

# Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

**CORRECTION:**

In a story about the Reunion (DN, Aug. 28), Campus Screen Printing was incorrectly reported closed. The business is open at a different location. The Daily Nebraskan regrets this error.

**WEATHER:**

Tuesday, partly cloudy less humid highs in the lower 80s, winds from the southeast at 10 mph. Wednesday through Friday, partly cloudy highs in the 70s to mid 80s

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## UNL insurance rates rise

By Jerry Guenther  
 Senior Reporter

A recent jump in health insurance rates by the company that provides coverage for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students has upset some students, even though health officials say the increases are part of a national trend.

Kunle Ojikutu, director of the University Health Center, said health insurance rates across the country are rising at least 60 percent this year.

Ojikutu said health insurance rates for students ordering insurance through UNL also have increased, but are still reasonable when compared to other universities. Midwest National Life out of

Irving, Texas, provides health insurance coverage for UNL students.

This year's annual premium for a single student ordering health insurance through UNL is \$260, up from \$225 last year.

Patty Helsing, business services manager of the health center, said the annual health insurance premium for single students at Colorado is \$546, while Kansas State single students pay about \$475 for their annual health insurance premium.

Helsing said she didn't have figures from any other schools, but said she thinks UNL's rates would be about average when compared with most schools.

Annual health insurance rates for spouses at UNL also have increased.

Ojikutu said that last year the annual health insurance premium for a UNL student's spouse was \$559, while this year's annual premium for a student's spouse is \$720.

The cost for a UNL student to buy health insurance for his or her children also has increased in some cases.

Ojikutu said the cost for students to buy health insurance last year for his or her children, however many they have, was \$599. Students also could buy a health insurance package for themselves, their spouses and their children for \$928.

This year, students are charged \$315 for each child for health insurance, he said.

Don Goddard, a graduate student in the College of Engineering and Technology, said he has bought health insurance to cover himself and his family through UNL for the past three years.

Goddard said that last year he paid \$944 for health insurance to cover his wife and four children. This year, the same coverage would cost \$2,300.

Goddard said because of the increase, he hasn't decided yet if he will renew his coverage with UNL.

"I'm scrambling all over looking to find some reasonable costs for health insurance for my family," Goddard said.

"The thing that is really upsetting is that I was never notified of

See HEALTH on 6

## Bruning wants increase in minority appointments

By Jana Pedersen  
 Senior Reporter

J on Bruning is hoping for snow in October.

Bruning, a member of the ASUN appointments committee, said last spring's appointments lacked one important element -- minorities.

"Once we get a few minorities involved," he said, "I hope it's kind of going to be like a snowball going over a hill."

To get the snowball rolling, he said, the appointments committee must get more minorities to apply for the several committee positions left over from last spring.

All those positions should be filled by October, he said.

Bruning said he plans to do all he can to recruit minority applicants before October.

He said the best way he can do that is to attend minority student group meetings and get them "fired up" about available positions.

"There are so many talented minority students out there, but they don't want to be the only ones involved because that's tough for anybody to do," he said.

By talking to minority student groups, Bruning said, he hopes he can alleviate their concerns about participating in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Bruning said he attended some minority student group meetings last year, and some of those students applied for positions.

He said the number of applicants wasn't as great as he had hoped, "but the only loss was my time."

By attending more meetings this year, Bruning said, he hopes to increase the number of minority applicants.

But appointments board member LaMonde Woods said it's going to take more than just motivational speeches to get more minority students involved.

Woods said Bruning's attempts to get minority applicants last spring were unsuccessful because there was only about a week between the meetings he attended and the deadline for applications.

"The time frame just wasn't enough," she said. "If he would have given us a month, we would have had at least three more meetings to distribute applications and answer questions.... Time is the key when you're getting people here (for meetings) only once a week."

She said recruitment of minorities must concentrate on in-depth, mass communication over a long period of time.

But that's too big a job for the three-member appointments board, she said.

"It actually should be every senator's job to be looking for someone to get involved who isn't involved," Woods said.

She said that in addition to minorities, another underrepresented group is residence hall students.

According to ASUN records, 17 of the 22 students who were appointed as members or alternates of the ASUN judicial board and judicial appeals board were also members of fraternities or sororities.

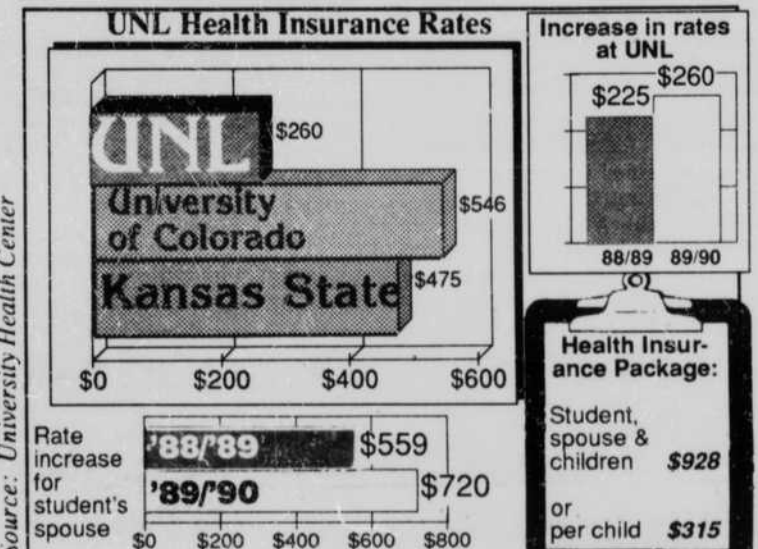
Bruning said that figure is disappointing but accurate.

Greeks receive more representation in student government simply because more fraternity and sorority members apply for positions, he said.

Bruning said that last year, about 80 percent of committee applicants were members of fraternities or sororities.

Many students who want to become involved in student government join fraternities or sororities because they know that is the easiest way to become involved, Bruning said.

"That's unfortunate," he said. "That's not the way it should be, but that's the way it is."



## Former UNL student makes 'mistakes' which result in changes and probation

By Pat Dinslage  
 Staff Reporter

A former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student was sentenced to one year probation Monday at the Lancaster County District Court in Lincoln.

John C. Mikkelsen pled guilty to revised misdemeanor charges in connection with the robbery of a 31-year-old California man in May.

Mikkelsen is one of six students charged in connection with the robbery. Police said the man was attacked, and his ring, briefcase, watch and \$115 in cash were stolen from his room at the Cornhusker Hotel.

Mikkelsen told District Judge William D. Blue that he realizes going with his friends to the hotel that night was "a mistake." But he didn't

know anyone was going to be hurt or anything taken, he said.

"I never touched the man or stole anything," he said.

**'I never touched the man or stole anything'**

--Mikkelsen

In sentencing, Blue said this experience should teach Mikkelsen to "do your own thinking."

Blue said he was familiar with the details of the incident and believed that "things just got out of hand."

Mikkelsen probably got caught up in "mob psychology," he said.

Upon completion of the probation, Mikkelsen can apply to have the sentence struck from his record, Blue said. He cited Mikkelsen's good record and strong family support as basis for this consideration.

Mikkelsen said he was happy with the sentence. He had "kind of expected it" because his friend, David Kuszaj, also had received probation, he said.

Kuszaj was sentenced July 31 to one year of probation and an \$800 fine.

In addition to Mikkelsen and Kuszaj, Ward Elliott, Leodis Wiley, Todd Zimmerman and Mitchell Hope were charged.

Elliott is scheduled for sentencing Sept. 1.

## Key to study lies in dirty diapers

By Michelle Cheney  
 Staff Reporter

Dirty diapers usually are immediately thrown away, but not when a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate student gets her hands on them.

Carolynn Ukpaka, a graduate research assistant in the department of human nutrition, is looking for minerals in the urine of pregnant mothers and the waste material of their babies when they are born.

Ukpaka said she hopes her study will contribute to the bank of knowledge helping to guide pregnant women toward more healthful eating.

Specifically, Ukpaka said, she has a personal interest in studying diabetes.

Ukpaka compares potassium and sodium measurements in the urine of mothers with gestational diabetes to those of mothers who do not have the

disease. She will study 20 women, half of whom have gestational diabetes.

Gestational diabetes occurs in about the seventh month of pregnancy, usually as a result of stress, Ukpaka said.

The disease normally disappears 72 hours after the baby is born, she said, because the baby no longer is causing stress on the body.

Gestational diabetes affects 5 percent of pregnant women, according to Diabetes Forecast, a diabetes magazine.

The study will help Ukpaka earn a doctorate in human nutrition. She is studying under Constance Kies, professor of human nutrition and food service management.

To gain knowledge and her doctorate, Ukpaka takes urine samples from the mothers in their 30th week of pregnancy for five consecutive

days. She measures the amount of potassium and sodium in the urine.

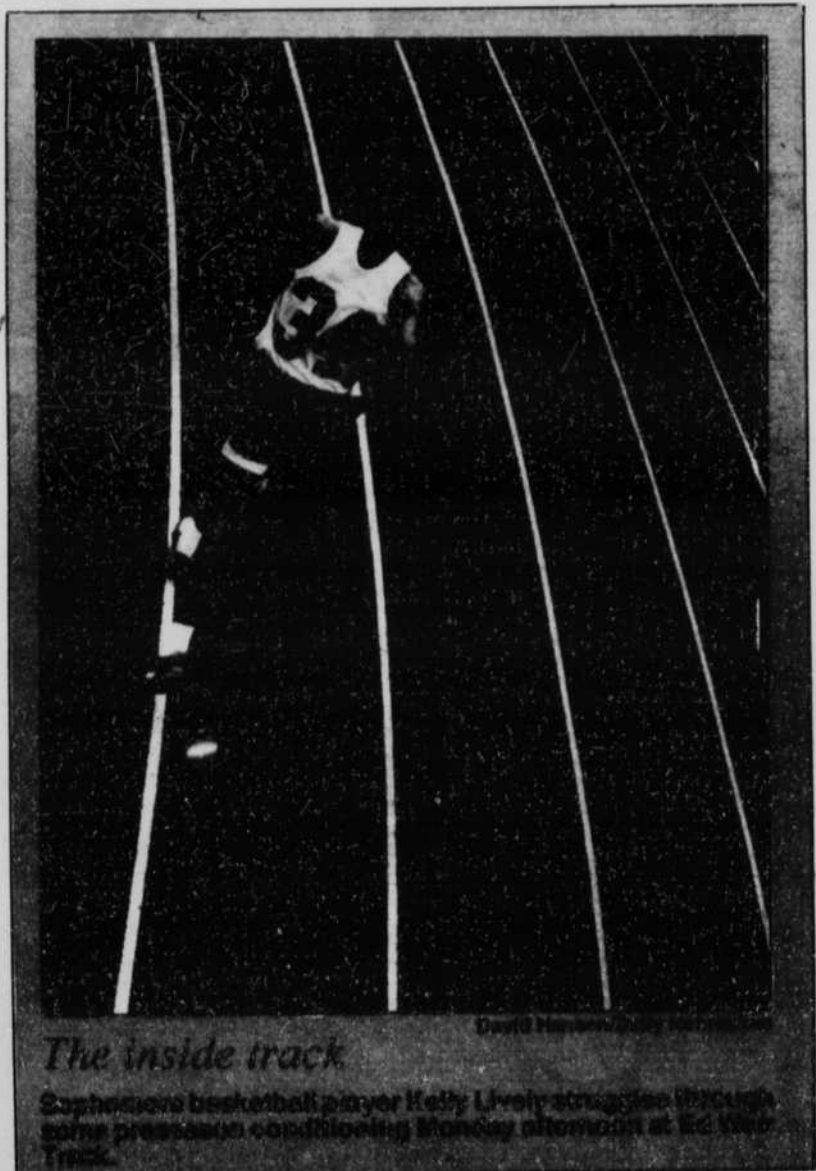
Two blood samples are taken -- one during the 30th week of pregnancy and one 72 hours after the baby is born. The University Health Center screens the blood samples.

When the baby is born, Ukpaka studies the baby's diapers for 14 consecutive days. Once a day, Ukpaka picks up dirty diapers, takes them to her lab and preserves them by freezing them.

She then takes off all the plastic from the diaper and uses nitric acid to dissolve the organic material before she studies it.

Ukpaka said she has been working on the project for the last two years, and hopes to have all her data analyzed by December.

She said she thinks she will study 2,000 diapers altogether, which are given free to the mothers.



The inside track

Softball's best player Kelly Lively struggles through some pressure conditioning Monday afternoon at Ed Warlick Track.