

A tale of two halves

Nebraska dominated play against Tulsa in the first half but the Golden Hurricane came back to post a 85-69 victory Monday night giving NU its first loss of the season **PAGE 7**

His own private Iowa

UNL student Patrick Delin is hoping to complete his first film by early spring and get a taste of Hollywood in the corn state. **PAGE 8**

December 2, 1997

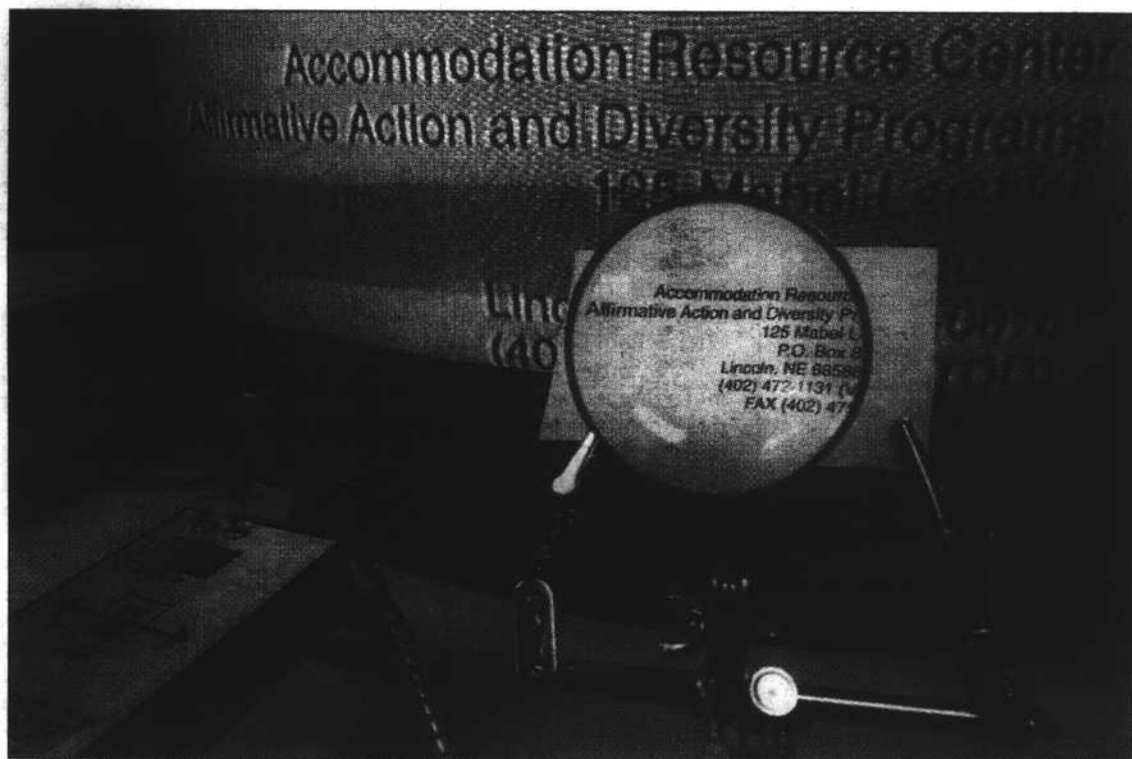
Cloudy, high 35. Low 25, 50 percent chance of snow.

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MATT MILLER/DN

THE ACCOMADATION RESOURCE CENTER helps students and university employees with disabilities by letting them try out equipment that could assist them.

UNL steps up disability aids

BY KELLY SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Even after Kelli Kellogg hurt her shoulder and back while working at the post office, she wasn't going to let her disability keep her from being successful at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. And neither was the university, she said.

By using Services for Students with Disabilities, Kellogg was approved to receive special accom-

modations while being a student to help alleviate the constant pain she suffers from her injuries. The pain is so severe she has trouble taking notes in class and sitting at a computer. Her injuries are permanent.

She received more time on tests, could use a computer for essay exams, got help from a notetaker and had a separate room to take tests. She also had letters sent to her instructors to explain her situation.

This was the help she needed to stay in school, she said.

The services offered to UNL students with disabilities have improved in the last 12 years, said Christy Horn, director of the Accommodation Resource Center. Those improvements have allowed Kellogg, a junior news-editorial and criminal justice major, and more than 300 other disabled students, to stay in school.

Two UNL offices - Services for Students with Disabilities and the Accommodation Resource

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NU proposes new calendar

BY SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate will take another step in the process of changing the academic calendar today.

The senate will hear two new proposals concerning the academic calendar at its monthly meeting at 2:30 in the Nebraska Union.

The first proposal, from the NU Calendar Committee, includes three separate resolutions: One that initiates a set of programs to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday; one that institutes a fall break and asks to hold classes the day after Labor Day; and a third part that proposes spring break be moved up one week on the calendar.

The second proposal, submitted after it was unanimously approved at the town hall meeting Nov. 21, specifically asks for King's birthday

to be celebrated with a day off and be deemed an official holiday at UNL.

Leo Sartori, professor of astronomy and a member of the Calendar Committee, said he was optimistic about the proposals.

"We have considered instituting a Saturday in the calendar as a make-up day for students who miss their lab classes because of the holiday," Sartori said. "Only a small fraction of classes will meet on the day, and it will be at the discretion of the instructor."

Sartori said he had talked with faculty members in the chemistry department, and they were willing to compromise on the holiday.

"I think it's a small inconvenience to achieve a shared goal," Sartori said.

Curt Ruwe, Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska president, said he was glad the senate was considering all its options.

Academic Senate

"I think if the Saturday is put at the beginning of dead week, most students are studying then anyway," Ruwe said. "I don't think it's a bad idea."

Pat Kennedy, Academic Senate president-elect and professor of marketing, said she didn't see much conflict with the proposals.

"I think both of the resolutions will pass," Kennedy said. "I think this whole thing has been blown out of proportion."

Ruwe said ASUN was working to collect student opinions on the issue, but as of yet the results are ambiguous.

"We are going to continue to brainstorm," he said. "This is just one possibility."

Board refuses to hear Williams

Gov. Nelson denies that letters describing the inmate's childhood are 'compelling new evidence.'

BY TED TAYLOR
Senior Reporter

The state pardons board will not meet today to discuss clemency for death row inmate Robert E. Williams, Gov. Ben Nelson said Monday.

In a morning news conference Nelson said there would have to be "compelling new evidence" presented to the board before a new hearing could take place, and as of late Monday afternoon, he said, there was none.

"I am not aware of anything that would be a compelling reason to

preempt the judicial system that has seen a decade and a half of appeals," he said.

Nelson also noted that he and the other two members of the pardon board, Secretary of State Scott Moore and State Attorney General Don Stenberg, voted unanimously in 1995 not to accept another clemency application from Williams.

Williams, 61, is scheduled to die in the electric chair shortly after 10 a.m.

He has been on death row since 1978, a year after confessing to the murders of two Lincoln women, Catherine Brooks and Patricia McGarry. In a three-day, three-state rampage, Williams also shot to death an Iowa woman and shot and left for dead a Minnesota woman, who lived.

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Journalists prepare to watch execution

BY TED TAYLOR
Senior Reporter

At 10 a.m. on a normal day, Omaha World-Herald Lincoln bureau chief Bill Hord and The Associated Press reporter Robynn Tysver would be sitting in their offices working on stories.

But today is not normal.

At 10 a.m. today, Hord, Tysver and three other media witnesses will watch a man die in the electric chair.

To them both it's a job; a job they did not ask for, a job both nearly declined and a job they aren't taking lightly.

"I am nervous about it," Hord said Monday, less than 24 hours before the scheduled execution of Robert E. Williams. "It's something that really puts you through a lot of thoughts you otherwise wouldn't entertain."

Tysver, in her fourth year as an AP reporter, said she was "very" nervous about her assignment today.

"I'm nervous about what my reaction will be," she said. "I hope I remain professional throughout the execution."

When asked whether a tear or some sign of emotion might come across her face she paused.

"I hope not," she said.

Hord, Tysver, Butch Mabin of the Lincoln Journal Star, Tracy Overstreet of KRTI radio in Grand Island and Brad Stephens of Omaha's KETV Channel 7, have been asked to be offi-

cial witnesses to Nebraska's third execution in four years.

It is their job to report to the public the final moments of Williams' life; his final words, his final movements, his final expressions. They are also to report the number electrical jolts it takes to put Williams to death.

It's a job required of the media that helps to maintain a civil society, Tysver said.

"Journalistically I thought it was an obligation," she said. "Someone has to be in that room who is not directed to the government."

"It would be a horrid, horrid day when executions are held behind closed doors."

After the execution, the media witnesses will be taken into a packed visitors room where about 50 members of the media from across Nebraska and surrounding states will be waiting with cameras, tape recorders and notebooks, hanging on every word they say.

The witnesses are the people who will bring the results of the state's ultimate act of punishment that just took place inside the prison to the state's citizens outside the prison.

In the 2 1/2 weeks since he knew he would be a witness, Hord said, he has struggled to find a way to better prepare himself for what he could see today.

"How do you do that?" he said to the prison warden's advice that the wit-

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