SPORTS

Inside out

Eric Crouch looks to avenge last season's loss to Texas Saturday with newfound confidence and leadership. **PAGE 10**

A & E

Millennial Revelry

In the dance work "The Descent Beckons," Susan Marshall and Company explore the darkness of the past and brightness of the future. **PAGE 13**

FRIDAY
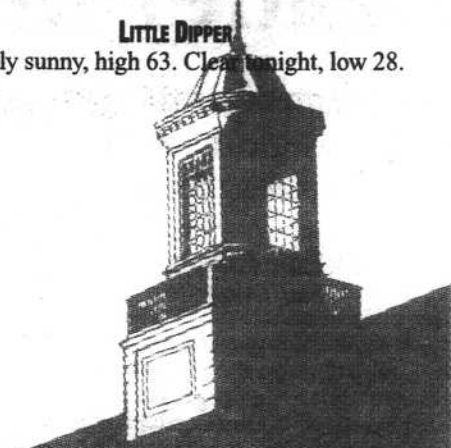### October 22, 1999

LITTLE DIPPER
Mostly sunny, high 63. Clear tonight, low 28.

Daily Nebraskan

Task force tracks UNL's Y2K status

BY KIMBERLY SWEET
Senior staff writer

Only 70 days remain before the clocks strike midnight and the new millennium begins.

As Jan. 1, 2000, draws closer, members of the university community are beginning the final stages of preparation for the possible strike of the Y2K bug.

As of late September, 77 percent of the colleges and departments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln had carried out plans of making their offices and systems Y2K-compliant, said Gary Aerts, the campus coordinator for UNL's Year 2000 efforts.

Thirty-nine percent of the systems, which include services like NRoll and the Degree Audit System, reported doing the same.

Each college and department's status in dealing with Y2K issues is listed on UNL's Web site at *www.unl.edu/year2k.*

Those who have completed and are ready to face Y2K are marked with a gold star.

"We have 77 percent that are gold-starred," Aerts said. "At this point, we should be at 99 percent."

More than 200 departments and systems must be examined to ensure the university is prepared to go through this year's unique calendar change.

One hundred and thirty faculty and staff members make up the Year 2000 task force. Each one is responsible for making sure his or her assigned departments are prepared for Y2K.

There are explanations for the current level of preparedness, Aerts said. Many departments are ready but have not filed the paperwork to update their statuses on the Web site.

Other departments have moved ahead with contingency planning, preparing themselves to deal with the consequences of Y2K rather than simply trying to prevent them, Aerts said.

"We have shifted away from status reporting to contingency planning," Aerts said. "This is similar to what many industries are doing."

The central administration at the University of Nebraska began anticipating Y2K in 1997. The state of Nebraska began aggressive efforts at that same time to make its systems Y2K-compliant. Aerts said large

A balancing act

A WORKER from Sampson General Contractors Inc. balances on a beam Thursday afternoon at the construction site of a new parking garage. The garage, at 12th and Q streets, will have a university art gallery inside.   LIZ MEACHAM/DN

Facing a teacher shortage

Computer industry luring teachers from universities

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

> *We're having a hard time trying to recruit people right now. They're all going to industry."*
>
> **CHARLES RIEDESEL**
> chief UNL computer science and engineering undergraduate adviser

While the computer industry continues to provide a plethora of job opportunities for computer science majors, many universities are finding it more difficult to lure Ph.D. students to the academic world.

The result is a nationwide shortage of Ph.D. students applying for teaching positions at major institutions and universities.

Higher salaries are the No. 1 reason, for professors who are saying goodbye to universities for better wages, said Charles Riedesel, chief undergraduate adviser for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln computer science and engineering department.

"We've been struggling to try to get professors to come here," said Riedesel, who said the income of a computer job was difficult for many to turn down.

Riedesel estimated computer science graduates would receive a $45,000 salary at their first jobs. The salary for a Ph.D. student in UNL's computer science department is $11,500.

"It's a very common thing around the country," Riedesel said. "We're having a hard time trying to recruit people right now. They're all going to industry."

Dennis Dunn, director of academic affairs in the Pennsylvania State University computer science and engineering department, said his department was experiencing similar problems.

"It happens," Dunn said. "There's been quite a turnover in faculty."

While UNL and Penn State are beginning to see faculty members leave their computer departments, they are also dealing with undergraduate populations that are continuing to increase.

The undergraduate enrollment in Penn State's computer science and engineering department is about 200 students, Dunn said. Within the past few years, the undergraduate numbers have increased about 10-12 percent.

In 1996-97, the number of computer science majors at UNL was 254, according to the computer science department. The number climbed to 304 in 1997-98, and in 1999-2000 there were 322 computer science majors.

The number of computer engineering majors increased from 176 in 1996-97 to 225 in 1997-98. In 1999-2000, there are 273 computer engineering majors at UNL.

Scott Dakins, assistant to the chairman at the University of Washington, said the computer science and engineering department there received more than 350 applications a year for teaching positions.

However, Dakins said, many applicants eventually drop out after they find jobs in the computer industry.

What is more common, he said, is

professors at the University of Washington leaving their tenure-track positions to teach at higher-paying institutions or universities.

The University of Washington could not match the salaries of many private institutions, he said, because the university is a state-owned school.

Though Ph.D. students often look for corporate jobs after they graduate, sometimes they will find it more difficult to land jobs, Dunn said.

The reason, he said, is that Ph.D. students are more research-oriented, while corporate employees are usually not.

Students who had received bachelors or masters degrees, Dunn said, usually had easier times finding jobs.

"I think there's a real dearth of people in that area," he said.

Dakins said Ph.D. students that wanted to teach instead of bolting for the big bucks in the industry had some advantages. Doing research and interacting with students was something most jobs could not offer, he said.

However, Dakins said he didn't blame any student or professor who decided to leave their teaching positions for industry jobs.

"If you don't love teaching, it's definitely not the life."

University celebrates Cedar Point's history

BY MICHELLE STARR
Staff writer

> *Everything that a student could require, they are living it. Everything is at their fingertips."*
>
> **MARY BATTERSON**
> Cedar Point associate director

Twenty-five years ago, the University of Nebraska bought land that at one time was home to a Girl Scout camp.

The land was transformed into the Cedar Point Biological Research Station and has evolved into a top-notch classroom and research facility, said UNL professor John Janovy.

The 25th anniversary of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Cedar Point Biological Station, eight miles north of Ogallala, was celebrated Thursday evening at the Wick Alumni Center.

Faculty, staff, friends and some students were invited to honor the service and experiences of five of the facilities' former directors at the only field station in Nebraska.

Janovy, UNL professor and former Cedar Point director, has been involved at the station since its beginning.

The former Girl Scout camp was purchased in 1975 by the University of Nebraska Foundation and transformed into a leading research and academic facility, serving about 1,500 students to date, Janovy said.

Over the years, Janovy has noticed significant changes in facilities and research projects at the station.

"I think the student projects, be it class projects or graduate projects, are more sophisticated than before," Janovy said.

Some of the progress in research projects has come from an increase in knowledge about the plants or animals being researched, Janovy said.

Each year, students from Nebraska and surrounding states use the station's 695 acres as a classroom and research facility, said Alan Kamil, Cedar Point