

Daily Nebraskan

September 16, 1988

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 88 No. 14

Minority expert to address awareness

By Pattie Greene
Staff Reporter

In order to make University of Nebraska-Lincoln students more aware of minorities on campus, UNL officials have recruited an outside expert to talk to campus representatives.

According to Peg Johnson, director of Special Projects in the Student Affairs office and Jenny Laster, president of Massey Enterprises (a consulting firm located out of state), will work with student organizations, faculty and the administrators Oct. 3 through 9.

Laster will hold workshops with the groups in order to help them understand what they have to do in order to understand cultural differences, Johnson said.

"We're really excited about the possibilities," Johnson said.

Johnson said the problem at UNL is not racism but a lack of awareness. A majority of UNL students are white and come from environments where they have had little exposure to people from different ethnic backgrounds, she said.

"If you're not aware, you don't understand," she said. "And if you don't understand, you ignore it."

When students graduate, they will be faced with working with people from different ethnic backgrounds, Johnson said.

"That's why we want to educate people now, while they're in college, on the differences in people and understanding and appreciating those differences," Johnson said.

The problem came to the attention of Johnson and James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, last spring during a meeting with campus organization leaders, she said.

"Some people from the APU (African People's Union) were disappointed in the few people who turned out for Black Awareness week," she said.

"It's a matter where if you're not involved it'll go past you," she said.

She said if students knew a member in the organization, they would be more likely to attend events sponsored by the groups.

"In order to overcome those differences this year," she said, "the university is focusing on cultural diversity, in order to bring about under-

standing."

Jeff Petersen, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said the 2 1/2-hour workshops will show how the various student organizations on campus can become more integrated.

"We'll figure out how the issue affects us and the role we play in it," Petersen said.

The 10 student organizations that will participate in the workshops are the Residence Hall Association, ASUN, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association, the African People's Union, the Mexican American Student Association, the Native American Student Organization, the Vietnamese Student Council and a representative for all foreign students.

At a retreat Oct. 7 through 9, all of the leaders of the organizations involved will share ideas and get to know each other, Petersen said.

Petersen said he thinks the program is crucial to ASUN.

"Student government needs people," he said.

Petersen said minority groups are an asset to UNL. Their involvement can help create larger organizations.

"We'll work with minority groups to get them involved in campus activities," Petersen said.

Larry Koubsky, RHA president, said the program is important because of the number of minority students who live in the residence halls.

"I hope we can educate our executives and our members so that they can program for everyone and not leave anyone out," he said.

Johnson said some of the organizations already have discussed working together.

"There is a Black Student Government Association that meets in the Big Eight schools," she said. UNL usually sends a few representatives, but students have problems coming up with money, Johnson said.

"I know this is a gross generalization, but some of the minority groups don't know how to plan that (raising money)," she said.

Other groups have promised to help co-sponsor an event in order to help minority groups learn how to raise money.

"This is a new thrust," Johnson said. "The goal isn't new, it's just a new way of trying to achieve diversity awareness on campus."



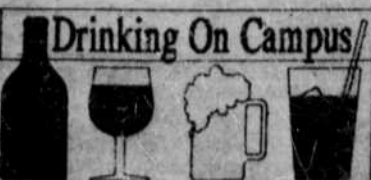
Andy Menhart/Daily Nebraskan

'Not just a university problem.'

Enforcing drinking policy tough

By Ryan Steeves
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials say stopping students from sneaking alcohol on campus has been difficult.



The officials say their goal is to catch violators of UNL's no-alcohol policy and educate students about the effects of drinking.

"(Drinking) is not a residence hall problem — it's not a university problem," said Doug Zatechka, director of university housing. "It's a societal problem and in this society 100 percent enforcement is impossible."

Zatechka said occasional

drinking can lead to alcohol problems. But he said drinking starts long before students arrive at UNL.

"So many students come to the university with two, three, four or five years experience," he said.

The job of housing officials, he said, is to identify students with problems and refer them to counseling programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. All housing officials receive 10 hours of training to learn how to identify students with problems, Zatechka said.

Zatechka said alcohol problems can lead to problems with family and friends and to poor performance in school.

"I've seen too much of this," he said. "One incident is too much and I've seen plenty."

Lt. Ken Cauble, UNL police division commander, said he too has seen many alcohol related problems. Cauble said most of the assaults, rapes and vandalisms are caused by drunken students.

Cauble said alcohol-related incidences, such as policy violations, increased during the first two weeks of school.

Students have been openly defiant toward the drinking policy, he said. Some students have been seen carrying beers from one fraternity to another without trying to conceal them, he said.

"That's not even an attempt at trying to be responsible," he said.

But fraternity members are not alone in violating no-alcohol policies, Cauble said. Residence hall students have been just as bad, he said.

"This year, especially the (first) week, is probably the worst time I've seen on campus," Cauble said.

The problems have begun to ease up in the past week, he said, because UNL police have started to crack down on violators.

"I think they need to realize that it will not be tolerated," he said.

Kerrey calls claims of contradiction false

By Lee Rood
Senior Editor

Former Gov. Bob Kerrey refuted on Thursday claims by Sen. Dave Karnes that Kerrey was incorrect at a rally Wednesday when he said he didn't support closing the NU Medical Center or the NU College of Law in 1985.

A student attending the rally at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln asked Kerrey about an advertisement that Karnes ran in the Daily Nebraskan, claiming that Kerrey favored closing the schools in 1985.

Karnes said Thursday that Kerrey, his opponent for a U.S. Senate seat, was inconsistent with his statements in the 1985 DN article.

The ad compared Karnes' stance on education with Kerrey's and quoted the 1985 article.

"What I did do is support the chancellor of the medical center when he came forward and recommended that we close pharmacy and nursing," Kerrey said.

But Karnes said Kerrey "clearly stated" in the article that the medical center and law school should be closed to cut Nebraska's budget.

In the 1985 article, Kerrey was quoted as saying: "Professional schools such as the NU Medical Center and NU College of Law, should be eliminated first because comparatively few Nebraskans attend them and fewer of their gradu-

ates stay in Nebraska than those of undergraduate programs."

Kerrey said Thursday that statement was taken out of context.

"I never proposed eliminating the schools," Kerrey said.

In the midst of cutting the budget, Kerrey said, he favored cutting professional schools before top priorities, such as undergraduate programs and graduate research.

Kerrey said when the NU Board of Regents voted against cutting the pharmacy and nursing schools — two other NU professional programs being considered for cuts at the time — he accepted their decision and did not propose that the state cut them or any others.

"This is why \$150 to \$200 billion dollar deficits exist," Kerrey said.

People criticize politicians who try to cut budgets despite huge deficits, he said.

Karnes said Kerrey's claim that the schools should be eliminated because few Nebraskans attend them was said to be incorrect by UNL administrators in another 1985 DN article that followed the first one.

In the article, four UNL administrators said Kerrey had his facts wrong. Between 98 and 99 percent of the students in medical center programs were Nebraskans and so were 90 percent of UNL's law students.

Kerrey said that at the time he

See KERREY on 5

Litwak pleads guilty

Value of equipment to be contested

By Amy Edwards
Senior Editor

John Litwak, an 11-year employee of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and former drill systems manager in UNL's Polar Ice Coring Office, pleaded guilty Thursday to stealing property from the office from 1984 to July 1988.

Litwak, 32, pleaded guilty in federal court to one charge of converting government property, according to his attorney, Jerry Soucie of Lincoln.

The property was owned by the National Science Foundation and was intended to be used for drilling locations in Greenland and Antarctica.

Ice coring office employees discovered the thefts in August during a regular inventory inspection.

Soucie said Litwak, formerly of 1718 S.W. 23rd St., stored the equipment, valued at \$75,000 to \$125,000,

at a storage garage Litwak rented at 1659 S. 2nd St.

"The value of the equipment will be contested at the hearing," Soucie said.

Litwak did not sell any of the equipment until 1987, when he sold a Caterpillar engine and generator, Soucie said.

The Associated Press reported that Litwak told U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom he took items from the office and sold them to help pay his expenses when he went to Greenland with the ice coring team.

Soucie would not comment on how Litwak used the money from the stolen items. He said Litwak probably would return to Pennsylvania today to live with his family.

Urbom scheduled sentencing for Nov. 18 at 12:15 p.m. Litwak faces a \$250,000 fine and 10 years in prison.