

# Storm chasers land at UNL symposium

■ The Nebraska Center for Continuing Education held the event for weather watchers.

BY SHARON KOLBET

On Saturday afternoon in a room well-equipped with television screens and computer monitors, a crowd gathered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus.

Many showed up wearing the scarlet and cream, but the reason they gathered was not to watch football, but the weather.

The Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium brought professional and amateur meteorologists to the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets.

The symposium was a three-day event with Thursday and Friday devoted to technical sessions for professional climatologists and Saturday reserved for a special seminar for the public.

Inside the busy conference exhibit area, weather watchers of all ages viewed the latest computer images.

Nine-year-old Ben Harris traveled with his father Neil Harris from Omaha for the event.

Both expressed their love of storm chasing. They attended the symposium to see the latest in weather-tracking technology.

*"The choice was easy. As long as I can remember, I have always watched the weather."*

**Eric Freier**  
junior climatology major

When asked to pick his favorite weather season, the younger Harris was quick to reply "I like lightning storms!"

The Harris family was not alone in their love of meteorology. UNL meteorology professor Mark Anderson estimated that about 400 people showed up Saturday morning for the launching of a camera-equipped weather balloon.

After the balloon ascended out of sight, the crowd moved into the exhibit area to hear talks on such topics as lightning strikes and tornado damage.

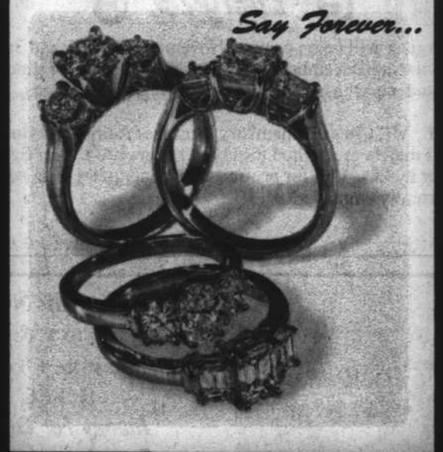
Participants watched storm videos and took home weather posters and educational materials courtesy of NASA and The Weather Channel.

When asked about his interest in the weather, Eric Freier, a junior climatology major, said it was easy to decide his course of study once he entered college.

"The choice was easy," Freier said. "As long as I can remember, I have always watched the weather."



Sharon Kolbet/DN  
Dan Marsh, right, a UNL meteorology graduate student and volunteer at the Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium answers a question posed by Lincoln resident Dan Horn. Weather fans from across the area gathered for the Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium held Saturday.



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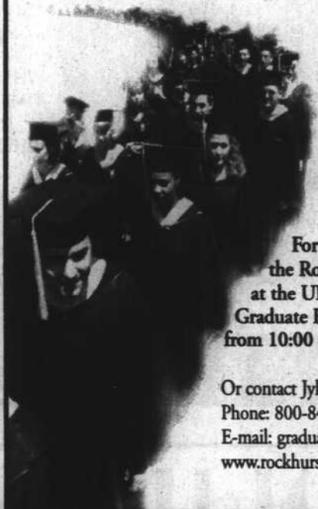
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The world's only full-time storm chaser is coming to speak at UNL for all NU students. Warren Faidley has worked for different organizations such as CNN, National Geographic, The Weather Channel, and the ABC 20/20 Cross.

Thursday, October 12, 7:00 PM  
Nebraska Union Auditorium

Call the University Program Council for information at 472-8146.