

Daily Nebraskan

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agronomy and horticulture
professors say
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Freshman Nebraska defensive end Benard Thomas visits with O.C. Love-Wade, a sickle-cell anemia patient, Wednesday night at BryanLGH East Medical Center. Thomas and other UNL athletes regularly visit children at the hospital.

Derek Lippincott/DN

Husker athletes bring spirit to children

As part of the Team Spirit program student-athletes visit patients in local hospitals to help brighten their moods.

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Sometimes helping the sick takes a little more than just medicine or a doctor—it takes a smile.

Especially when children are involved. Rick Grell, fire captain for the Lincoln Fire Department, thought there ought to be something he could do for children besides just sending them to the hospital after an accident.

So, he called the University of Nebraska Athletic Department.

Keith Zimmer, director of life skills for the Athletic Department, received a phone call from Grell last spring asking if athletes would visit sick children and their families in the hospital.

Zimmer agreed and now, Team Spirit, which represents the cooperative effort between the fire department and the NU Athletic Department, has turned into a once-, twice- or sometimes three-times-a-week program, depending on the number of patients who need to be visited that week.

Team Spirit visits Saint Elizabeth Regional

Medical Center and Bryan LGH East and West hospitals.

"The patients love it. It brightens their day and lifts their spirits," said Robin Reinecke, RN at Saint Elizabeth.

"Rick (the fire captain) is marvelous. He leaves us his number and is always willing to come over anytime we call him."

Reinecke said one child even made a card for one of the athletes.

"The athletes are really personable with the children," Reinecke said. "They all do a super job."

Grell said what he does was more than worth it.

"We don't need notoriety, we're just there to bring a smile to their face," Grell said.

"That makes it all worth it."

Val Kalmikovs, a UNL student who helps coach the swimming team, echoed Grell's thoughts.

"I just wanted to talk to them, bring a smile to their face and help them forget about their struggle for a little bit," Kalmikovs said.

Zimmer said athletes enjoyed visiting the children in the hospital more than public or motivational speaking.

"It's more informal and personalized," Zimmer said. "It takes a pretty sensitive person to be able to do this."

"I think it's great anytime student athletes

can make a difference in the community, and it still allows them to be student athletes."

The making a difference is what patients like O.C. Love-Wade, who has sickle-cell anemia, discover every week.

Seventeen-year-old Love-Wade has been in the hospital a lot in his lifetime, but this time as he sat in his wheelchair during yet another night in the hospital, he could smile.

"This is special to me," Love-Wade said. "It means more than just meeting somebody."

But Team Spirit goes far beyond just visiting kids in the hospital, as James Borer, a 17-year-old from Madison, and his family can attest to.

Borer suffered a concussion at a high school football game this fall, and while some might call it an accident, the Borer family may call it a blessing.

Without the concussion James suffered, the Borer's might not have discovered the brain tumor, about the size of an orange, that showed up on James' CAT scan.

The night before James' surgery Nov. 21, he received a surprise visit by four Husker athletes.

"I was kind of scared at first because I didn't know who they were, but then they came in

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ASUN Involvement forum draws few students

BY JILL ZEMAN

Student government opened up itself for criticism Thursday night in an effort to get more students involved in ASUN.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska held an open forum giving students a chance to air their complaints about student government.

The forum, geared toward students who didn't feel represented by ASUN, only drew a handful of attendees.

Despite the low turnout, Arts and Sciences Sen. Angela Clements said she was pleased with the event.

Because ASUN hasn't held an event like this before, the turnout wasn't disappointing to Clements, she said.

"If one student walked away and learned more about ASUN or was convinced they should run for (a position in ASUN), I think it's a success," she said.

ASUN President Joel Schafer encouraged the students to do whatever they could to get involved in student government.

"Student government is the organization that

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Professor finds nature has new plans for aging lakes

BY SHARON KOLBET

Sometimes nature can surprise you. For decades ecologists believed lakes became more productive as they aged, growing more nutrient-rich and less acidic.

UNL geology professor Sherilyn Fritz has proven this may not be true.

After three summers of study at Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska, Fritz co-authored an article showing lakes aging in a way opposite of what was believed.

"Life is often more complex than what we expect," Fritz said.

Rather than growing more alkaline and productive, the lakes in Glacier Bay have become more acidic and diluted, Fritz said.

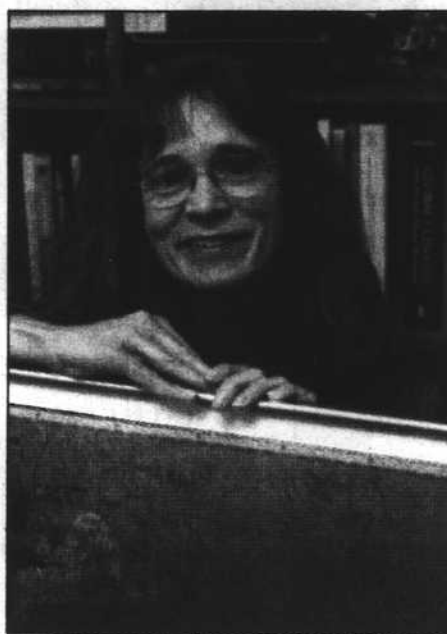
Under the previous theory it was believed if lakes were becoming more nutrient-rich as they aged then the human impact of fertilizers and sewage was accelerating this process.

With the recent findings ecologists will need to re-evaluate the impact humans have on these aquatic environments.

Fritz conducted the research with Daniel Engstrom and James Almendinger of the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Croix Watershed Research Station along with statistician Stephen Juggins of the University of Newcastle in England.

The findings of Fritz and her colleagues were published in the Nov. 9 issue of *Nature*, the international weekly journal of science.

While in Alaska, Fritz examined fossilized remains of algae in mud core samples taken from the lake. The algae fossils



Sharon Kolbet/DN

UNL Geology Professor Sherilyn Fritz stands by a large map of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. Fritz recently published an article on lake aging that has changed the way ecologists view these bodies of water.

can be used to construct a geological history of the area.

"Glacier Bay functions as a virtual time machine," Almendinger said.

"Dr. Fritz's work has significant implications. It has a huge impact on ecological paradigms."

President adds Omaha to trip agenda

BY JILL ZEMAN

President Bill Clinton has added another stop on his first trip to Nebraska.

The president, who was originally scheduled to visit Kearney on Dec. 8, also has decided to stop in Omaha, the state's largest city, said Anne Boyle, Nebraska Democratic Party chairwoman.

Boyle said she had been working to bring Clinton to eastern Nebraska for the past three days.

Even though the president's Omaha visit may be brief, Boyle said, she was pleased he was making a stop.

"Many, many people, regardless of party affiliation, are excited to see the president," Boyle said.

Clinton is scheduled to visit Kearney in the morning and will then stop at Eppley Airfield in Omaha, Boyle said.

The president also will attend a political event in Omaha, but White House spokesman Jason Schechter said he couldn't elaborate.

"(Clinton) is looking forward to making this trip," Schechter said. "He's wanted to go for some time."

Despite the inevitable flood of people who will converge on Eppley Airfield, airport officials have not been contacted yet, said Brad Livingston, director of operations.

When the airport is contacted, workers will devise a game plan to handle the throngs of people, he said.

"Nobody's told us anything," Livingston said. "We'll be anxiously awaiting a call."

Omaha Mayor Hal Daub will welcome Clinton at the airport, said Jennifer Windrum, the mayor's spokeswoman.

Daub, a Republican, joked Clinton should bone up on his

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Nebraska knowledge before he arrived, Windrum said.

"The mayor said hopefully, when (Clinton) gets here, he'll know how to pronounce Kearney," Windrum said, referring to the mispronunciation of the city's name made by Clinton's press secretary, Jake Siewert.

Daub also displayed his partisan colors, Windrum said, by wanting to invite Republican Presidential Candidate George W. Bush to the state if Bush was elected.

"(Daub) wants Bush to make Nebraska the first state he visits," Windrum said.

Despite Daub's political affiliation, the mayor is still excited the president is visiting, Windrum said.

"(Daub) is glad to welcome him to the city," Windrum said.

In Kearney, the president will visit the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, a historical museum over Interstate 80.

While in the state, Clinton also will speak at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where the president plans on making a "major policy speech," Schechter said.

Schechter said he didn't know what Clinton would speak about in Kearney, but he said it would be "substantive."

"It will be a major speech for the president," he said.

Case moves into Supreme Court

BY BRIAN CARLSON

This morning, the battle for the presidency will leave behind the talk shows, dueling press conferences and street demonstrations for a place where, Americans hope, it can receive guidance based not on political partisanship, but the law.

At 10 a.m. EST (9 a.m. CST), the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments dealing with the Florida recount that will determine who the next president will be.

How the court will rule is anybody's guess, said John Gruhl, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"As they keep saying on TV, these are really uncharted waters," he said.

The winner of Florida's 25 electoral votes will be the next president. The state has certified Republican George W. Bush as the victor of Florida over Democrat Al Gore by 537 votes.

Gore is contesting the results, arguing further hand recounts should continue and some incompletely punched ballot cards should be counted.

Bush and his lawyers argue that the Florida Supreme Court,



by ordering hand recounts should be considered and extending the statutory deadline for certification, violated both federal law and the U.S. Constitution.

Bush argues the Supreme Court rewrote the Florida law, usurping the authority of the Florida Legislature to determine how the state chooses its electors.

Article II, Sec. 1, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution states electors shall be appointed by each state "in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct."

Bush also argues the Florida Supreme Court violated a federal law, more than a century old, requiring electors be chosen on the basis of "laws enacted prior to" Election Day.

"Reversal by this Court (of the Florida Supreme Court's ruling) would restore the legislatively crafted method for appointing electors in Florida to its status prior to November 7, would allow the completion of the proper selection of presidential electors in Florida according to the plan contemplated by the Constitution and would aid in bringing legal finality to this election," Bush's brief states.

Gore's lawyers respond that

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