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# Telescope finds new home atop garage

TELESCOPE from page 1

The fire marshal changed those plans, said Don Taylor, associate professor of astronomy and physics.

Professors were concerned about the stability of the building because cars driving through it could shake the structure and blur images seen through the rooftop telescope. But after running tests on other parking structures, they allowed the observatory installation plans to progress.

The telescope finally was installed the day before Thanksgiving.

The rooftop location didn't meet a fire code requiring two stairwell fire escapes. So department astronomers considered the top of Manter Hall instead, where noxious gases are vented from chemistry labs, Taylor said.

"We hardly wanted to put ourselves up there," he said, so they looked for a place on the ground.

No location seemed available on campus, he said. Then, construction on the new university parking garage began, Taylor said.

Gaskell said a room nearby the observatory soon will hold a computer that controls the telescope and a computer screen on which many

people can view images seen through the telescope at once.

That room will be heated, he said, although the observatory itself cannot because escaping heat would blur the light entering the telescope.

Those using the telescope must remain free to battle elements other than the Nebraska cold, Taylor said, such as the huge pile-driving machines building highway bridges nearby. The machines shake the ground, the garage and the telescope.

So do trains on the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks.

"You see a very interesting blur in the telescope when a train goes by," Gaskell said.

Users also must avoid the bright lights on Memorial Stadium and flood lights on buildings in the Historic Haymarket.

But, on clear nights, the telescope is powerful enough for students to study faint galaxies and stars. Starting next semester, the public can join them in star-gazing once each month.

"It may not be perfect, but it's better than nothing," Gaskell said of the new observatory.

In fact, he said, it's the best in Lincoln.

# Foundation presents essay contest on ethics

From Staff Reports

College juniors and seniors can win cash prizes of up to \$5,000 through the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity's essay contest.

The essay requires students to explore ethical issues or questions in 3,000 to 4,000 words. This year's suggested themes include:

- Ethics based on a personal experience.
- Why are we here, and how are we to meet our ethical obligations?
- Reflect on an ethical aspect of a literary text.

Wiesel is a Holocaust survivor who lost family members in Nazi concentration camps. In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He and his wife, Marion, formed the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity to work toward human

rights and peace through a forum of discussion of ethical issues.

Wiesel, who is now a professor at Boston University, visited UNL in April 1996. He filled the Lied Center for Performing Arts when he spoke about the dangers of religious fanatics.

Beginning with the 1958 publication of his first memoir, "La Nuit" (The Night), Wiesel has used his talents as an author, teacher and storyteller to enlighten and inform his audiences.

His latest memoir, "All Rivers Run into the Sea," was published in the United States last fall.

Requests for information on the contest are due Dec. 19. The essays, accompanied by a completed entry form, are due Jan. 23.

For information, contact the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 450 Lexington Ave., Suite 1920, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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