

News Digest

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1998

PAGE 2

Cubans finish preparing, await pope's visit Trip expected to be slight economic boon for the country

HAVANA (AP) — The faithful sang and prayed Tuesday in the streets of Havana, and Cubans of every persuasion — Catholic, communist and curious — awaited a papal visit that many said could be a turning point for their nation.

In a concession to the pope that had some churchgoers in tears, a bishop expelled from Cuba at the lowest point of church-state relations was allowed to return and celebrate Mass Tuesday in his old parish.

On the eve of John Paul II's first visit ever to Cuba, the communist government was still working to patch and tidy up sections of the crumbling capital, which has been ravaged by a collapsed economy.

Crews poured and steamrolled fresh asphalt over the cracked and potholed roads, traveled by rusted and creaking old cars and trucks. Workers sprayed yellow paint on one

school's faded facade.

While most Cubans agree the pope's five-day visit will leave their country changed, expectations on what will change depends on their political and religious perspective.

Foes of Fidel Castro hope it will weaken his communist regime, which took power in 1959. Castro hopes to gain stature for his revolution and support for an end to the more than three-decade-old U.S. economic embargo. And the Cuban church hopes to expand its influence.

A nationwide prayer vigil was planned in churches throughout the country Tuesday evening. Outside downtown Havana's Our Lady of Carmine Church, boys and girls joyously swung each other around as young and old worshippers sang and prayed as excitement continued to build for the pope, who is scheduled to arrive at 3 p.m. today.

At Medalla Milagrosa Church, 10-year-old Claudia, dressed in a pink Snoopy sweatshirt, dreamed of shaking hands with the pontiff as she and others finished work on the last of 80,000 simple Cuban and papal flags made at the church.

"The pope is like God, a beautiful picture," Claudia said.

While Castro sought to burnish his government's image and the pope hoped for a spiritual awakening in Cuba, it was unclear which of the two men has the tougher task of evangelization.

"Missions are more difficult here than in Africa or India. We have to start from scratch. We have to explain everything," said the Rev. Jesus Luzaretta, a Spanish priest who spends two months a year at Medalla Milagrosa Church. "You can't easily wipe out 40 years of restrictions."

Castro is scheduled to greet John

"I believe the visit will have an impact in our country, a great impact."

ELIZARDO SANCHEZ
Cuban human rights monitor

Paul II after the pope arrives at 4 p.m. EST Wednesday in Havana, then meet privately with the papal leader the following day.

Castro has encouraged Cubans to come out for the papal services in Santa Clara, Camaguey and Santiago, and the revolutionary leader says he will attend the final Mass at the secular government's most sacred meeting ground, the Plaza of the Revolution in central Havana.

The trip is expected to be a minor boon to the Cuban economy — with

estimates the thousands of journalists and visitors will pour some \$20 million into the foreign currency-starved nation.

"I believe the visit will have an impact in our country, a great impact," said Elizardo Sanchez, a prominent Cuban human rights monitor who spent 11 years in prison. "Although regretfully, I'm not expecting a miracle, nor do I believe that the Holy Father thinks that there will be a miracle."

ASUN focuses on new issues

ASUN

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

A new semester means a new set of goals for ASUN, President Curt Ruwe said.

But that does not mean last semester's goals have been completely dropped or met, Ruwe said. The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is just moving on.

Part of the moving-on process involved miscommunication resulting in a change to the new goals, Ruwe said.

Originally, one of ASUN's goals was to lobby for a jury deferment bill that would exempt college students from jury duty if they would have to miss classes or tests to serve.

But poor communication between ASUN and the Government Liaison Committee hampered movement toward that goal.

Both groups soon realized the bill was "not even close to hitting the floor," Ruwe said.

"The realistic thing to do is to say we screwed up and switch our support to a bill that has a chance," he said.

John Wiechmann, chairman of the GLC, said instead of the jury deferment bill, the committee will focus on a bill proposed by Gov. Ben Nelson aimed at keeping students in Nebraska after college graduation.

As for last semester's goals, Ruwe said most of those goals remain on the table this semester, but are not "higher-priority items."

"We are not just working on the same issues," Ruwe said. "There are new issues at stake."

Only one goal was physically completed — the adoption of an NU Board of Regents bylaw change to allow student organizations to apply for funds from the University Program Council once every two years rather than once every four.

ASUN goals are not very specific, Ruwe said, because ASUN did not want to be "locked into a potentially bad idea" and be stuck with it halfway through the semester.

He conceded that vague goals have become the norm in student gov-

ASUN Watch And the score is...

The following is a list of goals ASUN has set, and the progress it has made.

1. To create successful programming for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 19 as well as create a Martin Luther King Jr. Day coordinating commission for 1999.

—ASUN President Curt Ruwe said he was pleased by the events sponsored by ASUN Monday. On the average, Ruwe said, 75 people attended programming by UNL student groups at the Nebraska Union. "There was not a point when people weren't being exposed to Martin Luther King events," Ruwe said.

Because of everyone's intense efforts in making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a success, Ruwe said some senators did not have time to work on other ASUN goals.

As for next year, Ruwe said he planned on meeting with Omar Valentine, UNL junior and member of the Afrikan People's Union, to discuss appointments for the 1999 coordinating commission.

2. Research and work toward the implementation of midterm and standard academic evaluations in addition to the existing departmental evaluations.

—Ruwe said he plans on talking to students and student government bodies from other universities, such as the University of Michigan, which already have "some sort of system" of separate and standard evaluations, which Ruwe would like to see at UNL in the future.

3. Continue to work toward implementation of a parking education class.

—This week, Senators Kelly Hofschneider and Adam Anderson, who normally would work on the parking class efforts, were working on a plan to get a bus shelter for the area on East Campus near the Animal Science complex. Ruwe said ASUN is still committed to the parking class, but no work had been done last week toward implementing it.

4. Work toward internet registration for classes.

—Ruwe said he predicted that UNL students would be registering for classes online by spring semester, 1999. Although this was not a project that Ruwe's administration would see become a "reality," Ruwe said he hoped work, which along with other projects, was put on hold this week to begin to establish more groundwork for the project.

5. Lobby for student support for the "Brain drain/Brain gain" bill.

—John Wiechmann, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee, said the "Brain drain/Brain gain" bill would look at ways to encourage Nebraska college students to stay in the state after graduation through such things as scholarships that would require students to stay and work in Nebraska for a period of time.

6. Work toward keeping the Student Impact Team and Government Liaison Committee busy through working toward campus beautification projects.

—Ruwe said beautification would entail fund-raising efforts on the part of SIT for the purchase of trees to replace the ones destroyed in last year's October snowstorm. Ruwe said SIT has not yet met this year to discuss fundraising efforts. The GLC will be lobbying for deferred maintenance bills to "improve the aesthetics" of UNL's campuses.

7. Reconstruct the Outstanding Educator Award.

—Ruwe said he has not made any specific efforts yet this year to get a new system implemented.

ernment, such as ASUN's commitment to diversity issues and efforts to improve interaction among student governing bodies.

But Ruwe said senators working on more specific projects from last semester know they need to remain committed to those.

Wiechmann said the GLC was still working with city officials to address safety concerns near 14th and Vine streets.

And the Committee for Fees Allocation, Ruwe said, did spend time last semester getting more student opinion on fee allocations. But he said this semester will focus more on determining what to do with that information.

Ruwe said implementing a fall break policy was a goal that did not work out the way ASUN hoped it would, with the Academic Senate voting it down.

But surveys were submitted to the University of Nebraska Calendar Committee showing student support for the policy, Ruwe said.

Only one goal, continuing to work towards the implementation of a parking education class "benefiting students and parking services," physically carried over to the new list because it was still a main priority, Ruwe said.

"We felt it important," Ruwe said, "to let the public know we weren't remaining stagnant."

Law & Order

Man arrested for abuse

A Lincoln man was arrested on three counts of felony child abuse Monday night.

Earl Crane, 28, was charged with abusing his three daughters, aged 7, 9 and 11. He physically, verbally and emotionally abused the children, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Crane was intoxicated when he picked the children up from their mother's house Sunday evening for an overnight visit. He then tortured the children Sunday night and continued until Monday afternoon.

Crane reportedly shot a staple gun at the kids and stapled their shoes to the floor with their feet in them. Crane then shot himself in the arm with the staple gun and forced the seven-year-old to remove the staples for him.

After hours of torture, the children were tired and haggard, Heermann said. Crane then gave the 11-year-old a picture of a rifle, saying he would kill the girls, their mother and their aunt.

The incident was reported to police by the mother, Rhonda Romero, when her children were returned to her home Monday night.

Pedestrians robbed

Two pedestrians were robbed Saturday morning around 7 a.m. as they walked along 44th Street.

A sedan containing four black males stopped next to the couple and one of the men demanded the woman's coat, Heermann said.

The woman was wearing her boyfriend's leather Nike coat, worth more than \$250. His wallet, containing some cash, was also in the coat.

The male pedestrian told the woman to run, then took off. The woman began to run away also, but was caught by the robbers.

The four men surrounded her, put a gun to her head and made her empty her pockets, though she was only carrying a pack of cigarettes.

The men took the coat containing her boyfriend's wallet and left.

Compiled by Senior Reporter
Josh Funk

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Paula Lavigne
Managing Editor: Chad Lorenz
Associate News Editor: Erin Schulte
Associate News Editor: Ted Taylor
Assignment Editor: Erin Gibson
Opinion Editor: Joshua Gillin
Sports Editor: David Wilson
A&E Editor: Jeff Randall
Copy Desk Chiefs: Bryce Glenn
Photo Director: Ryan Soderlin
Design Co-Chiefs: Jamie Ziegler
Tony Toth
Art Director: Matt Haney

Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588 or e-mail dn@unlinfo.unl.edu.

Asst. Online Editor: Amy Pemberton
General Manager: Dan Shattil
Publications Board: Melissa Myles, (402) 476-2446
Chairwoman: (402) 473-7301
Professional Adviser: Don Walton, (402) 472-2589
Advertising Manager: Nick Partsch, (402) 472-2589
Assistant Ad Manager: Daniel Lam
Ad Manager: Marni Speck

World Wide Web: www.unl.edu/DailyNeb
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1998
THE DAILY NEBRASKAN