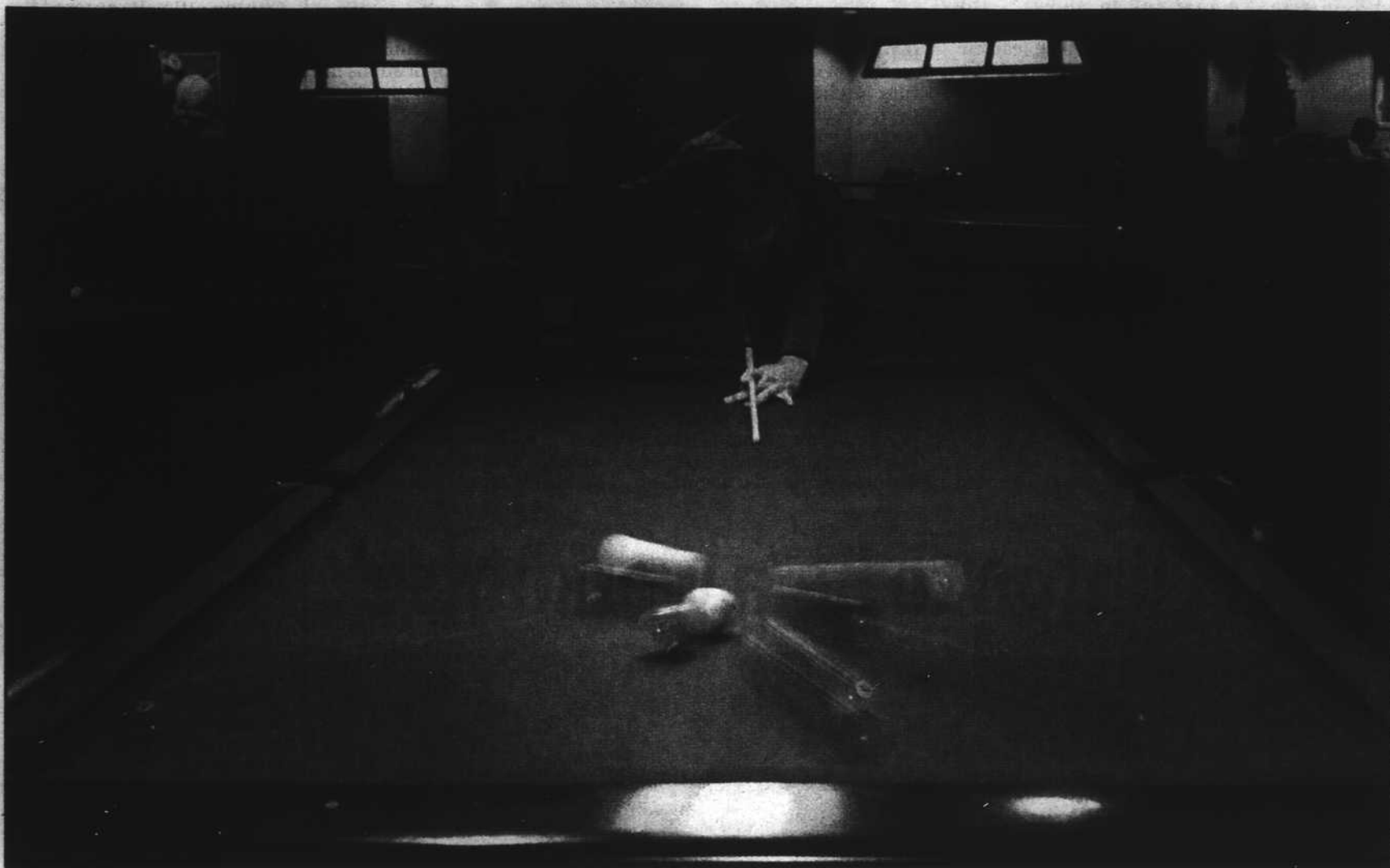


York resident asks for Erin Brockovich's help in eliminating neighborhood's rotten smell
In News/5

The Husker model of consistency, wide receiver Matt Davison, nears the end of his NU career
In Sports/Wednesday/12



The legendary Zoo Bar serves up nearly 27 years of nationally acclaimed blues
In Arts/8



BREAKING POINT: Brian Black, a sophomore business major, makes the break in a game of nine-ball in the Rec Room, in the basement of the Nebraska Union. Black and his friends play pool Tuesday nights to have fun and pass the time.

Cities get ready for Clinton's visit

Workers scurry to spruce up Kearney and Omaha as the Secret Service arrives to double-check security for the president's stop on Friday.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Countless workers in Kearney and Omaha are scrambling to make sure President Clinton's first visit to the state goes off without a hitch.

And countless others are trying to make sure every Nebraskan who wants to see Clinton will know where they can catch a glimpse of him.

Allen Johnson, Kearney city manager, said his office has been busy working with the Secret Service to assure the president has a safe visit.

He said city officials have been beefing up security where Clinton will stop: the Kearney airport, the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument.

"We've put a big emphasis on security," he said. Workers also have been deciding which routes will be best for the president to take to his various stops around town, he said.

Randy Haack, UNK vice chancellor for business

and finance, said the university has been doing security work of its own.

He said university officials are inspecting the Health and Sports Center, where Clinton will speak, to make sure its safety standards are up to par.

Workers have been double checking the complex's electrical system, its elevators and door locks, he said.

"We want the visit to be safe and pleasurable for him and the people coming to see him," Haack said.

But, he said, the university is doing more than ensuring campus safety.

UNK also is doing cosmetic work to spruce up the campus, he said.

Workers have been busy cleaning and repainting the Health and Sports building and the signs around it, he said.

Outside, workers are clearing away snow and ice so people can have easy access to the campus, he said.

With all the work to be done, Haack said, campus officials have been grateful for the help they have received from the White House Advance Team and the Secret Service.

Together, he said, UNK workers and the Washington personnel will have things ready when the president arrives.

"We're feeling very good about the effort," Haack said.

Kelly Krier, an administrative coordinator for the Kearney Chamber of Commerce, said her group is throwing its resources behind the campus as it tries to plan the visit.

She said the group is distributing invitations for the speaking event to special guests appointed by the university.

The group also is heading an effort between all of the groups involved in bringing Clinton to Kearney, so when the day arrives, every Nebraskan will know where to go to see the president.

In Omaha, officials are preparing for the president, too.

Joe Mangiamelli, executive assistant to Omaha Mayor Hal Daub, said security efforts like the ones in Kearney are underway.

But, he said, because the president won't be spending as much time in Omaha, the work won't have to be as extensive.

The president will be stopping at Offutt Air Force Base and then attending a private Democratic fund-raiser at the home of Omaha businessman Vinod Gupta, Mangiamelli said.

Anne Boyle, the chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, said while her group isn't helping Gupta plan for the affair, it is trying to promote the president's stop.

"We're encouraging people to take the opportunity to see the president," she said.

Academic Senate

Faculty to grade proposal

BY JILL ZEMAN

The issue of whether the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's grading system should include pluses and minuses is now in the hands of members of the faculty senate.

Although members of student government rejected a bill that would recommend the change, UNL's Academic Senate will still make the ultimate decision.

The motion to adopt a new grading system was introduced Tuesday by Jim Ford, associate professor of English.

Members of the senate will vote on the motion at January's meeting.

Ford said he appreciated the discussion generated by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

ASUN rejected its bill with a vote of 14-9, but in 1995, the student senate passed a bill that more strongly opposed adding minus grades to the system.

Ford said he viewed this change in attitude as a step in the right direction.

UNL is one of the few universities that doesn't use a plus and minus system, Ford said.

"(UNL's current system) is very common among high schools and grade schools," Ford said.

If UNL used a plus and minus system, student grades would be more consistent with most universities in the country, which makes students' grades more understandable when they apply for graduate school, he said.

"We're always looking for ways to improve our academic climate," he said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said several schools use a grading system with A, B, C, D and F grades.

UNL uses a grading system including plus grades but not minus grades.

There's no one grading system that serves as a model for universities, he said.

Griesen said he was "fully prepared" to defend UNL's system at January's meeting.

In other news, the senate passed a supplement to UNL's student absence policy.

The policy, which hasn't been revised since 1983, says any extracurricular activity causing a student to miss more than three weeks of class must be discontinued.

The new policy says it is the student's responsibility to request permission from an instructor to miss a class, but an instructor doesn't have to excuse

Please see SENATE on 5

Mural blends art and community

As part of a class project, UNL students worked to decorate the west wall of the Matt Talbot Kitchen on R Street.

BY JILL CONNER

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Zachary Stork thought he would be in for a stressful semester.

His design essentials professor, Wendy Weiss, asked him and his classmates to design a mural, obtain a mural permit from the city and then paint it on a 160-foot wall at Matt Talbot Kitchen, 1911 R St.

The idea of decorating the west wall of the soup kitchen was brought to Weiss' attention by Rita Kean, chairwoman of the Department of Clothing, Textiles and Design and also on the Board of Directors for Matt Talbot Kitchen.

Kean said she was approached by Talbot's Executive Director, Suzanne Blue, who wanted to spruce up the building.

"I think it not only enhances our building but enhances the whole community, the area around the University and helps us raise awareness of the homeless in Lincoln," Blue said.

Kean said she thought the idea could be incorporated into the textiles and design curriculum.

"I spoke with Wendy Weiss because her classes always have a community component to (them)," Kean said.

Weiss then coached her class through the design process.

Students formulated ideas, voted on the



Professor Wendy Weiss' design essentials class is painting a mural on the side of Matt Talbot's Kitchen, 1911 R St. When the mural is completed, the message on the mural will read: "Serving the working poor, homeless and hungry."

best one and took the designs to the soup kitchen.

The students surveyed the guests of the kitchen and board members at Talbot to see which designs were compatible, she said.

"We really wanted input from the people on what they would like to see on the mural out there," Blue said.

"When working with the homeless, there isn't a lot of enthusiasm, but it was really inspiring," Blue said. "It was something that was really embraced."

From that meeting, the class put together a design team that synthesized the four

Please see MURAL on 6

Committee mum on chancellor search

Panel was ordered to keep list secret after World-Herald report names Perlman as a candidate to replace Moeser.

BY JILL ZEMAN

Committee members reviewing applications for University of Nebraska-Lincoln's next chancellor are keeping tightlipped on who's in the running for the university's top position.

Members of the chancellor search committee, headed by UNL Plant Pathology Professor James Van Etten, are looking to fill the position after James Moeser left in July to become chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

David Brinkerhoff, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs, said in Tuesday's faculty senate meeting that committee members need to keep everything they learn about candidates to themselves.

The confidentiality question arose because on Tuesday, the Omaha World-Herald reported Interim Chancellor Harvey

"A breach of confidentiality presents a serious problem."

David Brinkerhoff acting vice chancellor for academic affairs

Perlman is among a pool of applicants considered for the position.

The story quoted a university source who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

When the Daily Nebraskan asked Perlman whether he applied for the position, he replied the same way he has since the search began: "No comment."

Brinkerhoff said to protect the applicants, committee members shouldn't leak information about the search to anyone.

"A breach of confidentiality presents a serious problem," Brinkerhoff said.

NU Spokesman Joe Rowsor said he hasn't been closely involved with the search process.

Please see CHANCELLOR on 5