



## Not pretty

The Nebraska football team struggled through its final scrimmage before its Saturday game against Louisiana Tech. **PAGE 14**



## Sugar daddies

Old (very old) school group Sugarhill Gang required the aid of dubbed recordings when it performed at the Big Red Welcome. **PAGE 18**

August 24, 1998

HOTTER THAN HADES

Partly cloudy, high 95. Chance of rain tonight, low 65.

# Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 98

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 2



**NICOLE WITWER, an employee of Fringe and Tassel Costume Rental, 735 O St., hands out rings to students during Sunday's Big Red Welcome. Many vendors, student and community organizations peddled free items to advertise their services and groups during the all-day festival on R Street.**

DAWN DIETRICH/DN

## A welcome, Big Red style

■ Thousands endure the heat to start the school year with freebies, music.

BY ADAM KLINKER  
Staff writer

It's been said that you can tell a freshman by the slap-happy look — but at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it's by the bags of free stuff.

Sunday night, 144 student organizations, clubs, area businesses and other services filled 240 booths on R street between 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> streets. The students followed.

"It's intimidating," said freshman biological sciences major Emily Jorgensen. "But it's awesome."

Enduring the high heat and humidity — 94 degrees with 54 percent humidity — thousands of peo-

ple lined the street in front of the Nebraska Union to get their hands on free compact discs, food and coupons.

Following a New Student Convocation given for transfer students and the freshman class, the Big Red Welcome kicked off at 5 p.m. and wrapped up with a concert by the old-school rap group Sugarhill Gang at 7 p.m.

Bill McLaughlin, chemistry professor and recipient of student government's Outstanding Educator Award, told students during the convocation to experience the college atmosphere and question answers in addition to answering questions.

McLaughlin finished his speech with an impromptu performance on his harmonica.

Afterward, the capacity crowd at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts streamed onto R Street to join the already growing

crowd. Construction of the booths designed to attract students walking along R Street began around 8 a.m. and preparation for Big Red Welcome continued until about 3 p.m.

One of the more popular booths was the one from Havelock Bank featuring a "House of Cash" money grab. About 30 people walked away with a share of the 100 \$1 bills blowing around in the booth, Pat Myrick, a spokeswoman from Havelock Bank, said.

Lance Ford, a senior art major, was the first to get a chance at the flying \$1 bills.

"It's great," Ford said. "Lots of food, free money. I'm having a good time." Ford picked up \$7.

The Navigators, a campus Christian group, handed out 2,000 Blue Bunny ice cream cones donat-

Please see **RED** on page 3

## Moeser marks mission areas

BY LINDSAY YOUNG  
Senior staff writer

To help fulfill its mission as a land grant university, UNL will work to improve three areas in the next year. Chancellor James Moeser said Friday.

In his annual state of the university address Friday morning to about 1,000 people, Moeser announced the formation of three committees designed to build upon the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's strengths, increase academic rigor and consider the state of the campus climate — all priorities he set last year.

One committee, named the Future Nebraska Committee, will consider UNL's areas of greatest strength and potential for future developments. The committee will be headed by Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard Edwards.

Moeser said he is setting down only one requirement for the committee — that it create a plan that moves Nebraska forward in research and graduate studies in the next five years.

Edwards said committee members will be appointed by the chancellor and will represent a diverse cross-section of campus.

"I believe (Moeser's) intention is to have a rather open process," which includes self-nominations, Edwards said.

This committee will "turn the question of the university's future into a research problem," Moeser said.

Moeser said Future Nebraska could look at problems or opportunities UNL is well-positioned to solve and assess the status and quality of current programs. It also could envision what might be possible with enhanced resources or a reorganization of existing resources.

The Association of American Universities may review its members on a periodic basis in the future, Moeser said. The association, of which UNL has been a member since 1909, focuses its efforts on retaining a mem-

"We cannot become so focused that we abandon our comprehensive mission."

JAMES MOESER  
UNL chancellor

bership of the principal research and doctoral-degree granting universities in the country.

"I am confident the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will continue to be a member of good standing," Moeser said. He said the university would welcome the scrutiny of the AAU, which could benefit UNL, pushing it to focus its energy and resources.

The strategy for building on UNL's strengths will cause a greater focus on selected areas, Moeser said. He said the university must create balance among the major segments of learning and research.

"We cannot become so focused that we abandon our comprehensive mission," Moeser said.

Another committee that has been created will examine how the university can improve the educational experience of first-year students, which, in turn, will improve retention and graduation rates, Moeser said.

The Freshman Year Experience Taskforce will be headed by Ted Pardy, a professor of biological sciences.

One of every four freshman students fails to return for his sophomore year, Moeser said. Also, only about 50 percent of students graduate within six years.

He set a goal to reduce the freshman attrition rate to less than 20 percent and increase the number of students who graduate in a timely fashion

Please see **MOESER** on page 7

## Union delays mean users lounging with ladders

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Staff writer

Students will have to dodge jackhammers, bulldozers and dust today, as the Nebraska Union expansion and renovation project enters its third year.

Originally a two-year project scheduled to be completed Aug. 12, construction is expected to proceed into the 1999 spring semester, according to Rachelle Setsodi, spokeswoman for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Facilities Management and Planning department.

Yet, students will pay in fees for the

renovations, even if they graduate before the project is completely finished.

Nebraska Union project manager Brad Muehling said the almost four-month delay was caused by bad weather and an unforeseen excess of asbestos found in the building.

"We are picky, and all of us want (the union) fast, quick and cheap," Muehling said. "Unfortunately, we can't have it that way."

Even though the union is not fully complete, Nebraska Unions Director Daryl Swanson confirmed that beginning this fall, and continuing every semester for a 20-year term, an addi-

tional \$20 per student, per semester will be added to student fees.

"New areas — the lounge and dining area — are being used," Swanson said. "Students are paying for the use of the new union."

The total cost of the union as of this fall is \$13.48 million, instead of the originally estimated \$12.68 million. The additional \$800,000 was approved by the NU Board of Regents to cover the increased cost of asbestos abatement, Swanson said.

Heather Hipschman, a senior biological science major, said having students pay now for the unfinished union is outrageous.

"It's all kind of ridiculous paying for the union if it's not done," Hipschman said. "But I guess you do have to pay for it in order to get it done."

Freshman Cory Crouse, also a biological science major, said paying \$20 a semester wasn't a big deal.

"It's something we have to do as students," Crouse said. "Nothing gets done on time — we must deal with it."

Features of the project include adding 55,000 square feet to the building and the renovation of 66,000 square feet of the existing union structure.

Muehling said he cannot hold the

contractors liable for delays that resulted from things beyond their control, including asbestos and the weather.

New areas of the union — the first floor lounge and food court dining space — are substantially completed and are accessible and in use, he said.

Other areas, including the north entrance, the fountain, the plaza, the recreation room, the big-screen TV lounge, the 24-hour computer lab, the copy center and the lecture and meeting rooms will be substantially completed by late October or early November.

Please see **UNION** on page 7