

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Alcohol offenses plague students

By Lauri Hopple

Approximately 60 to 75 percent of the cases brought before the Lincoln Municipal Court are alcohol related.

Approximately 25 percent of the offenders recommended for psychoanalytic treatment are UNL students.

The majority of these students were arrested on alcohol-related charges.

Psychology extern Dick Harig, a UNL graduate student in clinical psychology, said his statistics illustrate the problems of students and alcohol on

the college campus.

Harig serves as a municipal court psychologist, performing psychological assessments and short-term analyses for offenders referred to him by municipal judges or probation officers.

The most typical alcohol offense for a UNL student is driving while intoxicated, Harig said. Other offenses include disturbing the peace and non-assault sexual offenses such as mooning, he said.

Harig said the reason that many students get arrested for DWI is that younger people have not had the time to learn how to handle liquor.

Linda L. Lewis, a public information officer at the

Lincoln Council of Alcoholism and Drugs agreed that people in the 19- to 20-year-old age group are arrested for DWI more frequently than those in any other group. She said that according to statistics, about 45 percent of those arrested for DWI in Lincoln are in the younger group.

Most of the young people are arrested when driving between bars or going home from bars between midnight and 2 a.m., she said.

Dr. P. Clayton Rivers, associate professor and director of the alcohol training program at UNL, said that because of "a tendency to be introduced to driving and alcohol at relatively the same time" college students get arrested for DWI more frequently than other groups.

"They don't have good judgment in either one," he said. Rivers said that young people tend to depend on their reflexes while driving instead of judgment. This type of driving is risky after the driving has been drinking, he said, for two reasons: The driver has lost perceptual ability and he tends to take more risks because of reduced fear.

"If you get arrested, you're probably lucky," he said, adding that for many drinkers, being arrested is a way for them to get help with a potential alcohol problem.

In a class survey, Harig said, 90 percent of the students in a psychology course he taught last spring said they drank alcoholic beverages. He said that compares to the 65 percent rate of the general population.

College students have a higher drinking rate for a variety of reasons that are hard to separate, he said. One reason is the way alcohol is portrayed in advertising, movies, television and literature.

"The hero can always put down a few shots and it doesn't even affect him," he said, adding that this portrays alcohol as a "good drug to take."

The increased stress of university life also leads the student to alcohol, he said. New living conditions, new friends and possible isolation contribute to student drinking. Peer and academic pressures are also contributors, Harig said.

"There are so many reasons that it's hard to single out just one," he said.

Harig said if a person is arrested for DWI or another alcohol-related offense, the judge usually orders psychological testing and sometimes counseling for the offender.

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## Sex discrimination case unresolved

By Jeff Goodwin

The status of a sex discrimination complaint against UNL Police Chief Gail Gade seemed to be confused Monday.

A story in the Lincoln Star last week reported that UNL officials had resolved the matter.

But John Yost, assistant to Chancellor Martin Massengale, said Monday afternoon that a decision

has not been made.

"The matter is under review," Yost said. "To my knowledge, no official action has been taken."

Martin Bradley Munn, UNL's affirmative action and equal opportunity officer, sent a letter to Massengale recommending that Gade be suspended for five days because of sex discrimination against two female parking officers, Barbara Houlihan and Susan Feiler.

He also recommended that UNL Police Lieutenant John Burke — Houlihan and Feiler's immediate superior — be suspended with pay for three days.

Houlihan and Feiler received counseling for tardiness but male officers who also have been tardy have not had to go through counseling.

Houlihan also was placed on probation for 30 days for being two minutes late for work.

Houlihan said she was frustrated by the inaction of UNL officials in the case.

"I was the one who was wronged and I feel I have a right to know," she said. "I don't like the way they've swept it under the rug."

Munn, when contacted by the Daily Nebraskan Monday afternoon, would not comment on the case.

"I'm not going to discuss the case with the press," Munn said. "I never have and I never will."

Houlihan said Munn would not discuss the case with her, either.

"The first time I talked to him he told me that he could not tell me specifically what the results are, and that no one at UNL would probably tell me," Houlihan said.

Houlihan said Munn told her to put her questions in writing. She said she is currently writing a letter to Munn.

Gade would not comment on the situation. Gade's superior, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, John W. Goebel, also would not comment on the matter.

"As far as we're concerned, it's a settled issue," he said.

## UNL pupil drops suit; teacher wanted ruling

A \$1,000 damage suit filed by a UNL student against a UNL chemistry professor was dismissed in municipal court Friday at the request of the student.

Leon Sanders, 45, of Lincoln, asked that the court dismiss his complaint against Professor Victor Day. Sanders, a student in Day's beginning chemistry class this fall, had said in his complaint that "the defendant had conducted himself in a manner detrimental to the plaintiff."

Sanders said after the hearing that even though he had received A's on the first two exams, he was dropping Day's class. He said that he had been advised by a lawyer not to discuss why he had dropped the suit.

Day's class was the only class Sanders was enrolled in.

Sanders, who filed the complaint Sept. 19 in the Municipal Small Claims Court, had said earlier that he filed the suit because of what he perceived as disorganization in Day's class and because the class failed to meet his needs as a student.

The case was moved to Municipal Civil Court on Oct. 3 on a request filed by Day.

Day said Monday that he was disappointed that no judgment was made in the case. He said it was unfortunate that a person can file a suit and then easily drop it before a judgment is rendered in court.

Under these circumstances, he said, any student who wanted to harass a professor could file a suit, ask to have the case dropped and "walk away."

"If this kind of thing took off, the whole university system would be a mess," Day said.

Day stated the case has caused him inconvenience and disrupted his schedule for the last three weeks. He said that he has no plans to take legal action against Sanders, but that if he suffered financial damage because of the case, he might consider doing so.

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