

**Weather:**

Mostly sunny and warmer today. Winds light and variable with a high of 37. Clear and cold tonight. Low of 15. Sunny again on Friday with a high of 42.

**UNL gives old 'carol' fresh, production**

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## Fifty-five parking permits reported stolen, five recovered; officer says most just lost

By LeAnne Lovings  
Staff Reporter

Of the about 12,600 parking permits sold this year, 55 have been reported stolen. Five permits have been recovered.

Lt. John Burke said he thinks only a small percentage of the permits reported stolen actually were stolen. He said he thinks many of the permits were lost or misplaced.

The police department follows up on the reports, however. Officers search the parking lots, checking cars to make sure they have a rear window parking sticker. The sticker usually can't be removed from a window, and the permit that hangs on the rear-view mirror isn't valid without the sticker.

If officers find a car with a permit but without a sticker, they impound the car. The car owner

receives a \$40 ticket, but police don't prosecute for permit theft.

**Adequate punishment**

UNL Police Chief Gail Gade said the Lancaster County Attorney's office chooses not to prosecute permit thefts because it believes the university handles the situation well with the \$40 fee.

Sherryl Chamberlain, office supervisor, said the five permits recovered this year were found in students' cars.

People whose permits are stolen must make an official report to the police so they can receive a two-week temporary permit. If after two weeks the permit has not been recovered, Burke said, the person must buy a replacement permit for \$20.

**Incentive charge**

Chamberlain said the police don't know whether the permit was lost or stolen. The \$20 charge is an incentive for permit owners to keep their cars locked.

"We don't know that they're stolen," she said. "We don't always have evidence that somebody has broken into their car."

Burke said the main problem is that students are not security conscious. Many thefts occur because owners leave their cars unlocked or a window open.

"We sell the permit to them and the permit becomes their property, just like if we would have sold them a camera or a stereo," he said. "So it is their duty to keep all doors locked."

If the permit is recovered after the owner buys a replacement, Chamberlain said, the owner receives a \$20 refund from the department.

## American Stores to reopen

By Ad Hudler  
Senior Editor

Lincoln's American Store meat processing plant will reopen under a new company Jan. 15, bringing about 450 new jobs to Lincoln and extra revenue to the NU system.

American Stores donated the plant to the NU Foundation Nov. 4. The plant, on a 20-acre plot at Second and O streets, has been closed since Dec. 2, 1982. It has been appraised at more than \$10 million.

"The first thing that comes to mind today is that there really is a Santa Claus," NU President Ronald Reskens said at a Wednesday morning press conference that announced the reopening.

Cook Family Foods, Ltd. of Rydal, Penn., will buy equipment in the plant and lease the property for 10 years with an option to buy. The cost of that lease was not disclosed. NU will receive the money from the lease and the plant equipment sold to Cook Foods.

William Wenke, president of the NU Foundation, said the money will be distributed among UNL, UNO and UNMC for various activities. The Foundation will later decide how to spend the money, Wenke said.

Cook Foods will pay all property taxes on the lease, Wenke said.

Cook Foods will hire about 250 employees when it first opens its doors, said Herbert "Bud" Cook, chairman of the company. About 50 to 75 employees will be added each consecutive year until the plant employs 450 workers. Cook said former American Stores workers will receive no priorities in hiring. At its peak, American Stores employed between 700 and 900 people.

Cook Foods processes a specialized line of ham products distributed to supermarkets throughout the country. The company produces about \$150 million in ham and ham-related products annually, Cook said.

Cook said he heard about the American Stores plant on a "gossip line" with other businessmen. He said he contacted American Stores, who contacted the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the NU Foundation — the organization primarily responsible for reorganizing NU's acquisition of the plant.

Cook said he chose Lincoln because the plant "is in excellent condition," and it will open doors for company expansion to the West and Midwest. The company has another plant near Detroit and offices in Pennsylvania.

## Little-known venereal disease increasing on UNL campus

By Janis Lovitt  
Staff Reporter

Recent outbreaks of a relatively unknown sexually transmitted disease have brought more attention to the disease.

Many people assume that venereal diseases such as syphilis or gonorrhea are the most threatening to students, said Dr. Ralph Ewert, chief of the medical staff at the University Health Center, but 30 percent to 50 percent of genital disorders seen at the health center are diagnosed as chlamydia trachomatis.

Chlamydia is an infection that most of its victims have never heard

of, Ewert said.

Diane Smith, health advocate for the Family Service Open Door Health Center in Lincoln, said chlamydia symptoms can include itching and burning for both men and women. The symptoms may be present early in the day, go away and then come back later, Smith said. Low-grade fevers can occur in the later stages of the disease, she said.

However, Smith said, about 80 percent of the victims have no noticeable symptoms of the disease.

Ewert said the health center recently included a test for chlamydia in the routine pelvic exams. About 10 percent to 12 percent of

those examined are diagnosed as chlamydia victims, he said.

If left untreated, Smith said, chlamydia can cause a painful infection that can require hospitalization and cause permanent damage to the reproductive organs or infertility.

She said complications can occur during pregnancy resulting in the death of the baby or the mother or both.

The increasing number of chlamydia cases is not unique to the UNL campus. Paul A. Stoesz, director of the disease control division of the state Department of Health, said 325 cases of chlamydia were

reported through November this year. Stoesz said the number increased dramatically from the 37 cases reported from May to November last year.

Stoesz said he thinks the easier and cheaper exam is only part of the reason why chlamydia cases have increased. He said he thinks greater awareness of the disease and an increase in the disease itself caused the statistical changes.

There is evidence that there are more of the microorganisms that cause chlamydia present today, Stoesz said.

He said he thinks the shift from birth control methods such as con-

doms to the pill and IUD can be blamed for the rapid spread of the microorganisms.

Carol Mitchell, communicable disease coordinator for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, said that although most people do not like to use condoms, they are the only sure way of preventing the spread of chlamydia.

Mitchell said it is important that people seek medical attention if they have problems.

If they do not get treatment now, Mitchell said, they may find that chlamydia will hurt them in the future when they want to have children.