



Now that's sorrow

Nebraska defeated Texas A&M in the NCAA Tournament 7-0 to move on to play Notre Dame next Sunday. PAGE 12



'The Outsiders'

A UNL faculty member and student have teamed up to bring the world a collection of essays by those who look in from the "outside." PAGE 10

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 98

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 59

UNL's black enrollment down

The students' numbers have fallen 10 percent since '96

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Senior staff writer

For the past couple of years, UNL administrators have worked so minority students could glance around campus and see more people who looked like them.

Meanwhile, the overall number of minorities has decreased just as much as the rest of the student population — a result of 1997's stringent admission standards.

But this year, when black students go to class, when they join student organizations, when they sit down to lunch, there are fewer of them to be found: 10 percent fewer than 1996.

Overall population is down 1.461 stu-

dents since 1996 as well. Though the decline in overall enrollment has been about 6.4 percent since the fall of 1996, black student enrollment has decreased about 10 percent.

"When white students get the cold, black students get pneumonia," said John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs.

LaSharah Bunting, a junior news-editorial major and the Afrikan People's Union president, said the decline can be partly attributed to students transferring to other schools and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's sometimes unwelcoming environment.

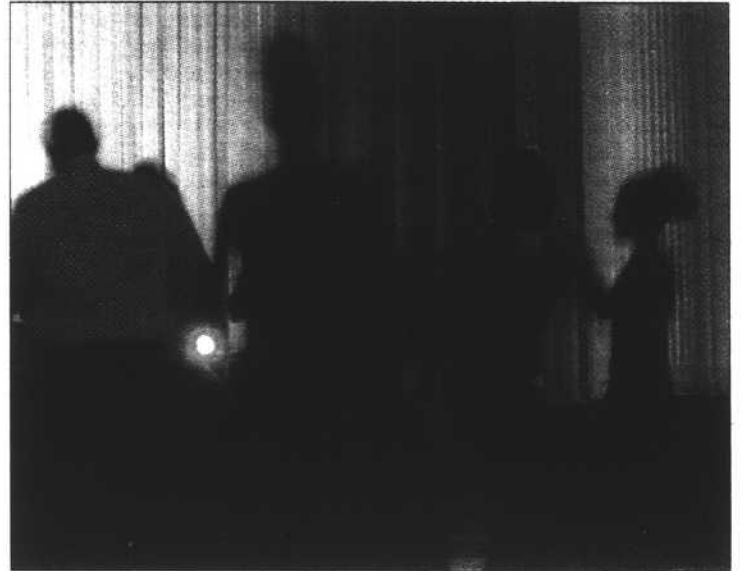
"I really have seen less of a presence of black students on campus," Bunting said.

American Indian, Hispanic and Asian student populations have decreased at a rate slower than that of the 6.4 percent rate at which the total student population declined.

Black students make up about 2 percent of the population. American Indians make up about 0.4 percent, Hispanics make up about 1.6 percent, and Asian students make up about 2.1 percent, according to figures released this week by UNL Institutional Research and Planning. White students make up about 90 percent of the university's population.

Those numbers don't include minority students who come to Nebraska from

Please see MINORITY on 7



DAWN DIETRICH/DN

TO KEEP BLACK students at UNL, the Afrikan People's Union has social events, like Saturday's formal dance.



MATT MILLER/DN

KSU FANS cling to the goal post at Wagner Field after the Wildcats beat the Huskers 40-30. Some fans called the win the biggest of the 103-year Kansas State football program, and said it was a sure ticket to the Fiesta Bowl and a shot at the national championship.

K-State fans revel in their victory

By ANDREW STRNAD
Staff writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The plans were made months in advance: The fans were ready to complete "Operation goal posts."

With Kansas State leading Nebraska 34-30 with just seconds remaining, thousands of Wildcat students began to straddle the railing between the stands and the field.

"Fiesta, fiesta!" many fans chanted in reference to the Fiesta Bowl, which will crown

this year's national champion Jan. 4.

Other fans were jockeying for position so they could be first to the goal posts once the game ended.

Many fans couldn't wait that long. KSU linebacker Jeff Kelly returned a fumble 23 yards for a touchdown, giving the Wildcats a 40-30 lead with three seconds to go, but that didn't stop a throng of thousands from storming the field.

After a minute of pure pandemonium, the fans retreated, only to return to the field after a failed two-point conversion.

"This is just nuts. We've waited 29 years, and now we can't wait three more seconds," a Wildcat fan said to himself as he scurried off the field.

The game would later end after a kickoff, and the fans could finally take out 30 years of frustration on the goal posts at the north end zone.

Stadium security officers were content to let the north goal post fall, conceding it immediately after the game, while protecting the south goal post. Better to lose one than two.

Please see CELEBRATION on 6

Supporters argue to keep Peru State

By ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

With all the uncertainty still surrounding Peru State and its future, about 60 people assembled inside the State Capitol on Friday to listen and watch testimonies in favor of keeping the college in its place.

The public hearing was part of a statewide video-conference set up by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Video-conference sites included Omaha, Hastings, Scottsbluff and Chadron.

Twenty-seven people from the various sites gave reasons for keeping Peru State in Peru and improving it, which is one of three options the Legislature will consider.

Sen. Floyd Vrtiska of District 1 said keeping the college in Peru, the first option, would cost the state between \$12.5 million and \$14 million because, he said, \$7 million already has been earmarked for the renovations.

Other estimates, including one presented to the coordinating commission earlier this month, estimated the cost at \$27 million.

The first option also calls for the addition of education services in southeast Nebraska. These services would include developing learning centers at several facilities provided by southeast Nebraska communities and expanding the use of technology.

The second option the Legislature is looking at involves moving Peru State's campus to Nebraska City. This option also adds educational services throughout southeast Nebraska. The commission reported this would cost the state about \$96 million.

The third option would be to shut down the college and provide other arrangements for education services in southeast Nebraska.

But Dick Flynn, dean of the College of Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said any money the state would have to spend to keep Peru State running would be "a small price to pay."

Closing Peru State's doors would be "a terrible message coming from a state that values

Please see PERU on 6