

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Observatory to open for viewing of planet movements

Tonight, while the planets are moving closer to one another in alignment, students have a chance to take a closer look.

The UNL Student Observatory will be open tonight from 8:30 to 11 for a free public viewing, weather permitting.

Martin Gaskell, a senior lecturer of physics and astronomy, said five planets, the sun and the moon are moving into an unusually close alignment that will culminate in the second week of May.

Tonight, three of the planets – Jupiter, Saturn and Mars – will be visible moving into their close alignment, if conditions permit.

"The interest, really, is in the grouping," Gaskell said.

Such close alignment will not happen again for about 50 years, Gaskell said.

Also during tonight's viewing, some highlights of the late winter and spring sky, including nebulae and star clusters, will be shown through the observatory's 16-inch telescope.

The Student Observatory is on the roof of the Stadium Parking Garage, 10th and T streets.

The next public viewing will be May 12 from 9:15 to 11 p.m.

Black Male Empowerment conference today, Saturday

A conference starting today will allow intergenerational dialogue between boys and men ages 15 and older.

The Black Male Empowerment Summit will be today and Saturday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

At a kickoff at 7 tonight, Colleen Jones, assistant management professor, will speak about her deceased husband, former vice chancellor for business and finance at UNL, Melvin Jones. A \$5 variety show will follow at 8.

On Saturday, participants can attend empowerment workshops, all related to "Nguzo Saba," the seven principles of Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday.

Topics will cover economic empowerment, collective and personal responsibility, spirituality and academic achievement.

The event features Joseph White, professor emeritus of psychology and psychiatry at the University of California at Irvine and author of "Black Male Emerging."

Saturday's summit will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. at Henslik Hall. Those interested must register ahead of time. It costs \$7 for students and \$12 for non-students.

Professor asks students to see outside classroom

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group of students. But I try to think about my teaching as embedded in a larger set of goals. I either work to develop or I connect up to new programs that are developing.

So, a lot of my teaching takes place outside of the formal classroom. I find that that helps me be a better classroom teacher. I gain new understanding of my own field. I gain a better understanding of the craft of teaching.

Q Is there one thing you try to especially instill in your students?

A We call it the sociological imagination. It is a set of critical thinking skills based on sociological theories and research methods. It gives people a new way of looking at their own world. Once you've had that opportunity, you never think of the world around you in quite the same way again.

I also want them to understand the scholarship of feminist research, the scholarship of educational research.

I want them to have this intellectual set of skills, but I also want them to have a foundation of knowledge they can use.

Q What does winning this award mean to you?

A Honestly, it means to me that the university community values innovation in teaching, values efforts to bring women's studies and studies of oppressed groups, minority groups, social class issues (to light). It shows that the university values that. And they value the way in which I do that.



File Photo by Newsmakers
PEOPLE WHO LIVE in cities are more likely to be sick than those who live in rural areas. A study released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control said pockets of people with high unemployment and poverty are ill more often.

People sick more in cities

■ **Urban areas foster illness because of high unemployment and poverty.**

ATLANTA (AP) – City dwellers get sick more often than their rural counterparts.

People who live in areas of high unemployment are more likely to feel unhealthy. And people living in poverty are sick most often.

Those trends were drawn from a five-year study released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The government asked adults how many days in the prior month they were unhealthy and compiled results from 1993 through 1997. Those numbers were compared to factors such as population, income levels and unemployment rates.

The study supports earlier research showing that residents in some pockets of extremely high unemployment reported feeling unhealthy up to 20 days a month.

"People that say they are unable to work have extremely high levels of unhealthy days," said David Moriarty, spokesman for the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. "We really don't know if people are not feeling well because they are unemployed, or they're without a job because they may not have resources to have health insurance."

For the general population, the average number of unhealthy days a month is 5.3.

People living in counties with more than a million residents were

unhealthy almost 5.6 days a month, while those who live in counties with between a half-million and a million people felt bad 5.1 days a month.

However, people who lived in the least populous areas – fewer than 25,000 residents – were almost as sick as their urban counterparts, with 5.4 unhealthy days a month.

Moriarty said the study is a first step to help local officials identify problems that lead to high illness rates in their communities.

Mary Martin, public health manager for the Columbia-Boone County Health Department in Columbia, Mo., agreed. "You have to know where you are to be able to know where you want to go," she said.

A detailed analysis of the CDC study results for 3,000 counties will be released in July.

Disney workers allowed mustaches

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) – Attention Disney workers: Don't throw out those razors just yet.

A week ago, Walt Disney executives said they were relaxing a decades-old policy that prohibited theme-park workers from sporting mustaches on the job.

But the policy has a caveat: You can only grow a mustache on vaca-

tion, and not at work.

Walt Disney World spokesman Bill Warren said there's nothing unusual about the caveat in the policy.

"It's a very common corporate guideline that you should grow a mustache on your vacation so you wouldn't have an unkempt appearance," Warren said. "I'm not a hair expert, but I'm sure someone can

grow a mustache in a reasonable amount of time."

Warren said apparent confusion among workers means that "somebody didn't get the message."

Disney officials decided to scrap the mustache ban – which had been in place since 1957 – in order to make it easier to recruit employees in a tight labor market.

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