

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Tuesday

WEATHER:

Tuesday, 20 percent chance of snow with highs in the low-mid 30s, SE winds 5-15 mph. Tuesday night, 30 percent chance of snow, lows in the mid teens. Wednesday, highs 25-30 with partly cloudy skies.

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Constance Sheehan/Daily Nebraskan

Easter comes early

A snow bunny occupies a spot light on the State Capitol grounds during Sunday night's snowstorm. Lincoln received 5.2 inches of snow Sunday, the heaviest snowfall in two years. Mayor Bill Harris declared a residential parking ban so streets could be cleared before temperatures fall later this week.

Student charged with sexual assault in pre-arraignment hearing Monday

By Brandon Loomis
 Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln student was charged with first-degree sexual assault in a pre-arraignment hearing in Lancaster County court Monday, and a county judge set Feb. 27 as the date for a second hearing.

Steven L. Ernst, 20, of Columbus, was charged with subjecting a high school senior from Omaha to sexual penetration, knowing she was mentally or physically incapable of resisting.

The incident occurred at 3:35 a.m. Sunday at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, 1425 R St. Ernst is a member of the fraternity.

The alleged victim is the younger sister of another member of Phi Gamma Delta.

According to a Lincoln Police briefing sheet, the 17-year-old white female had been drinking at a Phi Gamma Delta party when she went into one of the rooms and went to sleep. She allegedly woke up to find she was being

sexually assaulted.

Phi Gamma Delta had an "Around the World" party Saturday night.

Lt. Ron Bruder of the Lincoln Police said Sunday Ernst told police in a statement that he had been drinking.

First-degree sexual assault is a Class II felony offense. If Ernst is convicted, he will face one to 50 years in prison.

Ernst's attorney, John Stevens Berry, said he accepted the case Monday and will not comment until he conducts his own investigation.

County Judge James Foster scheduled a docket call in county court for Feb. 27, at which time Ernst and his attorney will either receive a date for a preliminary hearing, or decide to waive the preliminary hearing. If Ernst decides to waive the preliminary hearing, he will file a plea at the February court date.

Ernst was released after the hearing on a \$25,000 bond. Relatives posted 10 percent of the bond, \$2,500, to have Ernst released on the condition that he does not contact the victim without the court's consent.

Early Warning! to build shantytown to raise awareness about poverty

By Lisa Twiestmeyer
 Staff Reporter

The student organization Early Warning! plans to build a shantytown on campus this evening as part of Prejudice Awareness Month.

Joe Bowman, Early Warning! facilitator, said the shantytown will be constructed at 6 p.m. on the north side of the Nebraska Union near Broyhill Fountain. The project is scheduled to be taken down Thursday afternoon.

The term "shantytown" dates back to the late 1800s when it was used to describe poor, dilapidated neighborhoods of make-shift dwellings inhabited by the very poor.

Bowman said the group is building the cardboard and wood huts to increase awareness about the poverty and homelessness many people suffer.

A sign saying "The strength of a rich society can be measured by its compassion for its poor" will hang near the shantytown site, Bowman said.

Early Warning! members and other interested people plan to stay in the shantytown through the night if the weather is good, Bowman said. The group is trying to get permission to run electricity to the shantytown for lighting,

he said.

Shantytowns have caused controversy on other campuses in the past. In January 1986, Dartmouth College students protesting racist policies in South Africa built four shanties on the campus College Green, according to the New York Times. On the day after Martin Luther King day, 12 students attacked the shanties with sledgehammers.

Disturbances involving shantytowns also have occurred at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Washington and other colleges.

The Early Warning! shantytown is different from the others where violence occurred because it is not a protest against apartheid, Bowman said. He said he is not too worried about violence.

"I don't really care if there's vandalism to the sight, as long as no one gets hurt," Bowman said.

Bowman said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police are aware of the shantytown and will periodically drive by the site to make sure there is no violence.

Early Warning! received permission to build the shantytown from Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Unions. Swanson has full authority over the plaza north of the Nebraska Union, Bowman said.

Bill to remove savings bond tax

By Eric Pfanner
 Staff Reporter

Sen. James Exon introduced a bill in Congress last week that would eliminate taxes on interest earned from U.S. savings bonds bought to pay for a student's higher education.

"The purpose of the bill is to encourage people to save money to take advantage of post-secondary education," Exon said.

The bill proposes an expansion to the Educational Savings Bond Act, passed in 1988, which gave the tax exemption only to parents of students.

To be eligible for the exemption, owners of the bonds must be at least 24.

The bill is targeted primarily at students in low and middle-income brackets, who otherwise would have difficulty paying for their education, Exon said.

Exon said he is convinced costs for higher education will continue to rise.

Exon said he does not expect much opposition to the bill.

CFA to hear union budget tonight

By Julie Dauel
 Staff Reporter

Efforts to enhance services in the Nebraska unions have not increased the unions' budget request, which will be presented to the Committee for Fees Allocation tonight, said Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska unions.



Swanson said the \$1.25 million budget doesn't include increases in Fund B student fees because enhancement money was reallocated from existing programs. The enhancement plans include the Campus Activities and Programs offices.

The largest increase in the budget is CAP's request for a 7 percent increase which includes a request for \$19,492 more than last year for the Women's Resource Center, he said.

Because of a recent review of the center, Swanson said, he had anticipated the increase in its budget.

According to Sara Boatman, CAP

director, the review recommended the center be open 12 months a year instead of 10 months and should have extended office hours.

Swanson said this would cost an estimated \$3,500 for the additional summer operations.

Boatman said the review also recommended creating a Coordinator of Women's Programs and Services.

"At one time, this was an entry-level position," she said. "But now we want to not only up-grade the salary, but also the position to a mid-level position."

This position would require someone who had worked in a similar field, Swanson said.

He said the 1989-90 budget reflects an expected deficit for food services.

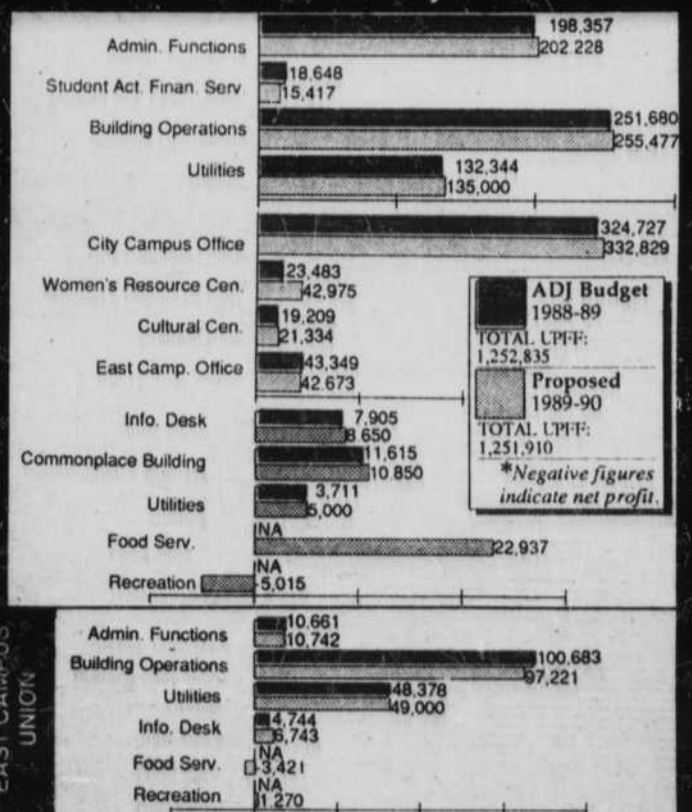
"We haven't given up on food services making a profit, but with current sales history we expect a loss," he said.

The budget request does not include any increases in salary and wages for union employees, he said.

"For every 1 percent increase in salaries and wages, student fees would raise 45 cents," he said.

The increase in staff salaries and wages will be decided by the NU Board of Regents and the Nebraska Legislature, Swanson said.

Nebraska Unions / FY 1989-90 Budget UPI-F Summary



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan