somewhere in Between." PAGE 9

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SEEMS LIKE YEARS SINCE IT'S BEEN CLEAR  
Cloudy, snow possible, high 43. Clearing tonight, low 27.

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JOEL WATTS, a Vital employee, paints the outside of a birdhouse Husker red. Watts and other Vital employees are involved in all stages of production for the Nebraska logo birdhouses. SANDY SUMMERS/DN

## Learning to Fly

Company mentors mentally disabled

BY KELLI LACEY  
Staff Reporter

When 35-year-old Michael Rakestraw moved from Grand Island to Lincoln four months ago, his goal was to live independent of his family's care and work a job of his own, despite his cerebral palsy.

He's found a way to do that with Vital, a company that provides vocational training for adults with mental retardation and other mental deficiencies. It is a supervised workshop whose clients — and employees — make birdhouses and bird feeders colored bright red and emblazoned with the Huskers' Go Big Red logo.

Vital hires people aged 19 and older who have graduated from Lincoln Public Schools. Jobs at Vital are steppingstones for the adults to get connected to jobs in the competitive market, said Rob Carter, general manager of Vital.

"Our goal is to make it as much like a normal job as we can," Carter said.

Carter said he wants clients to perform their jobs at Vital the same way they would for any other job.

"If I don't come to work every day, I would lose my job," he said.

Some clients at Vital have gone on to jobs such as working in restaurants and cleaning in department stores.

Please see VITAL on 12

## Academic Senate rejects King holiday

BY SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

The Academic Senate heard a presentation Tuesday about improving conditions at UNL for minorities, and then put itself in the minority by voting down two popular proposals for calendar changes.

The votes were against proposals to observe Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday and to institute a mid-semester fall break.

The senate also heard a presentation from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color that stressed the group's strategy to reduce the loss of minority students.

"We are losing minority faculty members as fast as we can get them," the presentation stated.

UNL Chancellor James Moeser said he thought the vote on King's birthday was an

### Academic Senate

unfortunate action by the senate.

"I am sad about the outcome of this vote because it is going to be misinterpreted by the community," Moeser said. "It is going to be seen as a lack of sensitivity to the diversity in Lincoln. Symbols like this are loudly heard."

Amy Rager, an Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska representative, said UNL students endorsed the changes overwhelmingly.

"I just find it really ironic that the senate turned down this proposal after discussing the climate (for minorities) of this university," Rager said. "This was one big thing the senate

Please see SENATE on 6

## Post-tenure policy OK'd

BY SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

Months of discussion and numerous rewrites preceded the Academic Senate's approval Tuesday of a new post-tenure review policy.

The senate passed the new policy with a vote that was one short of unanimous.

The senate first passed a motion to replace the old proposal with the newly amended proposal the senate discussed at its last meeting.

Chancellor James Moeser expressed his appreciation to the faculty senate at the meeting.

"I appreciate both the quality of the debate on the proposal and the decision the senate made on the vote," Moeser said. "This shows the finest qualities of our faculty."

Moeser said he thought the proposal was a good one.

"I will continue to vigorously support the document without any changes by the Board of Regents, I promise you that," Moeser said. "I am deeply appreciative of the result of this process. The senate should be proud of themselves."

The purpose of the post-tenure review poli-

cy is to make sure that once professors are tenured they are still maximizing their contributions to the university.

The policy also makes sure faculty members are achieving their professional goals, and lets the public know tenured professors are held accountable for their performance.

The Academic Senate has discussed the new policy since early last year.

The proposal has been through many different stages after faculty senate members discussed changes they wanted and the post-tenure review committee rewrote portions of the document according to the senate's discussion. The revised and amended policy is now submitted to the NU Board of Regents for its approval.

Richard Edwards, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the final document was the result of hard work.

"We have confidence in the proposal and we think it portrays exactly what the post-tenure process is intended to be," Edwards said. "We hope both the faculty and administration can work together to make the system work effectively."

Rob Shirer, a modern languages and litera-

Please see TENURE on 6

## UNL administrator leaves for smaller, Lutheran college

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska native Paul Carlson, UNL's associate vice chancellor for business and finance, announced he would leave the university in January to assume a higher position elsewhere.

Carlson will leave after 14 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to become vice president for finance and administration at Augsburg College, a Lutheran liberal arts college in Minneapolis.

Carlson, who was born and reared in Nebraska, said he accepted the

position at Augsburg because of its prestige. But he still loves UNL, he said.

"The people here are great," Carlson said. "It's going to be tough to leave the people, because they're such dedicated people."

But "I think it's time for me to be a vice president somewhere," he said.

Carlson said he will face many of the same challenges at his new college that he grapples with at UNL.

Augsburg, a downtown campus with a 2,700 enrollment, must increase faculty salaries, increase technology spending and solve a high-dollar problem with deferred

maintenance, he said.

It sounds like UNL, he said, "except we don't have chapel every day here."

Also, at the Lutheran college, Carlson can give his time and expertise back to the faith that has supported him, he said.

Carlson was UNL's interim vice chancellor for business and finance in 1995, before the university hired Melvin Jones to permanently fill the position. After that year, Carlson returned to his position as associate vice chancellor, which he had held since 1993.

Carlson first came to the Office of

Business and Finance as the director of operations analysis in 1983.

But he wasn't a stranger to the university at that time.

He had received a bachelor's degree in business and accounting in 1967 from the university, before seeking a Master's of Business Administration degree from the University of Montana-Missoula.

He then taught at Montana briefly before working in a Minneapolis accounting firm.

Carlson returned to UNL as a visiting professor for one year starting in 1976. He later worked at the Nebraska Department of Revenue

until April 1983, when he returned to UNL.

He has worked toward a doctorate in educational administration ever since, in addition to fulfilling his work-related duties.

Carlson now negotiates most UNL contracts and manages nine areas of university operations, including the University Bookstore, Parking Services and Landscape Services.

When Carlson leaves in early 1999, Glen Nelson, acting assistant to the vice chancellor, will assume his duties until a successor is named.