

daily nebraskan

Vehicle loan changes to students are criticized

By Melinda Norris

A policy change in loaning university vehicles to student organizations is "killing us with red tape," ASUN President Rick Mockler said.

"The auto pool is using insurance premiums as an excuse for not letting students use vehicles," Mockler said. In a memo from the UNL's Business and Finance Department, Ray W. Coffey, business manager, outlined the conditions by which a student organization can borrow a university vehicle.

Coffey said the Campus Activities and Programs office will not make a firm commitment to supply a car to a student organization until 48 hours prior to the expected departure time.

This assures that appropriate priority is given to basic university functions of teaching, research and public services in which vehicles are needed.

Coffey also said that two surcharges will be added to the mileage rate and daily rental rate. A charge of three cents a mile will cover increased liability insurance and increased fuel prices, and a \$5 daily charge will insure the student organization in case of car damage.

Called unfair

Nancee Shannon, chairperson of the ASUN Campus Life Committee, attacked Coffey's conditions, saying they are "not fair."

Marsh: Students influence senators

By Eric Peterson

Affirmative Action, UNL capital construction and the study lobbying process were the major issues discussed at Tuesday's legislative breakfast with Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln.

The breakfasts are co-sponsored by the College of Business Administration Advisory Board and ASUN's Government Liaison Committee said GLC chairperson Nette Nelson.

Marsh said meetings between students and senators are increasingly important. Student interest in university issues has grown in the nine years she has been in the Nebraska Legislature, Marsh said.

"I think the students themselves are better informed and more numerous," Marsh said. "There were some very dedicated students before, but it was a smaller number. Now you find students from all across the state working with the Legislature. And that's good because some legislators only listen to people from their own district."

Marsh said there has been a visible impact from student involvement.

"Do not underestimate your value to the legislative process," Marsh said. "I've seen additional dollars added to the university budget because students became involved," she told students at the breakfast.

Nelson said the Affirmative Action program at UNL was a major GLC concern, noting that although former Chancellor Robert Rutford committed \$25,000 to the program before he left, there has been worry about the program because of federal government proposals to ease or eliminate Affirmative Action restrictions. Marsh said students should continue to support the program because of state Affirmative Action requirements.

"There is state legislation relating to Affirmative Action, which I helped sponsor and which was strongly supported by the governor," Marsh said. "The university falls under the state requirements for Affirmative Action."

Nelson said the GLC is planning a major voter registration drive this fall, and mentioned the problems facing student voters in the election statutes. Eight notaries public were required last year in the union for all the students voting by absentee ballot, she said.

Marsh said she supports GLC efforts at student-voter registration, and suggested that students consider registering as Lincoln voters.

"If you are interested in claiming Lincoln as your future home, you can certainly register here," she said.

Marsh said that as a member of the Legislature's appropriations committee, she is especially concerned with capital construction and other UNL budget issues including proposed renovations to the Former Law building and Bessie Hall on City Campus, and the Animal Science building on East Campus.

"You can push for one project on this campus and one on East Campus, but it's probably unrealistic politically to ask for two major renovations on City Campus in one year," Marsh said.

When asked about Lincoln Sen. Don Wesley's proposal to install an air conditioning system in Morrill Hall, Marsh said there would be difficulties getting 29 other senators to vote for it, and to get enough votes to override a possible governor's veto.

Continued on Page 6

"It's ludicrous," that the CAP office cannot guarantee a vehicle to a student organization until 48 hours before departure time, Shannon said.

Students can plan a trip for six months and not be guaranteed a car, she said.

Shannon added that learning is also a primary function of the university, in addition to the teaching and research functions, mentioned by Coffey.

"Part of the students' education is outside the classroom," Mockler said. "(This policy) is making it difficult to get outside the classroom and the campus."

The 3 cents a mile surcharge to cover the increased liability insurance was an expected charge, since the Nebraska Legislature revised a guest passenger statute last year, Shannon said.

In an accident the owner or driver is not liable for damages to a person who is classified as a guest in a car, unless drunken driving or driver or owner negligence can be shown.

The new guest statute limits the guest classification and therefore increases possible liabilities for the owner or driver.

Surcharge criticized

The \$5 surcharge is "outrageous" Shannon said. The previous policy charged an organization a maximum of \$200 for damages, if necessary, Shannon said. The current policy charges for a possible accident, she explained.

plained.

Shannon said the \$200 charge was an equitable solution, but if the students must pay the \$5 a day, employees should be charged too.

"I can't see responsibility being reinforced by employment contracts," Shannon said.

"Students get tired of hearing how irresponsible we are," she said.

Mockler said, "I am disgusted with the condescending and patronizing attitude to students."

"It would be a lot easier to run the university if students weren't here, and sometimes I think the administration thinks this way," Mockler said.

Mockler and Shannon will meet with the administration for the second time this year concerning student-use of university vehicles.

In July, Shannon and Mockler met with the vice chancellors of business and finance from UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center in an attempt to come up with a uniform policy for the three campuses concerning student-use of university vehicles.

This meeting was in response to a policy change in May which restricted student organizations from using university vehicles.

"We agreed the problem could be resolved and that outside classroom activities are important," Mockler said.

"I thought we had agreed in good faith," he said, "but I guess I was mistaken."

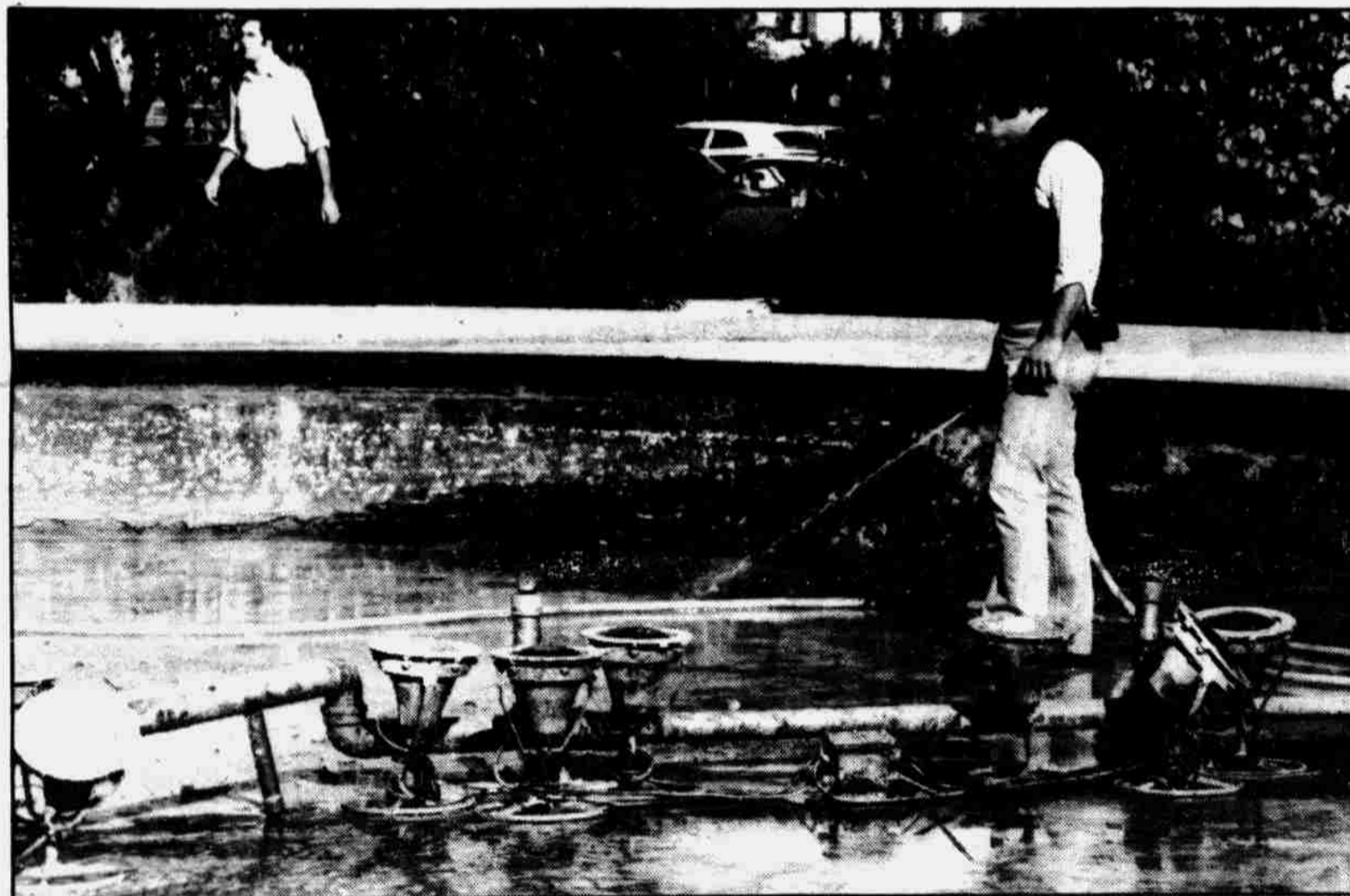


Photo by Dave Bentz

One of the sure signs that winter will soon hit the UNL campus is the sight of maintenance workers draining and clearing Broyhill Fountain. Pictured above, an unidentified maintenance worker scours the fountain.

The process of "winterizing" the fountain is relatively simple, said Bob Bauch, assistant maintenance manager. "We turn it off, drain it and clean it," he said. "We do most general repairs on it in the winter."

Bauch said that after the fountain is drained, maintenance workers use high-pressure water hoses to clean algae and leaves from the bottom and sides.

After the fountain is cleaned, it is disinfected with chlorine.

Bauch said the fountain is usually drained at the beginning of the freezing season.

Cops can extinguish own burnout

By Tricia Waters

When people consider police work, many think of the high pressure involved in dealing with dangerous characters.

In many instances, police officers do risk their lives when they walk into a situation, and they experience considerable stress.

Officer burnout, a stress condition caused by the daily anticipation of danger and pressures from others, often prompts a temporary or permanent break in law enforcement careers.

UNL police Lt. John Burke and Sgt. Charles Clark of the Lincoln Police Department said police are willing to listen to each other's problems, but many officers work things out for themselves.

Talking often relieves stress, said Clark. "Some officers internalize pressure and it builds up over a long period of time," he said. "Others have an understanding spouse to talk to, or talk to a friend."

He said some officers may release pressure by turning to alcohol.

If the pressures can't be released and build up to a breaking point, the officer may take a break or quit police work.

Nebraska police are trained in crisis intervention to remain outside of a fight or situation that they encounter,

Clark said. There, an officer's role is to help reach a solution for both sides without becoming a part of the situation. At other times, the officer directly intervenes, causing a crisis for someone else and opening himself up to risks, he said.

Either situation results in a need to relieve the pressure that accumulated during the encounter.

Police who work at night are open to more risks because of the type of people they deal with, Clark said. Several of the people they handle are under the influence of alcohol, he said.

Continued on Page 9

inside wednesday

It's More Than a Home for Prairie Dogs: Professor A.T. Harrison says Nebraska vanishing prairies should be preserved. . . . Page 6
Music Machines: Jukeboxes do not hold the dominant place they once did in American pop music, but some still hold forth in Lincoln bars. . . . Page 12
New Look: Coach Colleen Matsuhara's women's basketball team began practice Monday with several freshmen players. . . . Page 16