

Passing to Spokane

The Nebraska volleyball team competes in the NCAA Regional Tournament this weekend with a berth in the Final Four on the line. PAGE 7



Candy-caned

Naughty children will be on the receiving end of an angry Santa Claus come Christmas Eve, the Fat One reveals in an exclusive interview. PAGE 9

December 12, 1997

WARMING TREND

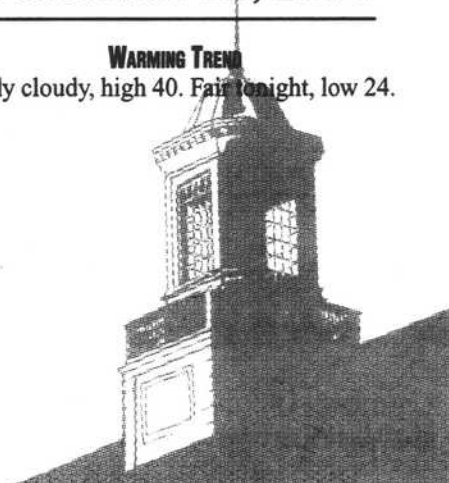
Partly cloudy, high 40. Fair tonight, low 24.

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Moul calls off campaign plans

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Assignment Reporter

Maxine Moul said this week that she won't seek the Democratic nomination for governor in 1998.

Expressing concerns about timing and financing, Moul opted not to become the third Democrat to enter the race.

"I went through all the processes that a candidate should go through," she said. "It simply came at the wrong time; the timing wasn't right."

Moul, who served as lieutenant governor from 1991 to 1993, said she enjoys her role as state economic development director and wants to continue serving in that capacity.

The 1998 campaign promises to be expensive for candidates, Moul said, and she said this also deterred her from running.

"I was raised not to go into debt," she said, laughing.

Moul had explored a possible campaign during the past few months and, along with the party's three announced candidates, had

spoken at recent Democratic party gatherings.

Kearney podiatrist Steve Bennett; Bill Hoppner, a former aide for Sen. Bob Kerrey and former Sen. James Exon; and former Lincoln state Sen. Jim McFarland have announced candidacies for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Moul said she plans to contribute to the debate during the 1998 campaign, especially on economic development issues she has worked with during the past few years.

"I will be an interested observer," she said.

Nebraska Democratic Party Chairwoman Deb Hardin Quirk said Moul would have been a strong candidate, but she said the party understood her reasons for not running.

"I think she would have added strength to an already strong Democratic field," she said.

Quirk said she wasn't sure the Democratic field was set, but said she hadn't heard of any others considering bids. In Bennett, Hoppner and McFarland, she said, the party's

Election '98

voters have three experienced and knowledgeable candidates from which to choose.

"They are strong in their experience, geographic distribution and depth of thinking and consideration on the issues facing Nebraska voters," she said. "They are three individuals who are not using one political office to get to another."

Ecologists: City growth hurts park

BY TANYA WORTMAN
Staff Reporter

As Lincoln continues to expand on its southwestern borders, some UNL environmentalists are worried about the effects the development will have on nearby Wilderness Park.

The Ridge Development Company bought 136 acres of land southwest of Lincoln, at 14th Street and Pine Lake Road. Fifty-nine of these acres are on a flood plain and at its closest point is just 150 feet from Wilderness Park.

The proposed development has some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, which include members of Ecology Now, concerned about how such developments will affect the park.

Robert Klein, a senior environmental studies major, said one of his biggest worries is how the project would affect the area's function as a flood plain.

Klein said the development will require about a foot of dirt to be placed below any buildings, which would displace any excess water and possibly flood Salt Creek inside Wilderness Park.

A representative for Ridge Development Company, Lincoln attorney Kent Seacrest said there was no need to worry. He said the development will require only a small amount of dirt to be placed on the flood plain — not enough to cause a drastic change.

Klein and his wife, Carol Reed-Klein, also an environmental studies major, disagree.

"When you go and tamper with flood plains, you're asking for trouble, in my opinion," Klein said.

Reed-Klein is a former Ecology Now member and is active in the cause.

Reed-Klein said she thinks any change would be drastic. Wilderness Park has evolved over thousands of years and is one of the only wild spaces left in the area, she said.

Robert Klein said he has other concerns

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MARTIN GASKELL, associate professor of physics and astronomy, examines the new 16-inch telescope that was installed in November at the new student research observatory on the top floor of the parking garage. Gaskell wrote the proposal sent to the National Science Foundation for support of the project.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN

Telescope finds home at UNL

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Like a home without a family, the new astronomy observatory west of Memorial Stadium had no telescope for most of the semester.

Its silver shell served only as a rooftop decoration for the University Parking Garage.

Then, the planets started to align in the evening sky. And soon thereafter, a 16-inch telescope was placed inside the dome.

Coincidence? Maybe. But the new tele-

scope seems almost magical to those who have peeked through its lenses.

"I was really pleased with it," said Martin Gaskell, an astronomy and physics associate professor. "This was just what I wanted."

For years, Gaskell sought to place a strong telescope on campus for undergraduates' use. The university's large Behlen Observatory sits about 25 miles from the university — too far away for many undergraduates to visit easily, he said.

Another telescope kept in Ferguson Hall was too small for observing faint celestial bodies, he said. Gaskell knew a strong, on-campus telescope was needed to improve the

education of astronomy students at UNL, he said.

But getting what he wanted was neither quick nor easy, Gaskell said. The process started more than five years ago.

In 1992, Gaskell wrote a proposal to receive funding from the National Science Foundation, which soon approved his request. When the telescope arrived in 1995, the department was ready to install it on the roof of Ferguson Hall. There, UNL astronomers frequently star-gazed through a portable telescope.

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