Campus implements Y2K plans | University celebrates

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amounts of money were invested in consultants who evaluated Nebraska's

Instead of bringing in consultants, the university has looked to its internal expertise to examine and update its systems, Aerts said. Money was made available for all four campuses to purchase software and upgraded hard-

The university is depending on task force members to complete the evaluations of their departments, Aerts said.

Some departments report having fulfilled all their critical needs and are

simply tying up loose ends.

David DeFruiter, Year 2000 task force member for the department of business administration, said one of the only remaining items is replacing old computers.

"All the critical things were completed months ago," DeFruiter said. "We're just working on all the other things now."

University Housing will complete its last step in preparing for Y2K today with the upgrade of the last set of software, said Karen Hesson-White, Year 2000 task force member.

Hesson-White said her department had been working steadily for the last two years to make its systems Y2K compatible.

The geography department has only completed two of the six recommended steps to deal with Y2K.

Clark Archer, Year 2000 task force member for the department, said he was not worried about the implications the millennium bug could have on his

"By and large, our hardware and software is not likely to be Y2K-sensitive," Archer said. "It's impossible to

predict what is going to happen."

Instead, Archer said, the department was going to deal with Y2K after it happens.

If there is a little inconvenience on January 2, it's not likely to be very much.'

Because the geography department's research projects won't be affected by power outages or other problems, Archer said, his department asn't as concerned about Y2K.

Research in other departments is more sensitive, Aerts said.

Power outages could affect timing and special lights, in turn harming plants and animals.

Michael Zeleny, director of research finance and operations, said the office of the vice chancellor for research was working with facilities management to deal with potential problems that could affect research

"In the event of a power outage, we may get into a situation where two or three buildings have power," Zeleny

Researchers could move their projects to those buildings, Zeleny said.

The use of generators is also being considered, he said.

University officials are doing all they can to make sure UNL is as prepared as it can be, Aerts said.

But looking ahead to post-Y2K is equally important, he said. In order to prepare, the vice chancellors participated in a simulation for Jan. 1, 2000.

The simulation included a snowy New Year's Eve in which UNL's power went out. The chancellor was in Pasadena, Calif., for a bowl game.

Discussing how to deal with the scenario took two and a half hours, Aerts said.

"Some very interesting things came out of it," he said. "It tested current policies and set priorities."

Cedar Point's history

CEDAR from page 1

director and UNL biology professor. Cedar Point offers a unique experience for students and researchers because the subjects of study are native to the area and are accessible right outside the doors.

"Nothing is shipped in. It's all in its natural environment," said Mary Batterson, Cedar Point associate

Everything that a student could require, they are living it. Everything is at their fingertips," Batterson said.

In the future, Kamil hopes to increase the facility and open spaces for a more diverse group of students. The station is currently geared toward upperclassmen, graduate students and faculty members, he said.

The first step toward expanding

the facility's impact is the Cedar Point Learning Community.

The community will be open to about 24 to 30 incoming 2000-2001 freshman biology majors who will take at least two classes together and live on the same residence hall floor.

To help raise funds, directors of the station are preparing a grant to the National Science foundation and are always open to local support, Kamil said.

Cedar Point's summer class enrollment starts Nov. 15. Students interested in earning academic credit at the station should contact Batterson. About 120 spaces for the sessions, ranging from three to 13 weeks, will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"It's a place where research and teaching work together," Kamil said.

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