

Daily Nebraskan

Former NU swimmers allege rules violations after Nebraska suspends four coaches, including Head Coach Cal Bertz.
In Sports/12

A rainy first scrimmage forces Huskers to hold tightly on to the football
In Sports/6,7



Former swimmer makes a splash by mixing creativity and business in the field of textile design
In Arts/8



Republicans object to ad attacking Stenberg

Ad about Stenberg's suit against the Safe Drinking Water Act is called unfair by the GOP.

BY BRIAN CARLSON

Supporters of Ben Nelson and Don Stenberg quarreled this weekend over the fairness of a Democratic Party ad attacking Stenberg's challenge to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Gov. Mike Johanns, 1st District U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter and Sen. Chuck Hagel defended Stenberg on Saturday, saying his July 1998 lawsuit was in Nebraska's interests and supported by then-Gov. Ben Nelson, now Stenberg's

Democratic opponent in the Senate race.

But Anne Boyle, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said the lawsuit Johanns, Bereuter and Hagel defended was different from the one the ad criticizes.

The ad, paid for by the Democratic Party with unregulated soft-money contributions, blasts Stenberg, the state attorney general and Republican Senate candidate, for filing a lawsuit to repeal the entire act.

"Bacteria in our water, people sick and just this week, another e-coli outbreak," the ad states. "You've got a right to clean water. But Don Stenberg wants to gut the standards that protect our drink-

ing water from deadly pollution.

"Stenberg actually filed a lawsuit to repeal the entire Safe Drinking Water Act, a law that every Republican and every Democratic senator voted for," the ad continues. "So check the record. Because Don Stenberg's out of step with Nebraska. He needs to stop his lawsuits that threaten our health."

At a press conference outside the Capitol on Saturday, Johanns and Bereuter, both Republicans, defended Stenberg against the ad's charges.

They said Stenberg filed suit to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency enforced the act fairly. They said he did so with

the support of the state's entire congressional delegation and Nelson.

Johanns said the ad was "unfair and outrageous," and he called on Nelson to ask the Democratic Party to pull it.

"This is clearly a case where Ben Nelson and Don Stenberg were on the same page," he said. "Now Ben Nelson has forgotten Nebraska on this one and sided with Washington and big government."

Stenberg filed suit in July 1998 after the EPA sought to regulate copper levels in underwater ground supplies because a few homes in Nebraska reported high copper levels.

Bereuter said the copper problem originated not in underground water supplies, but in copper pipes installed in homes. The water supply's high acidity sometimes caused copper in the pipes to come loose and filter into drinking water, he said.

The problem could be solved, he said, if citizens experiencing problems with copper in their water ran their taps for 45-60 seconds each morning. Such common-sense solutions would work better than burdensome copper regulations, he said.

"The costs could be astronomical for Nebraska communities," he said.

In a statement, Hagel called

the ad "an example of the kind of negative politics Nebraskans have rejected in the past."

"This is ridiculous," he said. "The Nebraska Democratic Party is criticizing Don Stenberg for doing his job."

"The lawsuit against the Safe Drinking Water Act was filed to protect Nebraska communities from needlessly spending millions of dollars to comply with federal mandates."

But Boyle, the Democratic Party chairwoman, said the ad referred not to the lawsuit Johanns, Bereuter and Hagel

Please see **STENBERG** on 5

Linda Cowdin, facilities manager, climbs the stairs of the mainly desolate Whittier building at the corner of 22nd and Vine Streets. The building contains offices of the university and two companies that lease space.



Josh Wolfe/DN

SCHOOLS' OUT UNL finds uses for old junior high

BY JILL ZEMAN

The barren hallways of the Whittier Junior High School show few reflections of the past it once housed — the children, the classrooms, the place of learning.

Some may think the dilapidated building at 22nd and Vine streets is abandoned — housing nothing more than maybe a ghost or two.

But if the former school is haunted, the spirits would have to deal with the several university employees who report to the building every day for work.

The building has been partially transformed to house university offices that have no other place to go.

The University of Nebraska Foundation began negotiating in 1983 to lease the school that closed in 1977, and actually purchased it in 1990, said Rich

McDermott, assistant vice chancellor for facilities management and planning.

By purchasing the school, the university played an important role in preserving the 77-year-old building, he said.

The school is mainly used for storage space, with nearly 75 percent of the 121,000 square foot building in use.

"It was a smart move for the university to buy Whittier," he said.

Classrooms and drinking fountains line the hallways of the school, remnants of the students and teachers who once converged there daily.

But now, dust covers the wooden floors that few feet walk on.

Occasionally, a furnished office will pop up like an oasis in the desert of hollow, empty hallways with gap-



Josh Wolfe/DN

The fences that block trespassers from entering the former Whittier Junior High School are a symbol of the state of a building that once served as a place of learning and now sits mostly empty. The halls of the building are lined with remains of the days past, covered in dust and dirt that has collected since the school closed in 1977.

ing holes where rows of lockers used to be.

But a few memories of school life do linger in the building — the gymnasium and auditorium are still intact.

The gym, located on the second floor of the build-

Please see **WHITTIER** on page 5

Money for renovations allocated

The Board of Regents approved plans to repair and make improvements to the Nebraska Union, Nebraska East Union and University Housing facilities.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

The Board of Regents meeting lasted less than an hour Friday afternoon.

But in that time, members approved several different items, including plans for improvements and repairs to the Nebraska Unions and University Housing facilities.

The Regents approved spending up to \$993,850 for the improvements. The money will come from the replacement fund of student fees and facilities revenue bonds.

The Nebraska Union will be given \$299,850 for things like renovating the ASUN student government office and replacing ceiling tile and room partitions in the Centennial Room.

University Housing will receive \$694,000 to install fire sprinklers in Neihardt Residence Center and remove asbestos from the Harper/Schramm/Smith snack bar, among other things.

Housing has a list of 18 items in need of repair or improvement. Nebraska Union has a list of 28.

The Board of Regents also approved an expenditure of \$642,848 for improvements and repairs to parking facilities.

This money will come from the surplus fund of parking revenue bonds.

Improvements that will be made with this money include expanding the parking lot north of Nebraska East Union and adding more parking stalls at 14th Street and Avery Avenue.

The board approved similar requests in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

But of the four requests, this is the largest that has been authorized. The second largest was in October 1998 when the board approved an expenditure of \$305,285.

In other news, the Regents approved a lease agreement between the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Foundation for the Que Place Gallery at 12th and Q streets.

The gallery will be located in a building owned by the Foundation and will be used by the university to house the Lentz Center for Asian Culture and the Center for Great Plains Studies.

The Que Place is scheduled to open Nov. 2.

Regent Kent Schroeder of Kearney said the gallery will be an asset to the university.

"This is really going to be great," Schroeder said.

Student mothers struggle to find balance between school, children

BY GEORGE GREEN

Dirty diapers, sleepless nights and hasty drives to daycare centers compound the challenges of college for student moms.

But careful planning and aid from loved ones help many UNL student moms survive stressful days.

Victoria Riis, a news-editorial graduate student, said she struggled to find adequate daycare for her four-year-old daughter, Sara.

After she found a good place for her daughter, shuttling her to daycare between classes and work became the challenge.

Goal setting and planning helped her to get her daughter to the daycare, complete her studies and work at the same time, she said.

Each day, Riis said she tries to do something positive as a student, a mother, a runner and an employee.

"You have to have a clear focus if you want to get it all done," she said.

In addition to managing time effectively, student mothers need good support networks, she said.

Riis' fiancée, Jene Hall, is the main cog in her support system.

Before she met Hall, Riis said she stretched her time and energy well beyond the limits. Now Hall's assistance gives her more personal time to jog and even take naps, she said.

Gail Lockard, a psychologist at the University Health Center, agrees that

student mothers need support networks to help them survive hectic days.

Lockard, who directs a support group for student parents, said some mothers feel overly burdened and overwhelmed with responsibilities.

Her support group talks about things that every parent deals with, such as toilet training and discipline problems. Talking helps them realize that they are not alone, she said.

Please see **MOTHERS** on 5



Entomology graduate student Paula Macedo's struggle with finding a place for her children, Louiza, 3, left, and Matheus, 4, subsided this semester when she started taking them to the Child Development Center on East Campus. Macedo

Josh Wolfe/DN