

## Testimony given in Moreland preliminary hearing

By Bob Glissmann

UNL student John E. Moreland, 18, will face an April 16 arraignment on three counts of felony motor vehicle homicide.

Charged yesterday at a preliminary hearing in Lancaster County Court, Moreland was bound over for arraignment, Lancaster County Court Judge Robert R. Camp said. Moreland is charged with the deaths of UNL student Geri Lynn Foster, 19, of Omaha, and Creighton University students Christopher R. Harries, 21, of Mission, Kan., and Peter J. Phelan, 20, of Cedar Plains, Iowa.

The accident occurred Feb. 7 when the students were leaving a fraternity-sorority party near Sprague. The vehicle Moreland was driving came up over a hill and allegedly struck several students walking along the road. Six other students were injured.

Testimony from prosecution and defense witnesses included that of Dr. George E. Gammel, a pathologist who contracts with the Lancaster County attorney's

office for emergency cases. Gammel said Foster, Harries and Phelan all died from massive head injuries.

The court also heard testimony earlier in the day from Rick Gilman, a student at Southeast Community College, and Robert McQuillan, a student at Creighton University. Gilman said he saw Ms. Foster being hit by the car. McQuillan said he was knocked to the ground by the car and when he got up to see what had happened, Harries and Phelan were lying in the road.

Toney Redman, counsel for the defendant, said he plans to file a plea in abatement prior to the scheduled arraignment, asking the district court to review the charges of the lower (county) court. Redman said there is "insufficient evidence" for the charges.

"They showed he tested .01 (of one percent of alcohol in the body fluids) more than an hour after the accident occurred," Redman said. "I don't think they proved he was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident," he said.

Deputy County Attorney John Osborn said he plans

to file an "information" which contains the charges brought against Moreland. There was "probable cause to believe a crime was committed" since the defendant was unlawfully operating the car, Osborn said.

If an accident involving motor vehicle homicide occurs when a driver is under the influence of alcohol or any drug, the violation is considered a felony. If not, it is a misdemeanor, Osborn said.

Moreland is out on bond. Redman said Moreland will plead not guilty at the arraignment. The charge of felony motor vehicle homicide carries a maximum prison sentence of five years, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

## Experiment subject alone over month

By Lori McGinnis

As part of a psychology experiment, a person lived in a studio apartment in Burnett Hall for 48 days with no contact with other persons.

The person left the room Saturday, March 21. This person was the latest of 20 people in the last 10 years to undergo this experiment.

The experiment was conducted by Dan Bernstein, an associate professor of psychology at UNL. It is designed to study how people distribute time among activities that are available.

A subject is moved into the room with an agreement that he or she can leave and end the experiment at any time, Bernstein said. The subject must bring hobbies to occupy time because no television, radio, newspapers, mail or visitors are allowed.

Another condition to the experiment is that restriction lights in the room indicate what activities can or can't be done, he said.

The reason for the restriction lights, he said, is that when one activity is changed, others will change. In this controlled environment, Bernstein said, he can learn how constraints effect the redistribution of tasks.

The subject is observed 24 hours daily by a member of a research team consisting of 15 psychology students. The subject knows of the observation, and is given privacy only in the bathroom and while dressing. The observer records what the subject does, where it is done and its frequency.

The subject is given \$20 a day and free room and board for participating. Bernstein was awarded a federal grant by the Institute of Mental Health and was given money from sources in the university research budget for the experiments.

Leanne Aurand, a psychology student in charge of selecting the subject, said about 250 people responded to an advertisement in a local newspaper that requested a participant.

Bernstein said subjects are selected on the basis of how many activities he or she can bring along. A psychological screening is done after the subject is selected to assure he or she will react well to the conditions, he said.

"It's just not that bad if you have things to do," Bernstein said.

The room contains two beds, two chest of drawers, a refrigerator, hot plates, a desk, chairs and a table. It is "as pleasant as such an environment can be," he said.

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## Bill to create vet school moves to enrollment and review

By Kim Hachiya

After considerable maneuvering and amending, LB245, a bill that would create a regional veterinary college at UNL, was passed to its final stage Tuesday in the Nebraska Legislature.

The bill passed 27-15-7 after the Legislature added an

amendment that places a Dec. 1, 1983 deadline for the state to acquire federal funds to pay half the construction costs of the school and acquiring the support of at least two other states to participate in the \$30 million program.

The bill and its accompanying appropriations legislation provide for about \$1.4 million to be spent this year in developing and planning the school.

Under legislation passed in 1979, only schools in the Old West Regional Commission were eligible to participate. They include Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

LB245 would broaden the scope of participating schools so that non-Old West Region schools also could participate.

Since 1979, South Dakota and Wyoming have expressed a desire to drop out of the arrangement but Arizona and some other schools have also been interested in joining the program.

The 1983 deadline was proposed by Sen. Loran Schmit after the senators had rejected 22-21 a similar amendment proposed by Sens. John DeCamp and Jerome Warner which had proposed a March, 1982 deadline.

Under the DeCamp-Warner proposal, if the deadline had not been met, leftover funds were to be used to upgrade the UNL animal science building.

Under the Schmit proposal, if the deadline isn't met, then all statutory references concerning the veterinary school will be deleted.

Schmit said the March, 1982 deadline was unreasonably early and would not allow other states enough time to consider joining the effort and would press Nebraska congressional delegates who have promised to help in raising the federal money.

The senators also rejected a proposal by Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler which would have required that Nebraska obtain at least \$13 million in federal funds before going ahead with the program.

Beutler's opponents argued that the state must show a commitment to other states and to the federal government by putting up the money as a "good faith" gesture.

Beutler's amendment died 12-24.



Photo by Jon Natvig

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh, along with Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, proposed a March 1982 deadline for Nebraska to acquire the necessary financing for a veterinary school. It was rejected by the Legislature, 22-21.

## Director: Budget cuts may de-energize research

By Reid Warren

Some areas of energy research at UNL will be slowed if Congress accepts President Reagan's proposed budget cuts, according to the director of the UNL Energy Research and Development Center.

The public will suffer most if energy research is cut, Edward Anderson said.

The public will suffer, Anderson said, because informing and educating the public about energy is the most expensive aspect of energy research.

If budget cuts are passed it will mean turning toward "pure research-oriented projects, which will really slow down public enthusiasm," Anderson said.

"But what we lose in public work, we'll gain in straight-out research," he said.

Anderson said energy research uses fewer employees than public information and education, and thus is less costly.

Each aspect of energy research must be treated as an individual case, Anderson said, with some, notably the integrated energy farm at Mead, having been cut already.

Anderson said a change in functions toward more research didn't disappoint him because he is primarily a "basic researcher" himself.

Research still will be able to produce energy alterna-

tives in laboratory work, he said, but the results will be less commercialized and less available for public information.

Anderson said that so far he has not had more than 15 percent removed from what he asked for a project, and that budget cuts haven't eaten too much from research projects yet.

Anderson said he was in "60 to 75 percent acceptance of Reagan's cuts, and 25 to 40 percent upset by it." But an exception, he noted, was the state Solar Office, which faces extinction soon if it doesn't receive other forms of aid besides federal grants.

The state Solar Office is a "split personality," according to Anderson, because it serves both the university and the state.

Anderson, however, is the principle administrator of the office since the university subcontracts the office to the state.

It is predicted that half of the Solar Office's 12 employees will lose their jobs by the end of April.

But Robert Youngberg, director of the office, said that although his office is in financial trouble, a solar energy storage project awarded through UNL is in no immediate danger of being eliminated.

The project investigates the possibilities of a low-cost thermal solar storage system, Youngberg said.

Both Youngberg and Anderson said they are hopeful that a bill that doubles the severance tax on oil and gas will pass the Nebraska legislature.

The bill proposes that some of the money collected from the tax go to UNL and its energy research departments.

Anderson estimated that the university could receive \$1.5 million if the bill passes.

A big chunk of the bill, he added, would go for weatherization of low-income and public buildings.

Anderson called the bill "a good idea, which would tax the state's energy savings account for future energy investment."

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