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# Police to study officer selection

By Randy Blauvelt The Lincoln Personnel Office has taken the first steps to prevent legal questions of discrimination and to "improve" the police officer selection process, according to its director, Walt Mitchell. Mitchell said \$6,000 from the city's contingency fund

will be used to hire the consulting firm of Wollack, Waibel and Associates of Fair Oaks, Calif., to study Lincoln's current police officer entrance exam standards.

Last week the City Council appropriated money for the study. Lincoln will hire the firm on a joint-basis with other cities, including Omaha, Milwaukee, Wisc., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Birmingham, Ala. Mitchell said current standards of reading comprehen-

sion, psychological traits and physical characteristice are "very subjective" and are decided on a "by guess, by golly" process.

He said subjectivity of the standards would make the city a prime target for charges of discrimination by anyone who failed the exam.

There has been a lot of trouble around the country

minority populations are larger and women are more active."

He said the study, which will take about a year to complete, will bolster the city's case in discrimination charges with "some sort of validity."

Although Lincoln has not been bothered with many of these charges, Mitchell said, it has been very vulnerable.

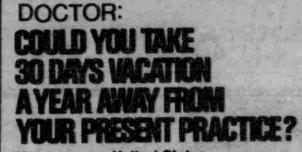
These standards have been a key issue with the courts, he said. "Even a 50-year-old applicant who was disqualified

could charge age discrimination." Meanwhile, UNL Campus Police does not plan to revise their entrance exam, according to Campus Police Lt. Robert Edmunds.

We have no specific criteria for size, weight or sex," he said. "We aren't in danger of charges of discrimination."

Campus police applicants take the same written test as the city administers, undergo a polygraph test by the Nebraska State Patrol, and have psychological and physical tests supervised by the University Health Center.

Campus Police already has women with patrol status, Edmunds said. Lincoln Police will drop an unofficial restric-(with discriminating standards)," he said. "Especially where tion and begin assigning women to patrol duty in January.



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#### mmittee to advise student architects

A 12-member professional advisory committee of architects, planners and building specialists has been formed for UNL's College of Architecture.

The committee, which will meet at least once each semester, is designed to advise individuals and groups within the college and will establish an advisory relationship between the college and the professional community, said W. Cecil Steward, College of Architecture dean. Committee members are professionals involved with environmental interests and the construction industry, he

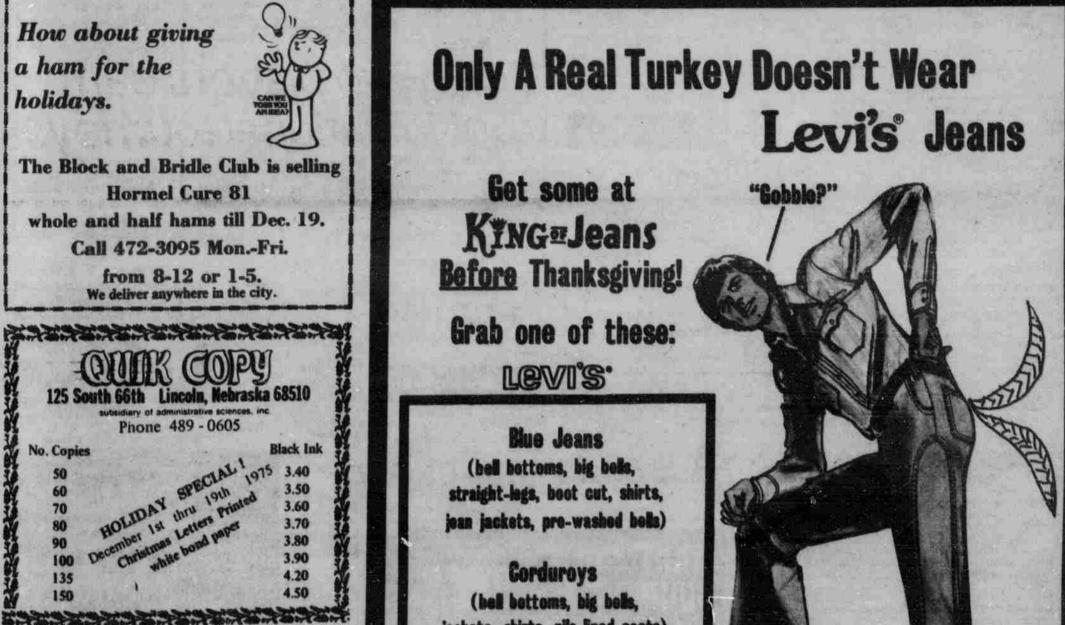
said.

Committee organization began in summer 1974, Steward said. Formal invitations were extended in autumn 1975, he said.

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Committee members are: Leo A. Daly, president of Leo A. Daly Co. architects; Charles W. Durham, president and chairman of the board of Omaha's Henningson, Durham & Richardson, Inc.; Law-rence Enerson, treasurer of Lincoln's architectural firm of Clark & Enerson, Hamersky, Schlaebitz, Burroughs and Thomsen; F.C. Vierk, senior officer of architects Hemphill, Vierk and Dawson. A. Leicestar Hyde, architect and former president of Midwest Life Nebraska; Frank C. Elias, officer of McKee-Berger-Mansueto, Inc., Chicago construction consultants and engineers; Darrell D. Rippeteau, managing partner of Sargent, Webster, Crenshaw and Folley of New-York State, Vermont and Maine. Douglas K. Bereuter, state senator and associate professor of planning at UNL; Don Smith, director of Lincoln Parks and Recrea-tion Dept.; Nelson W. Helm, director of the Grand Island and Hall County Planning Commission; J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati; and David L. Chambers, executive vice president of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

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