

# Move over Sherlock; computers tackle crime

By Brian Johnson

Computerized crime prediction may take over where Sherlock Holmes and Dick Tracy left off.

Chris Eskridge, an associate professor at UNL, has designed a working model capable of predicting possible suspects in burglary cases. Eskridge works in UNL's criminal justice department.

The model has excellent potential for use by police departments, Eskridge said. It considers individual factors such as a suspect's age, race, address, prior arrests, convictions and other related data. Eskridge said it is possible to feed the elements of a burglary into a police computer and predict with reasonable accuracy who might be involved in a particular crime.

Information about individual offenders would be continually entered into a computer community beat profile. The local police officer would use the community beat profile to get a list of potential suspects to investigate, given the circumstances of a crime. If the officer recognizes characteristics of a suspect, he can focus the investigation on the prime suspect.

"This device is designed to be a supplement to field investigation," Eskridge said. "It is not designed to replace investigation."

He emphasized this point because of the model's potential for abuse.

"What frightens me with this is that one day this could be a 1984 'Big Brother,'" Eskridge said.

The model alone cannot be used and

it should never be used to arrest a person simply because his name appears on a computer file, he said. Probable cause can never be ruled out and must always be a priority when using the prediction model as a tool for investigation, Eskridge said.

Eskridge suggested using the probability model along with a 'solvability' model similar to one devised by Earnest Eck for the Police Executive Research Foundation. The solvability model takes criminal elements into consideration, and on the basis of these, gives police officers a percentage of solvability. This would benefit police departments with funding and time shortages.

Crimes most easily solved would be given more attention, while crimes with a smaller chance of being solved would take lesser priority.

"We need to bring the police into the computer age," Eskridge said. "Microcomputers are relatively inexpensive. For several thousand dollars even the small police departments can purchase a microprocessor."

The model is especially useful for larger police departments because they have more records from which to draw information. Eskridge said that with the correct amount of information, the prediction model could be expanded to include other types of crime, such as sexual assault and possibly armed robbery. He said the model also could be used in corrections to determine which individuals should be considered for parole or for release on recognizance.

## Homecoming elections set

Homecoming royalty elections will be Oct. 19, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in City and East unions. The king and queen will be crowned during half-time at the Nebraska-Colorado game Oct. 22.

major; Julie Meusburger of Denver, a civil engineering major; Mary Brigit O'Neil of Omaha, an elementary/special education major; Michelle Roloff of Louisville, a psychology major; Ellen

The candidates for queen are: Rebecca Barlow of Sioux Falls, S.D., a business administration major; Janey Bowers of Omaha, an elementary/special education major; Jennifer Gierhan of Macomb, Ill., an elementary education

The candidates for king are: Steven Blum of Omaha, Joel Carlson of Osceola, George Davis of Franklin, Paul Edens of Harrisburg, Eric Edwards of Alliance, Kevin Goldstein of Wood River, Henry Pfeiffer of Lincoln, Dwayne Ullsperger of Cook and John Valdrighi of Omaha.

## Church

Continued from Page 1

Many other churches boast a German background. They include Catholic, Lutheran, Missouri-Synod Lutheran and Mennonite churches.

Trinity Lutheran, for instance, at 12th and H streets, was started in 1881 by three brothers: Heinrich, Friedrich and Carl Herpoisheimer. The three originally held services in their home and later persuaded the Rev. Frederick Koening, a Lutheran minister from Malcom, to ride 15 miles every two weeks to preach at the newly-formed church.

However, things became much harder for German ministers. During WWI, many ministers were ordered to preach only in English; some had their sermons translated into English so they could memorize them, only to deliver the sermons later to congregations of people who didn't understand a word. Many German ministers were imprisoned and some were badly beaten.

Often communities counted the number of Germans in order to keep an eye on their whereabouts.



No Match For Problem Solving

All Burned Out

For Immediate Action Contact  
The Ombudsman Office  
116 Lyman Hall  
472-3633

**GREENWICH CAFE**

**FISH-N-CHIPS \$2.00**

**15 oz. BEER 65¢**

1917 "O" St.

**9th Street**

The address for a great new kind of chili.

Famous Cincinnati Chili Served 5 Ways.

**COUPON**

**Buy One, Get One FREE**

2-Way Cincinnati Chili over noodles.  
3-Way Chili over noodles with cheddar cheese.  
4-Way Chili, noodles, cheese, onions.  
5-Way Chili, noodles, cheese, onions, beans.  
Cheese Coney Island and a draw.

Offer good through October 15 except football Saturdays

**9th Street Chili Bar**

CORNER OF 9TH & "O"  
476-6865

Beer, Wine, Cocktails and Offsale available.

## Careers for Engineers

with a growing State-wide Electric Utility—

On campus interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, October 11, 1983.


Electrical, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineers

Power Plant Operations (Nuclear)

Power Plant Design

Excellent working conditions - Liberal benefits - with an employee-oriented organization.


Ruth Lind, Recruiting & Records Supervisor  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 499, Columbus, Nebraska 68601



An Equal Opportunity Employer

## Shorts

The Faculty Enrichment Program will begin its weekly career support group Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the East Union. The group will focus on examining career goals and sharing resources. The group will meet for eight Thursdays, ending Dec. 8.



**Sassi's** at the wedding free

475-3741

2530 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68505

**STUDENTS FACULTY ORGANIZATIONS**

## INTRODUCING!

The ZTX-11 information terminal

only **\$595<sup>00</sup>** plus tax



ZTX-11 accesses UNL IBM 370 mainframe from any phone port.

ZTX-11 is an electronic typewriter when used with a printer.

ZTX-11 has modem, menu, auto-dial, auto-answer and more!

**CALL FOR DEMONSTRATION**

computer communications **476-0313**