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Internet service expands

By Cara Pesek
Staff writer

The Union Board and Information Services have been working hard to keep UNL on the cutting edge of technology.

In January, 10 laptop computers were made available for checkout from the Nebraska Union information desk. The Nebraska East Union has five laptops available.

These laptops can be plugged into ports located around the perimeters of the buildings.

Now students can access the Internet from Nebraska Union without plugging into the ports.

Recently, a small wireless hub was installed in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union, said Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Unions director.

The hub provides wireless Internet access to those in the main lounge in the Nebraska Union.

The wireless Internet access has been up and running since the week before spring break, Swanson said.

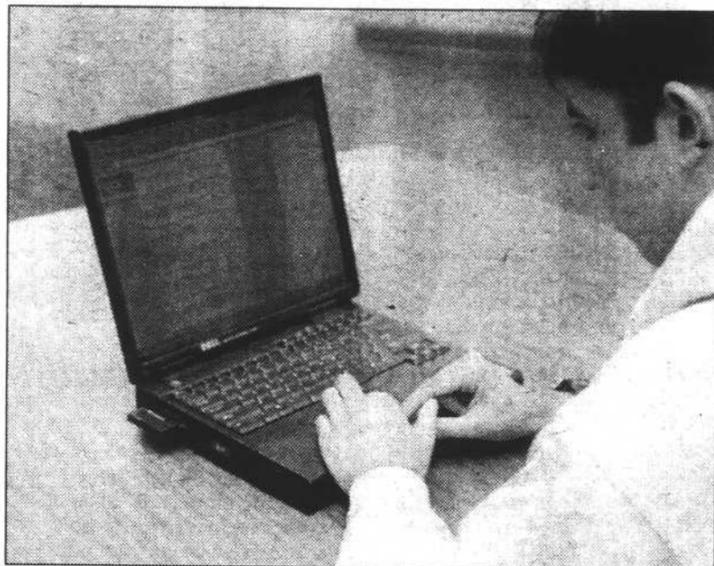
And Swanson said the response he's received since then from students has been positive.

"Students have told me the transmission is of good quality and that it's very fast," Swanson said.

Tom Eads, manager of UNL's computer labs, said the response for the laptop program also has been positive.

"Between 10 and 20 laptops are being checked out each day, and very few students have reported problems with the equipment," he said.

Bruce Sandhorst, instructional technology coordinator for Information



Sharon Kolbet/DN
FAHIM ALEFI, a visiting student from the University of Hanover in Germany, takes advantage of wireless laptop Internet access, which was recently installed in the Nebraska Union.

Services, said the positive feedback could help the technology the union provides to grow.

Sandhorst said the laptops and hub were purchased with money from the student technology fee.

He said that because the programs are student-funded, students should dictate where the money is spent.

"We're going to let demand drive this, which is probably the way it should be," Sandhorst said.

He said if the Union Board and Information Services think there is enough demand to expand services, two

options are available.

"We can either increase the number of laptops or extend the areas where they work," Sandhorst said.

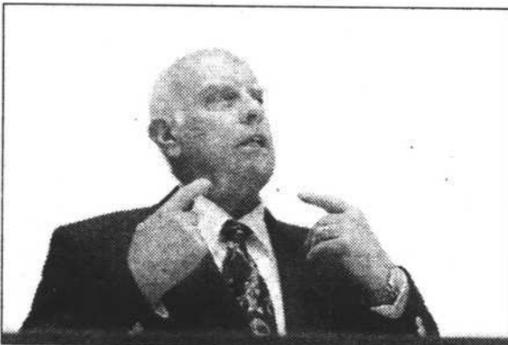
Eads said the laptop and wireless Internet programs are being viewed as pilot programs on campus.

He said he suspects that wireless Internet connections may soon be available at the Nebraska East Union as well.

Swanson said he has even bigger hopes for the pilot program on campus.

"I think it's possible that within five years there will be wireless Internet in every building on campus," he said.

Shuttle engineer explains disaster



Josh Wolfe/DN
ROGER BOISJOLY, an aerospace engineer who predicted the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, speaks in the Nebraska Union on Tuesday.

SHUTTLE from page 1

seven astronauts.

After several of the test launches of engines, Boisjoly said he and his colleagues had concluded that cold weather affected the engines' joints.

"NASA was so concerned that they asked us to come down and give them a full presentation of the seals," Boisjoly said.

Boisjoly said he and his colleagues came up with 33 options on how to improve the joints, but because of the Morton Thiokol managers'

eagerness to launch, the team's work was overlooked.

"They said the data we presented was inconclusive," Boisjoly said. "... They were playing Russian roulette with a fully loaded gun. They were basing their chance of success on the chance of the gun getting jammed."

Boisjoly said the moral of his speech was business ethics.

"A few people made unethical decisions on a \$900 part, and it destroyed a \$2 billion shuttle along with seven very precious lives."

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