

**WEATHER:** Friday, windy with a chance of scattered showers. High in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Friday night, clear and chilly. Low in the mid 20s to mid 30s. Saturday, sunny and pleasant. High in the 60s.

# Daily Nebraskan

**Inside:**

News Digest ..... Page 2  
 Editorial ..... Page 4  
 Sports ..... Page 7  
 Entertainment ..... Page 9  
 Classified ..... Page 10

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## Police investigated after complaints

By Christine Allerheiligen  
 Staff Reporter

An investigation into complaints from members of the UNL Police Department, including an accidental firing of a weapon, has led to recommendations in policy changes for the department.

The Nebraska Office of the Public Counsel/Ombudsman submitted the investigation report and recommendations to John Goebel, vice chancellor of business and finance, earlier this semester.

Ombudsman Marshall Lux said he was pleased with the response he received from Goebel and said communication would continue.

Assistant Ombudsman Terry Ford said university officials will take action but it will not be drastic.

According to an investigation by the UNL Police Department that was submitted to the ombudsman's office, UNL police officer Gary Hoffman accidentally fired into the ceiling of the UNL police department's dispatch room on July 17.

Hoffman told the investigating officer that he checked his weapon to see if it needed cleaning and found it loaded. He then closed the cylinder and raised the weapon straight up at about ear level.

He told the investigator he believed his finger was on the trigger and he may have clenched his fist while putting the weapon into his holster.

When asked by the investigator if he had ever seen anyone in the department handle a weapon carelessly, Hoffman said, "No comment." According to the report, Hoffman said he

### See related story on page 3

had obviously mishandled his gun or there wouldn't have been a hole in the ceiling of the dispatch room.

According to the ombudsman's report, the department didn't begin a thorough investigation of the matter until about five days after the accident.

The ombudsman's office recommended that the existing policy on weapons discharge be consistently implemented by department administrators whenever a firearm is discharged, whether or not an injury results. This included requirements for a prompt investigation and a review board to examine the circumstances surrounding a discharge.

The main concern is established administrative procedure, which should have been used in this case, the report said. Ombudsman office officials said it appeared that the procedure either was not followed or was implemented late — after the interest of the ombudsman's office was made known to UNL Police Chief Gail Gade.

Goebel was out of town Thursday and unavailable for comment on the report.

However, in a reply to the ombudsman's office in early October, Goebel said, "As the report indicates, there is always room for fine-tuning a public department and the ideas and recommendation presented in your report will help us with these needed adjustments."

The accidental discharge of the weapon needs to be examined from a university perspective, he wrote. Different intents and situations in which a weapon is fired warrant different levels of concern and action, Goebel said. He said the university intends to research this area.

Gade would not comment on the report Thursday, but said information would be released from Goebel's office next week.

The investigation of the UNL Police Department began after a June 11

meeting of several members of the UNL Police Department and representatives of the ombudsman's office.

The report, submitted by Lux, Ford and ombudsman intern Jeff Canon, said the concerned officers thought that because the department was apparently restructured about every nine months, some ordinary grievances expanded to critical proportions.

The report said the officers concluded that any police department that must restructure so frequently must be disorganized and lackadaisical.

The officers reported an alleged misuse of a state vehicle by a junior officer assigned to train at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. The officer allegedly used a state vehicle to participate in a pool tournament. UNL police Lt. Ken Cauble knew about the incident but did not discipline the officer suitably, the officers said.

After investigation of the incident and similar alleged misuses of state vehicles, the report recommends that persons who are allowed to use university vehicles for extended out-of-town assignments be instructed on the policy guidelines.

The ombudsman's office also received complaints about possible deficiencies in Cauble's training requirements for certification, stem-

ming from his transfer from the Lincoln Police Department to the UNL Police Department.

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice ruled at its August meeting that Cauble will be required to take a test if he is to be recognized as a certified law enforcement officer.

Members of the UNL Police Department reported falsification of statistics kept for foot patrol duties and a lack of foot patrol in areas of campus more prone to crime.

After investigating this complaint, ombudsman's investigators found responses that differed from the reports they received. Gade and Cauble said records on foot patrol were not kept. Gade told investigators these records could only be retrieved from shift supervisors.

The report said that to have an effective foot patrol, the department must monitor the actual time officers spend on foot. Such data could easily be tabulated from existing records, the report said.

In a letter to the ombudsman, Goebel said the recommendations for foot patrol were sound in concept. But, he added, the goal for the amount of time spent by officers on foot patrol

See POLICE on 6

## Lincoln UFO-busters watch Nebraska sky



By James M. Lillis  
 Senior Reporter

When unidentified flying objects are sighted in Nebraska, you can bet the Fortean Research Center of Lincoln will look into it.

Scott Colborn, associate director of the research team, said if people think they have seen a UFO in the Midwest, chances are they're not alone.

"There have been documented UFO sightings in Nebraska since the cowboy days," Colborn said.

The center, founded in February 1986, takes its name from Charles Fort, an early 20th-century writer who spent years collecting and publishing information about all sorts of unexplained phenomena found all over the world.

"We're one of a couple of research groups to take its name from Fort," Colborn said.

The Fortean research team includes Colborn, whose major interest is UFOs; Dale Bacon, who researches ghosts and other apparition sightings; and Ray Boeche, director of the group, whose interests include the above areas and "bipedal humanoid" (Bigfoot) sightings.

According to the Fortean Research Center Journal, the group also investigates all aspects of "cryptozoological mysteries, out-of-place animal sightings, geological and archeological anomalies, psychic phenomena, and all other areas of study which may provide data useful to the resolution of

these perplexing mysteries."

Documents of unexplained phenomena can be found in local police and sheriff reports, state and county historical societies, and newspaper clippings, Colborn said.

Colborn, who has seen a UFO, said southeast Nebraska, in particular, has had many UFO sightings.

Some of these sightings have been published by the Fortean Journal, but the names of those involved have been changed. There is a good reason for this, Colborn said.

"When the (University of Nebraska-Lincoln's) Raymond Hall ghost was sighted, the papers published (a) name of the man who saw it, and soon he got so many calls about the sighting that he now refuses to speak to anyone about it," Colborn said.

A typical UFO experience published by the research team in the Fortean Research Journal may relate sightings, communication with the UFOs and even abductions.

"Abduction cases are rapidly becoming standard fare in 'UFOlogy,'" Colborn said. "The abduction of an individual or individuals and the subsequent 'medical examination' which have been related on countless times are familiar to most researchers. However, we may have a new twist to add to the story."

In 1984, a Lincoln woman called "Joan" talked to Boeche and Colborn about a recurring dream she had had since childhood. In this dream, an entity appears outside her bedroom window and attempts to coax her to come with him.

On April 11, 1984, Joan was hypnotically regressed to when the



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

dream first occurred. The team discovered the date was Oct. 7, 1955, when Joan was 12 years old. Boeche and Colborn observed as she told about her dream.

"This entity conducts Joan to a 'craft' which is resting on the ground in a large vacant lot next to her home. After entering, she is given the well-known medical exam described by others (sampling of skin tissue, blood, hair, etc.) and is returned to her home," Boeche wrote.

The unusual part was that she said she was able to understand what the leader was telling his subordinates. The new dimension enters here.

"According to Joan's testimony under hypnosis, the subordinates were quite worried about being caught, that they shouldn't take

chances and endanger themselves," Boeche wrote.

Boeche said Joan spoke with the leader before he took her back to her home.

Colborn said he saw a UFO in Lincoln in August 1974.

"My father and I were sitting on the patio of his house," Colborn said. "We saw a round silvery sphere about 500 feet off the ground. That's when I first got seriously interested in UFOs."

Readers who want to read more about UFOs and other unexplained phenomena can pick up copies of the Fortean Research Center Journal at The Way Home Records & Books, 4203 S. 48th St. People who want to give tips on UFOs or subscribe to the Fortean Journal can contact the Fortean Research Center.

## Class clarifies nuclear ideas

By Amy Edwards  
 Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students can learn the causes and realities of nuclear threat in a new sociology course next semester.

Robert Benford, assistant professor of sociology, said The Sociology of Nuclear Threat will discuss nuclear issues from a variety of perspectives.

While it may seem early to be thinking about courses next semester, UNL's class schedule for next semester is already available, and students can hand in their schedules beginning Monday.

Benford, who designed a similar course on nuclear issues at the University of Texas-Arlington, said there are several reasons he thinks the course should be taught.

"Sociologists, with few exceptions, have tended to disregard what is perhaps the most perplexing and largest social problem of our era," Benford said.

The course will offer much information. Benford said students need to be well-informed of all aspects of the nuclear debate before they can make their own decisions.

Information is often filtered through the media, he said. The course is designed to show the effects of a nuclear society through historical, political and anthropological viewpoints, as well as a sociological one.

To help show these perspectives, Benford wants to bring in speakers from the military and peace movement groups to stimulate discussion in the classroom.

Because the new class has not been approved as a permanent course, it will be a Special Topics course with no prerequisites. Benford said he hopes to get a cross-section of people in the course with a variety of approaches toward nuclear society.