



SPORTS

Tee and Tennessee

The Volunteers of Tennessee will play Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl, making for one of the more interesting match-ups in the bowls. PAGE 12



A & E

Taking a Turn

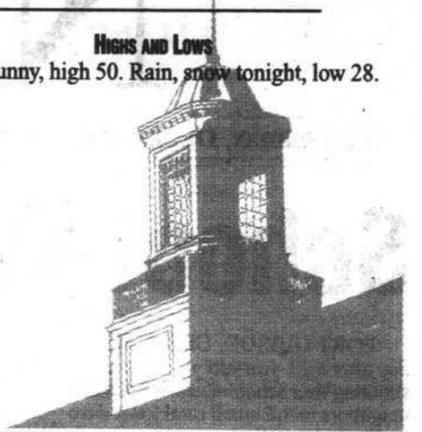
Dance in the next century will continue to blur the lines between dance and theater while giving older and more athletic dancers opportunities. PAGE 9

WEDNESDAY

December 8, 1999

HIGHS AND LOWS

Partly sunny, high 50. Rain, snow tonight, low 28.



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Building to perfection



MAKING THE MOST of Dead Week, Matt Wilhelm puts the finishing touches on his studio project. As a fourth-year UNL architecture student, Wilhelm has carefully measured out every inch of this 3-D miniature building.

SHARON KOLBET/DN

Award created for gay community

BY MARGARET BEHM
Staff writer

People or organizations that have helped the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community can be nominated for the first annual GLBT award to be given by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"This award is to recognize people who try to create a more respectable, safe and inclusive environment for GLBT people," said Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator for the University Health Center and a member of the UNL Committee for GLBT Concerns.

Barbara DiBernard, co-chairwoman for the UNL Committee for GLBT Concerns, said this award was important because it showed appreciation for people who make campus more accepting for GLBT students and faculty.

"This award shows that UNL values the GLBT community as a whole and appreciates the contributions of people to make this campus more equitable," DiBernard said.

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31. Chancellor James Moeser will present the award March 27 in the Nebraska Union.

Kristin Grosskopf, a member of UNL's Committee for GLBT Concerns, said this award was important because it showed that UNL recognized GLBT people and the people who help them.

"There's a GLBT population on this campus," said Grosskopf, who is a graduate assistant in education physiology. "They are excluded by organizations, professors and course material."

People in the GLBT community face problems in society and on campus, Tetreault said, because of their sexual orientation.

"This award shows that UNL values the GLBT community as a whole."

BARBARA DiBERNARD
Committee for GLBT Concerns co-chairwoman

"There are prejudices, discrimination and equality issues that exist for GLBT people," Tetreault said, "not only in society but here at UNL."

Heterosexual people get privileges that GLBT people do not have, Tetreault said.

Please see GLBT on 6

NASA looks at impact of missing lander

Officials hopeful that lost Mars Polar Lander won't dampen future space endeavors.

BY MICHELLE STARR
Staff writer

Even though the last realistic chance to contact the Mars Polar Lander came and went Tuesday, its disappearance is all but confirmed, according to NASA officials.

The \$165 million Mars Polar Lander was

last heard from Friday as it made its way toward the planet.

"We don't see much hope," said Nancy Lovato, Jet Propulsion Laboratory spokeswoman at NASA. "Any communication at this point is unlikely."

As NASA continues to try to contact the craft, NASA and a UNL professor are making speculations about the impact of the craft's disappearance.

Ed Schmidt, a UNL professor of physics and astronomy, said the disappearance of the craft was not unlikely considering the distance and other risks in space.

"Working in space is a very harsh environment," Schmidt said.

Within days, a NASA Failure Investigation Board of about 12 members will be gathered to discuss the mission, said Doug Isbell, NASA Public Affairs officer in Washington, D.C.

The board will examine the loss, and a review board will be gathered to look for ways to prevent future failures, Lovato said.

The Polar Lander project was researched for about four years, a common time frame for a project of this magnitude, she said.

Please see NASA on 6

Senate supports research

Academic Senate

Fetal tissue experiments have the backing of the Academic Senate.

BY JILL ZEMAN
Staff writer

Another university organization tackled the controversial issue of use of fetal tissue in medical research and voiced their opinion Tuesday.

The Academic Senate passed a resolution at Tuesday's meeting to support the fetal research conducted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The purpose of the resolution is to declare academic freedom and support for the faculty, said John Bender, Academic Senate member and an associate professor of news-editorial journalism.

"We need to stand up for academic freedom. Who will stand up for us if we're not willing to stand up for our colleagues at UNMC? We need to stand together, or we will be picked apart," Bender said.

The resolution stated the use of fetal tissue in medical research is separate from the issue of abortion.

"It's hard for me to see how this research necessarily promotes abortion," Bender said.

The resolution also endorsed the position of NU President Dennis Smith.

In a Nov. 30 letter to Gov. Mike Johanns, Smith stated he supported the research and it would not be terminated.

"University research has no effect on the number of abortions performed in Nebraska or nationally. It will not cause one abortion, but it may save a multitude of lives," Smith said in the letter.

Not all members of Academic Senate agreed with the resolution.

Merlyn Nielsen, a UNL professor of animal science, said she thought the Academic Senate should be very careful about making any decisions regarding such a controversial issue.

"I don't oppose the research, but I oppose a resolution that would put us in a position that could cause us harm," he said.

Academic Senate President Gail Latta said she was in favor of the resolution.

Latta said she believed the Academic Senate needed to address the issue and take a stance against external threats to the university.

"We need to protect and address the moral issues involved," she said.

Latta also said students must be guaranteed an unbiased education.

"We need to support and reaffirm our commitment to academic freedom because that is at the heart of what we do here," she said.