

Daily Nebraskan

Construction clutter could detour routes to class but promises to put a new face on UNL
In News/A4



Stacked Husker offense, led by quarterback Eric Crouch, makes a run at the record books
In Sports/Thursday/C1

Big-budget blockbusters and controversial cinema pep fall movie prospects
In Arts/B6



Back to School Issue

Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Lieberman greets the crowd Wednesday night at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. Nebraska delegates said Lieberman may wear better on Americans than GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush's pick for vice president, Dick Cheney.



Bob Riha Jr./NEWSMAKERS

Delegates bid farewell to Kerrey

■ Praised as an 'independent voice' in the Senate, Kerrey urges Democrats to embrace Gore and Lieberman.

BY BRIAN CARLSON

LOS ANGELES — As Sen. Bob Kerrey prepares to leave the Senate, he is still playing a visible role at this year's Democratic National Convention — and he appears to be enjoying it.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "It's a chance to see a lot of old trends."

Several Democrats — on the national level, as well as in the Nebraska Democratic Party — said this week that they will miss Kerrey's passion and the excitement he has brought to Nebraska politics.

On Tuesday morning, along with

Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware and Sen. Diane Feinstein of California, Kerrey addressed the large California convention delegation. He told the delegates that they should work hard to elect Vice President Al Gore and his running mate, Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, in order to preserve the country's economic prosperity.

"I want you to resist the temptation not to be wildly enthusiastic about the leadership of Al Gore and Joe Lieberman," he said. "This vice president has led with fiscal responsibility."

Kerrey also recalled the time when he returned from the Vietnam War, having sustained a wound that required the amputation of part of his leg. He learned what it was like to be weak and dependent on the help of others, he said.

"I learned then that weakness does not prevent you from acquiring liberty,"

he said. "We're going to write laws for those who are weak and give them a taste of liberty as well."

After her delegation speech, Feinstein said she would miss Kerrey when he leaves the Senate in January.

"I have great respect and fondness for Bob Kerrey," she said. "He has been an independent voice in the Senate, which is difficult in the partisan place of Washington. I despair that he's leaving."

Feinstein said Kerrey's work on Social Security and Medicare reform has broken political ground. She said some of his ideas may eventually be implemented, and she said it was unfortunate he would not be in the Senate to see that happen.

Former Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, a former Senate colleague of Kerrey's, also said he would miss

Please see KERREY on 2

Lieberman: GOP all words; Democrats act

BY BRIAN CARLSON

LOS ANGELES — Although the Republican Party has changed its rhetoric, Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman said Wednesday, the Democratic Party will more capably handle the issues Americans care about.

In his acceptance speech before the Democratic National Convention, Lieberman said that on issues such as health care, the use of the budget surplus, the environment and tolerance, the rhetoric of the Democratic ticket matches its action. The Republicans, he said, have talked about those issues without backing their talk with substance.

"Our opponents are decent and likable men. I am proud to call many in their party my friends," he said. "But America must understand: There are very real differences between us in this election."

"I am glad the GOP changed their rhetoric, but I wish they would also change their policies."

Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew and the first Jewish person to run for vice president. He spent much of the early part of his speech calling for a more tolerant society.

He recalled the stories he heard from his mother, who faced anti-Semitic prejudice while growing up in Central Europe. Upon immigrating to the United States, she was treated with respect, he said.

The parents of Lieberman's wife, Hadassah, survived the Holocaust — "literally saved," Lieberman said, "by American GIs who liberated the concentration camps."

"In my life I have tried to see this world through the eyes of those who have suffered discrimination," he said. "And that's why I believe that the time has come to tear down the remaining walls of discrimination in this nation based on race, gender and sexual orientation. And that's why I continue to say, when it comes to affirmative action, mend it, don't end it."

Lieberman said he and Gore would work for prescription drug coverage under Medicare, health care access for all children and the ability of citizens to have their medical decisions made by doctors rather than insurance companies.

He said the Democratic ticket also would work to increase federal education funding to fix run-down schools and increase teacher salaries.

On tax and budget policy, Lieberman said, he and Gore would continue the policies that he said have helped promote a strong economy.

Please see LIEBERMAN on 2

"In my life I have tried to see this world through the eyes of those who have suffered discrimination."

Joe Lieberman candidate

UNO student pushes envelope of diversity at GOP, Democratic conventions

BY BRIAN CARLSON

LOS ANGELES — For 19-year-old Athena Ramos, this week's Democratic National Convention is not only a chance to celebrate her political convictions but also a platform for increasing political involvement among her fellow Latinos.

Ramos, a Bellevue native and senior at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will be eligible to vote in a presidential election for the first time this year.

But she has been interested in politics for many years, and

this week she is an alternate delegate from Nebraska.

"It's been a dream ever since I was a little girl," she said.

Ramos got her start in politics while she was still in high school when she served as an intern for Sen. Bob Kerrey.

She also worked on Michael Scott's unsuccessful congressional campaign in 1998. She was president of Student Democrats at UNO last year, and she now serves as vice chairwoman of the Sarpy County Democrats.

She acquired her political

convictions easily, she said.

"Democrats stand for education, Medicare, welfare and all these things we want as human beings," she said. "Just being human, how could you not be a Democrat?"

The issues that are important to Democrats also are important to Latinos, she said.

Among the most important issues for Latinos, she said, are quality education and equal opportunities in society. This means strengthening public schools, hiring more quality teachers and making higher

education more accessible to Latinos, she said.

But Ramos knows that the societal changes they seek only by joining together and becoming politically involved.

"Latinos need to unite," she said. "If we join together, we're stronger because as a collective unit we have more power. And power is what politics is all about."

Hispanic immigrants often do not vote because they have not become citizens or have not registered, Ramos said.

For this reason, Ramos has dedicated herself to increasing Latino voter registration through a national program called Latino Vote 2000.

Anne Boyle, state chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said she has been impressed by Ramos' commitment to Latino empowerment and the Democratic Party.

"She's a very vibrant young woman," she said. "Her politics is not just coming to the convention."

Ramos is actually a veteran of both major parties' 2000 con-

ventions. She was invited by the Republican Party to be one of 150 Hispanic college students attending the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia two weeks ago.

Although she told them she was a staunch Democrat, they invited her anyway.

Ramos said she felt like she was at the GOP convention only for show.

"When we walk out, what do we see?" she said. "Not

Please see STUDENT on 2

Husker tickets sell out in July; wait list cut off

BY JOSH FUNK

Well in advance of the Huskers' pre-season No. 1 ranking, student football tickets sold out in mid-July.

At this time last year there were nearly 1,000 student tickets left.

Football tickets generally sell out quicker in years following winning seasons and when the team is expected to do well.

The last \$115 student season tickets sold out July 17, and 300 students are on a waiting list.

Athletic Ticket Manager John Anderson said his office has stopped taking applications because the waiting list has grown so long.

Students who did secure tickets can pick them up at the ticket office in the Stadium Drive Parking Garage starting Aug. 24.

There were still tickets available last week for the Oct. 14 game against Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas.

Parking woes only to worsen with construction

BY JOSH FUNK

Students can expect stiffer competition for parking this year as construction projects have eliminated several hundred stalls.

But relief is on the way in the form of a 1,700-stall parking garage slated to be complete next fall.

Students also can expect to pay more for parking meters and citations.

"This year parking will be in greater demand due to the space available," said Tad McDowell, director of UNL Parking and Transit Services.

The six-level garage under construction at 17th and R streets has eliminated 204 parking stalls, and other construction projects have displaced parking across campus.

McDowell said the 17th and R streets garage is expected to replace parking already lost to construction and spaces that will be lost to future projects.

The garage will not produce a large net gain in parking stalls, but McDowell said additional garages are planned.

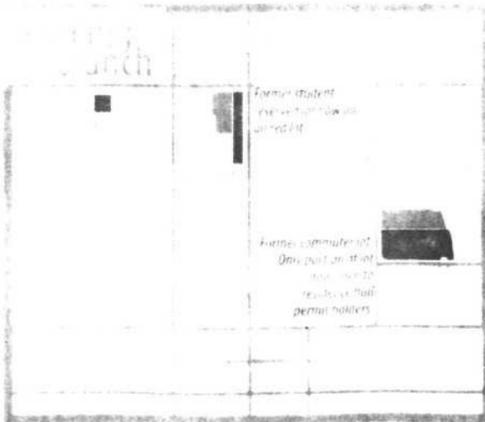
Construction of the new chemical engineering building closed the faculty lot on the northwest corner of 17th and Vine streets. Those people will now park in the lot on the southwest corner of that intersection that was formerly a student-reserved lot.

The lot south of the Beadle Center will now be open to residence-hall permit holders, as well as commuter students.

With the changeover from spring-actuated to electronic meters, the hourly rate has doubled from a quarter to \$.50. The expired meter fine also doubles from \$5 to \$10.

The city also raised its hourly meter rate to \$.50 last spring, though citations still cost \$5.

University fines for parking with an invalid permit or in the wrong lot increase from \$25 to \$30, and the fine for counterfeiting a permit doubles to \$200.



Melanie Falk/DN

"The whole basis for raising the fines is to take some of the burden off permit holders," McDowell said.

All fine increases take effect Monday. Also this fall, parking services will be conducting a study of how many students use the Star Tran bus passes that are largely subsidized by parking fees, McDowell said. The bus passes will not be handed out with parking permits this year.

Those students who want a bus pass, whether or not they buy a parking permit, can get them from the Parking and Transit Services office in the stadium garage or at either student union.

McDowell said students should take the bus or carpool when possible.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

Expired parking meters are a sight students could be seeing a lot more of this semester as recent construction projects on UNL's City Campus have eliminated several lots. The City of Lincoln and the university have raised their hourly meter rates, as well. Relief from parking headaches will come in the form of a new parking garage, now under construction.