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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Thursday

WEATHER: Thursday, mostly sunny with highs around 90. Friday, slight chance of thunderstorms with a high in the 80s. Saturday, slight chance of thunderstorms with a high in the upper 70s to lower 80s.

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Suspect still at large

U.S. Attorney to take action next week

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln employee who allegedly stole \$100,000 of equipment from UNL's Polar Ice Coring Office has not yet been arrested, said Lt. Ken Cauble of the UNL Police Department.

John Litwak, a drill systems manager in the ice coring office, is the only suspect in the case.

Litwak allegedly misdirected shipments of federal equipment meant for drilling locations in Greenland and Antarctica and sent them to two Lincoln addresses over a period of two years.

Cauble said that whether Litwak is arrested or not "will depend on how they (the U.S. Attorney's Office) want to handle it."

Paul Merritt, assistant U.S. Attorney for Nebraska, said Tuesday action would be taken against Litwak by next week.

Cauble said UNL investigators had talked to Litwak, but would not disclose what Litwak said in the conversation.

Litwak was out of town last week, but said in a phone interview Tuesday he had no comment about the investigation.

Karl Kuivinen, director of the Polar Ice Coring Office, last week said that thefts from the office were discovered by staff members about three weeks ago when they did inventory.

The thefts were not discovered before because the office keeps large quantities of the equipment, such as engines, drills and lathes. Because of the abundance of equipment, a missing piece is sometimes easily overlooked, he said.

"It was a surprise to us to find it," Kuivinen said.

Litwak was still an employee of the office as of last week and Kuivinen said he saw "no reason to change that status."

Kuivinen was unavailable Tuesday for comment.

Most of the stolen equipment was discovered in a warehouse at 1659 S. 2nd St. which had been rented under Litwak's name. All equipment is being held by police as evidence. Kuivinen said he expects to get the equipment back eventually.

Harris aid says Dillard's may anchor redevelopment

By Amy Edwards
Senior Editor

Negotiations look promising to make Dillard's department store an anchor in Lincoln's downtown redevelopment center, said David Sallee, aid to Mayor Bill Harris.

Dillard's officials Aug. 17 told BCE Development Corp. that they were interested in being part of the downtown center, Sallee said Tuesday.

BCE Development Corp. is the real estate development and investment subsidiary of Bell Canada Enterprises. The company was selected by Harris to design the downtown redevelopment project.

The center will comprise a five-block section of the downtown area from O to Q streets between 11th and 13th streets, and the existing block containing the Rampark and NBC buildings.

A 15-story office tower, theater complex and food court are included in the conceptual design.

Sallee said Dillard's spurred interest in the downtown project from other stores. By having a major department store show interest in the project, BCED can attract more stores to the project, Sallee said.

"The more (stores) you keep adding, the more momentum you build," Sallee said.

Sallee said BCED will contact other anchor stores next and explore construction costs of the project.

He said a memorandum of understanding between the city and BCED would be completed this week. The memorandum will be the framework for the redevelopment agreement, Sallee said.

That framework will delegate responsibilities, costs and timing of the project, he said.

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Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Bob Van Neste and Lisa Schmidt film Vice Chancellor James Griessen as part of a pre-admissions tape to be shown on Freshman Friday.

Freshman Friday festivities 'Party on the Plaza' welcomes students

By Albert A. Schmid
Staff Reporter

Between 2,500 and 3,000 new students are expected to attend the third annual Freshman Friday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Sara Boatman, Freshman Friday committee chair.

Freshman Friday gives new students an opportunity to meet other students, Boatman said.

In student interviews last year, she said, 90 percent of the students questioned said they met anywhere from one to 75 other new students at Freshman Friday.

The event, designed to help freshmen ease into college life, begins at 10 a.m. Friday. New students will meet student government members, staff and faculty members, and university leaders at

a one-hour "All University Welcome" at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

From there, new students may attend the "Welcome Festival" at 11 a.m. at the sports center track. About 100 booths will be set up with displays highlighting student organizations, UNL departments and community service groups. A free lunch will be provided by local restaurants.

Other events have also been scheduled for freshmen. Students will be able to meet their college dean and professors during a program called "College Hour" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Parents have an opportunity to ask UNL officials questions during a reception sponsored by the UNL Parents Association.

The evening will be capped off with a "Party on the Plaza" at Broyhill Fountain behind the

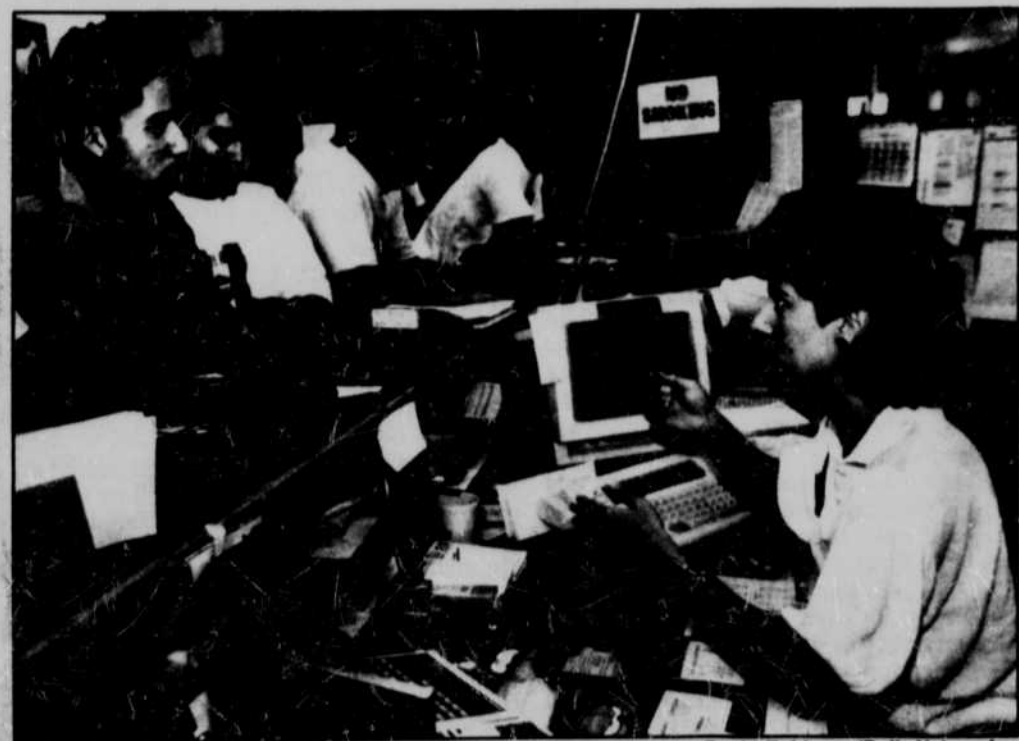
Nebraska Union. Party on the Plaza is sponsored by the University Program Council.

Other events on Freshman Friday include a "Where do I go on Monday?" tour. Students should bring their class schedules, Boatman said.

A special alumni reception will be held at the Wick Alumni Center on 16th and R streets for sons and daughters of UNL alumni. The reception will be held at 5 p.m. and is hosted by the UNL Alumni Association.

Movies also will be shown at residence halls, Boatman said. "Top Gun," "Raising Arizona," "Beverly Hills Cop II," "Space Balls" and "Nadine" are scheduled to be shown from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Free parking and a shuttle bus between East and City campuses will be available for student transportation.

Interim director says aid office woes ending



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Tim Vail, freshman, checks on the status of his financial aid with Debra Meese, scholarship specialist with the UNL financial aid office.

By James Lillis
Staff Reporter

While University of Nebraska-Lincoln students continue to wait on the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, its new director says he is trying to change the office's image this fall.

John Beacon, interim director of financial aid, said he made some changes this summer. He said the office should be working more efficiently during the first few weeks of school.

Beacon said he sent 2,831 letters to students who have not yet received word about their financial aid. He said the letters were to reassure "stressed-out" students about their financial situations.

Nearly one-third of students eligible for aid have not received notification of their aid because of lack of verification personnel, special conditions on the student's part or computer problems. The aid is not running out, Beacon said, it's just taking longer to process than expected.

Beacon said the verification process checks the student's or student's parents' records to verify that the student is eligible for aid and is not defaulting on any loans. Special conditions refer to anything that has happened in a student's life which affects that student's ability to pay for tuition or housing.

Any aid notification slowed down by computer problems should not worry students, Beacon said, because all aid will be available eventually.

Beacon also said that students who haven't received award notification for these reasons shouldn't worry because he has taken steps to offset the problem.

Short-term loans will be available as usual, he said. However, the process should only take three or four days instead of a week or more.

Students who need the loans will be divided into appointment and no-appointment groups for counseling, Beacon said. The students who need appointments will be required to see a financial aid counselor to get a loan. This includes new students and those who are currently defaulting on loans. Students with no default history will not need to see a counselor, Beacon said.

Some students who require counseling for short-term loans may be eligible for the office's "mass counseling" program, Beacon said. From Aug. 25 and 26 to Sept. 9 there will be two one-hour meetings a day for about 55 students to be counseled. Students must attend these in order to fill out loan applications. Meetings will be in the Harvest Room of Nebraska Union.

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