

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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**Weather:** Cloudy and cold today with snow flurries possible in the morning and a high of 36 (2C). Wednesday night, cloudy and windy with a low of 24 (-4C). Thursday, cloudy and warmer with a slight chance of showers and a high in the lower 40s (5C).  
Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

**Us or them...Someone's got to lose...Page 13**

**Parts is parts...or are they?...Page 12**

## Student Watch group declares inactive status

By Ad Hudler  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

UNL's one-year-old Student Watch Program is now history.

Citing apathy and poor leadership as problems, the campus patrol group has decided to declare inactive status, David Decoster, dean of students and the group's adviser, said. By declaring inactive status, the group has not permanently disbanded, but has temporarily "shut down," Decoster said.

Problems first emerged for the group last summer when Student Watch founder-president Troy Lair quit the group to concentrate more on academics during his senior year. Mike Wozny replaced Lair.

"He (Wozny) reneged on his agreement to be president when he returned to school in the fall," Lair said. "The program needs someone at the top to give it energy and ambition, and he didn't organize it over the summer."

Decoster said Wozny "came to the realization that he didn't have the time to give to the group." Soon after the semester

began, Wozny submitted a letter of resignation, leaving the letter in the group's Nebraska Union office where it went unnoticed for four to five weeks.

"And by the time we found it, it was really too late to get things started again," Decoster said. "So Troy and I decided that becoming inactive seemed like the best thing to do."

Wozny said he attributes the club's inactive status to many things. He said there weren't enough members who actively participated in the watch program, and those involved were tired of doing all of the work. He said the watch program was too demanding, and it took too much of students' time.

"Everybody got tired of it," Wozny said, "and it just got to be a real drag."

A decrease in sexual assaults on campus also was responsible for the declining interest in the watch program, Decoster said. When the group organized more than a year ago, there were more reported sexual assaults on campus. UNL police have investigated one first-degree sexual assault this year, Lair said.

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## Director says new policies improve UNL's Dead Week

By Lisa Nutting  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

'Twas the week before finals, and all through UNL, not a creature was stirring, not even Mueller Tower bell.

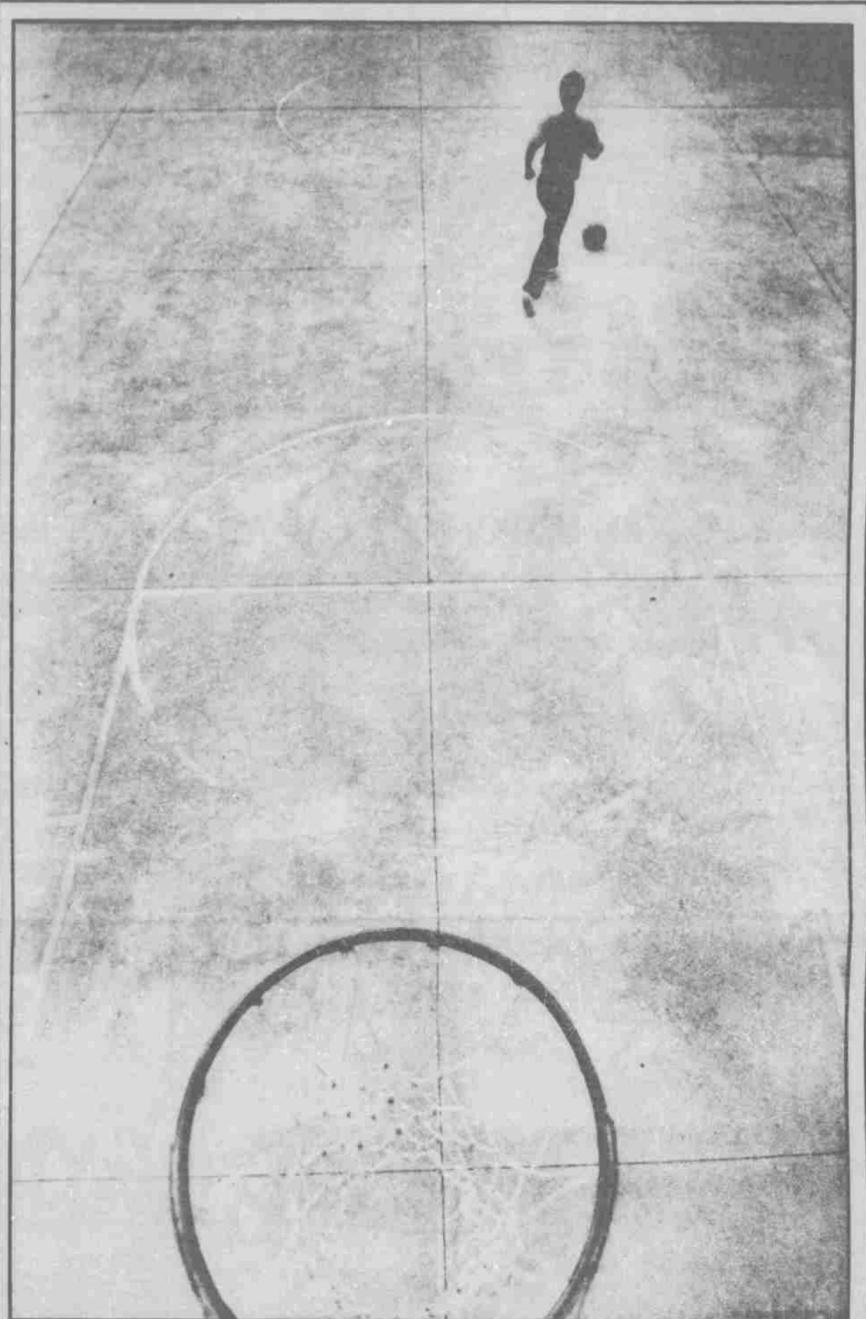
That's because this week is Dead Week. Dead Week, the week before finals week, traditionally is set aside as a time for students and professors to prepare for their semester finals. Dead Week has been a part of UNL's calendar for about the last 15 years, said Ted Pfeifer, director of Registration and Records at UNL.

"It is a period of time when major exams or major papers are to be avoided," Pfeifer said. "Social activities are to be avoided, too."

Dead Week rules were not set up until about two years ago, Pfeifer said. Before that time, Dead Week was considered a "wide and varied issue," Pfeifer said. "That (Dead Week) meant different things to different people."

So, the Calendar Committee made an effort to define Dead Week. Through ASUN proposals, Dead Week rules were made more precise, Pfeifer said.

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Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

### 'The one that got away'

Bill Jochum, a junior in broadcasting, tries to catch a runaway basketball on an East Campus basketball court. Jochum and many Lincoln residents were outside Tuesday enjoying the unseasonably warm weather.

## Lincoln merchants battle Christmas shoplifting

By Donna Sisson  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

article in a five-part series on the fun, festivities, economics and headaches of the holiday season.

Editors note: This is the third



Lou Anne Zacek/Daily Nebraskan

With the increase of holiday shoppers, the Christmas season undoubtedly is one of the most profitable for Lincoln merchants. While merchants are preparing to do business with holiday shoppers, they also are preparing to do battle with holiday shoplifters.

Because of large crowds in stores, there is an increase in shoplifting — although the increase isn't very large, said Lt. Jerry Smith, records supervisor for the Lincoln Police Department.

In 1983, 137 cases of shoplifting were reported in November, the highest number of reported incidents in one month. There was an average of 103 incidents per month during 1983.

A total of \$43,616 was lost to shoplifters in 1983, with the greatest loss, \$7,178, occurring in November, Smith said.

It is possible that the figures underestimate the problem be-

cause police figures only account for cases that have been reported. Many cases go unreported or just show up as an inventory shortage, Smith said.

Smith said nothing describes the typical shoplifter. The person could be of any age or ethnic group, he said.

Most often when people shoplift, they have the money to pay for the item at the time, Smith said.

To combat potential rises in shoplifting, merchants generally increase their security during the holidays by hiring extra officers, extending the hours for security personnel and educating employees to protect against shoplifting.

Stores begin to request employee training sessions as early as October and November, said Lt. Vern Campbell, a Lincoln police crime prevention officer. The main thing they advise clerks to do is acknow-

ledge every customer that comes into the store, he said.

Another program helping to stop shoplifters is the downtown Business Watch program. Similar to the Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch is composed of businesses helping each other by looking out for possible crimes and suspicious people, said Regina Thompson, chairwoman of the program.

Through the program, downtown merchants were able to identify a person who had been arrested the day before for shoplifting at Gateway Shopping Center, Thompson said. All downtown merchants were notified and were able to keep an eye on him as he went from store to store.

Although he didn't do anything wrong while he was downtown, he was being watched, Thompson said. That's what Business Watch is about, prevention through information, she said.

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