

# Work begins on new prison

By TODD ANDERSON  
Senior staff writer

TECUMSEH — Local and state leaders kicked off construction of the new state prison at a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 150 local residents at the new construction site one mile north of the small, southeast Nebraska town, Department of Corrections Director Harold Clark said it was because the community pulled together that the state chose Tecumseh.

"This was not given to southeast Nebraska," Clark said. "You earned it."

Though Tuesday's ceremony officially kicked off the prison construction project by the DLR Group of Omaha, preliminary construction on the site already had begun.

With tractors and machinery working in the background, Gov. Ben Nelson thanked the crowd for finishing up the project. Its planning spanned his two-term administration.

Despite the expense of building the new penitentiary for the state's most dangerous criminals, Nelson said ignoring the problem of housing inmates would have been a mistake.

"We supported (the new prison)

"I think it's safe to say that southeast Nebraska has turned the corner."

Gov. BEN NELSON

because we knew it was the right thing to do," he said.

Tecumseh was selected in May over two other finalists: McCook and Madison.

The prison will nearly double the inmate capacity of the present one in southwest Lincoln.

Of the 960 beds in the Tecumseh penitentiary, 192 will be reserved for top-security criminals.

Three buildings will be located on the 360,000-square-foot "campus-style" prison, with space in between for operation and working space.

The entire grounds will be surrounded by a wire fence and secured with guard and video surveillance.

Carla Patterson, president of the Southeast Nebraska Economic Development Association, said the Tecumseh Correctional Center will be key to the growth of southeast

Nebraska.

"They're words that are music to our ears," Patterson said.

The southeast Nebraska town has seen an economic downturn in the past decade with the closing of a Campbell's soup plant, one of the region's largest employers.

More recently, such projects as the prison and a poultry production plant have boosted the region as businesses and home-builders are returning to the area to prepare for the influx of new workers.

Nelson said good times are ahead for Tecumseh and the region and encouraged leaders to continue to work together to ensure growth.

"I think it's safe to say that southeast Nebraska has turned the corner," he said.

"There are more opportunities out there, and you can make them happen."

# Academic Senate salutes teaching

Professors and departments receive formal recognition for passing knowledge on.

## Academic Senate

Instead of bypassing the library and doing research on the Internet, students should be encouraged to do more detailed research with critical analysis, she said.

Gail Latta, associate professor of libraries, also received an award for her work as chairwoman of the Learning, Teaching and Technology Roundtable. She said faculty members need to be aware of the opportunities available to them to improve their teaching.

She pointed to the Roundtable; the Teaching and Learning Center, which gives professors a place to get feedback about teaching problems; and the Preparing Future Faculty Project, which exposes graduate students to what they may expect as professors at institutions of higher learning.

Other honorees included:

- the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

- Ted Parry, professor of biological sciences.

- Dan Bernstein, professor of psychology.

- Richard Waldren, professor of agronomy.

- Jim O'Hanlon, dean of the Teachers College.

- Ron Lee, associate professor of communication studies.

- Delivee Wright, director of the Teaching and Learning Center.

By JESSICA FARGEN  
Staff writer

The Academic Senate for the first time Tuesday formally saluted an obvious, but often overlooked, aspect of being a professor — teaching.

Much of the focus at universities has shifted from teaching to research, said Academic Senate President Pat Kennedy, which is why the senate recognized exceptional teachers and departments that offer teaching opportunities.

"We thought, as a lot of faculty are beginning to see, we are not evaluating and rewarding teaching as much as research," Kennedy said.

Ann Mari May, associate professor of economics, received an award for teaching excellence. Though research is rewarding, May said, most professors find their rewards in other places.

"The satisfaction from teaching comes from having an impact on students," she said. "You and I all know students are far different when they leave this university from when they come here."

May said professors need to encourage undergraduate students to have more developed research skills.

# Hagel loses bid for chairman

From staff reports

Despite an expected loss to a senior fellow senator, U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel said Tuesday his decision to run for chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee was a good one.

Members of the committee voted 39-12 by secret ballot Tuesday to reelect Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky for the position.

McConnell, who is Kentucky's only Republican office-holder, was elected to a third term in 1996 and has held the position of chairman of the NRSC since 1994.

Hagel said it was important for the GOP senatorial leadership to be able to choose between two of their colleagues.

"I wanted to give an alternative to my colleagues and to make a contribution," Hagel said in a statement.

The Nebraska senator said campaigns should focus on why to elect Republicans in a positive and uplifting way.

The chairman of the committee oversees both political and financial support for Republican candidates for the Senate.

"I am hopeful that by talking about these kinds of issues that I will have made a positive impact and changed some things over the course of the next two years," Hagel said.

# ASUN Watch

And the score is ...

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

**1. Continue commitment to diversity through sponsored events and increased communication with the campus community.**

— The ASUN Human Rights Committee is planning events for National Human Rights Day on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Nebraska East Union.

**2. Maintain regular campuswide community service projects.**

— Ryan Anderson, chairman of the Campus Life Committee, said ASUN will not be participating in any further service projects this semester.

**3. Enhance technological services to students.**

— The Communication Committee is working with Maggie Doyle, public relations liaison, to update student government information on the World Wide Web. Russell said ASUN would like student input on what should be included on the ASUN Web page.

**4. Research the options to make student evaluations more effective.**

— Kara Slaughter, Academic Committee chairwoman, said the committee has accomplished its goals regarding student evaluations. Slaughter said next semester the committee will send out an all-faculty e-mail message that will include several midsemester feedback form options.

**5. Address campus parking concerns.**

— ASUN members will discuss and vote on legislation today concerning parking permit fee increases and parking revenue. Russell said ASUN wants to decrease the financial impact parking permits have on students' pocket books.

**6. Continue efforts to unite City and East campuses.**

— In an effort to unite student organizations, Russell said she would be contacting East Campus Student Involvement Office representatives to discuss the progress the center has made with programming and activities. Russell said ASUN donated \$9,000 to the facility to improve services to UNL students.

**7. Create a larger representation of students through outreach initiatives.**

— The senate will vote today on whether to place a constitutional amendment on the March 3, 1999 election ballot. The amendment would restructure the senate's composition by creating a 36-member senate, half elected by college and half elected by place of residence. The senate now has 35 members all elected by their college. Russell said the amendment would allow for a good cross-section of the university's student population.

**8. Lobby for student input and concern regarding the ASUN government party system.**

— Senate members voted Nov. 18 to accept the ASUN Electoral Commission's proposed 1999 election rules and procedures. Despite strong opposition from some senators, Russell said the 1999 ASUN elections will be directed by the approved rules.

**9. Work to promote alcohol awareness and education campuswide.**

— Russell said the Laura Cockson Memorial Scholarship steering committee is setting up application guidelines and procedures to award scholarship funds next semester to a UNL student who actively promotes and brings awareness to the adverse effects of alcohol. University students and organizations have donated \$12,548.23 to support the fund.



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# Law & Order

## Police jail four in arrest

Four people were arrested on outstanding warrants and drug charges at a Lincoln home Sunday evening.

Lincoln Police went to a home on the 600 block of South 17th Street around 8:30 p.m. to arrest the 45-year-old man who lives there for failure to appear in court, Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

But at the house police found three other people with outstanding warrants and a small amount of marijuana.

The three other people at the house, two men, ages 37 and 24, and a 44-year-old woman, were arrested on warrants, and the 24-year-old

man and 44-year-old woman were cited for drug charges.

At the house, police seized 2½ ounces of marijuana and six pipes. All four people were jailed.

## Guns stolen from home

Three handguns were taken in a residential burglary Monday morning.

Between 9 a.m. and noon, someone broke into a house on the 4700 block of 47th Street through a side door and took three revolvers, a coin collection and a Vietnam service medal.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

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