

Lone Star losers

The Nebraska men's and women's basketball teams return home after big losses deep in the heart of Texas Wednesday. The Husker men lost to Texas, while the women fell to Baylor. **PAGE 7**



Chemical blues brother

Grading papers and writing exams should be enough to give any professor the blues, but Bob McLaughlin doesn't mind. **PAGE 9**

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It keeps going and going and going
Chance of snow, high 28. Flurries tonight, low 17.

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Asian markets stifle students

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

Asian students at UNL are feeling the effects of market crashes thousands of miles from here. Economic crises in their home countries have left some foreign students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln scraping for cash or even struggling to stay in school, and university officials are trying to help.

Judy Wendorff, international student adviser in the International Affairs office, met with university officials Wednesday to brainstorm ways UNL can reverse negative effects.

Wendorff said the university is exploring avenues such as financial assistance, grants, tuition payment deferral, loans and eliminating the fee applied to late bills to help out students.

Because of the economic instability in several Asian countries, students studying abroad in Lincoln only have enough money to pay for necessities such as tuition, students said.

"I think that most of the problem is (for) the undergraduate students funded by their parents."

SOONGOO HONG
president of Korean Students Association

The undergraduate students are funded by their families at home, and must get permission to work off campus while in the United States.

"I think that most of the problem is (for) the undergraduate students funded by their parents," Soongoo Hong, president of the Korean Students Association, said.

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Chemistry department staff member charged

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

A former UNL administrative assistant was charged with theft in Lancaster County Court Wednesday.

Diane Stevens, 51, was fired from the chemistry department and arrested Tuesday for stealing more than \$60,000 from the university during the last decade.

Stevens could face up to 20 years in jail and a \$25,000 fine, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said. Additional charges could also be filed.

Lacey would not comment on the alleged involvement of Stevens' husband, but the university's preliminary investigation showed he was partially involved, said Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance.

As an administrative assistant at the university, Stevens was responsible for the hiring of temporary faculty members, Jones said.

"Nothing like this has ever happened at the

university before," Jones said.

In more than 20 years at the university, Jones added, Stevens earned a level of trust from her supervisors.

"She definitely abused that trust," he said.

Stevens was able to create a fake faculty member using a personnel action form used university-wide.

The form includes personal information about the person as well as information on what department they would work for, how long they would hold the position and how much they would be paid.

In the chemistry department these temporary faculty members work as laboratory research associates.

Under the current system the form would go to the college's dean and other supervisors for approval, but these supervisors would not review the actual hiring, Jones said.

The supervisors examined other factors relat-

Please see **STEVENS** on 3

Student dies in highway collision

BY TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter

Amanda Churchill had everything to look forward to on her 20th birthday last Wednesday.

A freshman social science major, she was traveling to her hometown of Seward to renew her driver's license and celebrate with friends later that evening.

Earlier in the day her fiance broke the news that he had just reserved a church for their summer wedding.

But her special day and dreams of marriage

were cut short when she was killed in an accident after her car collided with a pickup truck shortly after noon.

According to a report by the Nebraska State Patrol, Churchill's car crossed the median and collided head-on with an east-bound pickup truck at 12:35 p.m. on Highway 34, one mile east of Garland.

The driver of the pickup, Raymond Naber, 70, of Utica suffered fractured ribs and cuts. He was taken to Lincoln General Hospital.

His wife, Mary Naber, 67, was killed in the

Please see **CHURCHILL** on 2

Plow this



SCOTT McCLURG/DN
DOWNTOWN LINCOLN was blanketed with about four inches of snow late Tuesday evening. The National Weather Service has forecasted a 30 percent chance of snow flurries again today with a high in the 20s.

Parties agree to oppose LB905

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Legislature

Democrats and Republicans in Nebraska disagree on many issues, but they agree that independent voters shouldn't help select their parties' candidates in the primaries.

The executive directors of both parties testified Wednesday in opposition to LB905 before the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron, would allow voters who aren't affiliated with a political party to request a partisan ballot in the primary elections.

Independent voters could thus help select party nominees for any office on the ballot and help choose delegates for the parties' county, state and national conventions.

Coordsen said the proposal could rejuvenate interest in politics, encouraging more of the state's large number of independent voters to vote.

No other proponents testified during the 15 minute hearing.

But Beth Smith, executive director of the Nebraska Republican Party, and Ken Haar, executive director of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said the bill could hurt politics in the state by diminishing the influence of political parties.

"It would unquestionably hurt political parties by encouraging a decline in political affiliation," Haar said. "Parties grow people into politics and stimulate an interest in politics."

Haar said the bill would encourage parties to run fewer candidates, limiting voters' choices. It also would be unfair, he said, to allow independent voters to select delegates for party conventions.

Smith said failure to pass LB905 would not be unfair to independent voters, who can register with a party if they want to vote in the primaries.

"We don't feel like independent voters would be denied a vote," she said. "Like us, they have the ultimate vote in November."