

# Daily Nebraskan

September 25, 1991

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 91 No. 22



TODAY'S WEATHER

75/43

Today, mostly sunny and breezy. Tonight, mostly clear. Thursday, mostly sunny. High 65 to 70.



## Heavy metal . . .

Kitty McGinnis, a graduate art education student, uses a hammer and chisel to remove a sprue, waste metal from the middle of her sculpture, during an advanced sculpture class.

Kiley Timperley/DN

## UNL competes for funding

By Wendy Navratil  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's eligibility for EPSCOR funding should be viewed as a boost, not an embarrassment, to the state's research programs, UNL officials said.

Bill Splinter, interim vice chancellor for research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the state became eligible for funding through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, after being classified as a state that did not have a "significant track record in research activities."

"We were not the top people in research — that's the bad news," Splinter said. "The good news is that we just barely became eligible."

Don Weeks, director of the Center for Biotechnology, said Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., worked to have Nebraska and Kansas declared EPSCOR states. Nebraska became eligible last spring for the first time.

"This is a very definite opportunity to continue to build enhanced research programs and allow us to maintain a growing momentum," Weeks said.

If Nebraska successfully competes with the 17 other eligible states and Puerto Rico, \$3 to \$6 million could be generated for Nebraska's research programs, Weeks said.

Ten to 12 states probably will receive the EPSCOR funding, Splinter said.

Nebraska's chances of competing success-

See EPSCOR on 6

### WEDNESDAY

- British hostage freed. Page 2.
- Crash in the rec center. Page 6.
- Few changes planned for Husker defense. Page 7.
- Tennis season set to begin. Page 8.
- Blues band crawls to town. Page 9.

### INDEX

Wire	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7
A&E	9
Classifieds	11

## Study shatters notions about marriage

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

Couples who live together before marriage are more likely to divorce than those who don't. This is not a common myth; it is one of the findings of an 11-year study of divorce based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

David Johnson, chairman of the sociology department at UNL, has participated in the study with fellow UNL sociology professor Lynn White and assistant professor Paul Amato and Alan Booth, a professor of sociology at Penn State University.

The group has followed a national sample of 2,033 married persons, interviewing them in 1980, 1983 and

1988. Another interview will take place in 1992.

Johnson said the study is focused on "marital instability over the life course," or the factors that cause divorce.

The findings, which have been published in about 25 journal articles since the study began, have attempted to shed new light on the causes of divorce.

Johnson said one of the study's major conclusions was its findings on the chances of divorce among people who live together.

Their conclusion on cohabitation runs contrary to a popular notion of living together as a training period, he said.

"It's not the cohabitation experience itself that causes higher divorce rates," he said. "It's that people who cohabit tend to have characteristics of divorce."

He said people who live together tend to have a more casual view of relationships and have more personal problems.

"The same values that make it appropriate for them to cohabit also make it more likely for them to divorce," he said.

Johnson said the group also discovered that, contrary to popular opinion, marriages do not grow significantly more stable over time.

"What we find is that your odds of experiencing marital instability don't change," he said.

He said that people who are likely to divorce do so early. Marriages that survive tend to stay the same rather than grow stronger.

"The process of being married longer doesn't mean you are less likely to have a divorce," Johnson said.

He said the group also concluded that second marriages are not more prone to divorce than first marriages unless stepchildren are involved. He added that women working outside the home adds both stress and stability to a marriage.

Johnson stressed the importance of working on strengthening relationships early in marriages.

"Our results show that the things you do early, you are going to do later."

## UNL comparatively safe, police chief says

By Lori Stones  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is "one of the safest campuses" in comparison to other Big Eight universities, UNL police chief Ken Cauble said.

UNL ranked fourth among Big Eight campuses in 1990 in the number of crimes with 758, according to an FBI report. But, Cauble said, a higher city population could skew the number. Lincoln has about 100,000 more people than any other city with a Big Eight university.

Police officials at Big Eight universities say crime statistics reported to the FBI vary from campus to campus because of the demographics of the city in which the school is located, enrollment and the number of commissioned police officers at each school.

Statistics for the ranking came from the combined number of violent and property crimes. Violent crimes include murder/non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and assault. Property crime includes burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

At the University of Kansas in

Lawrence, Kan., 960 crimes were reported in 1990, making it the highest in number of reported crimes in the Big Eight. Lawrence has a population of 65,608, including the university.

But Burdel Welsh, KU community services officer, said 80 percent of the crimes committed on campus aren't done by students.

"At almost every institution, the crime rate is almost half of the city rate," he said.

In Lincoln, the city crime rate is 70.1 percent and the campus crime rate is 31.6 percent, he said.

Neal Stone, police chief at University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., said the location of the school explained the high-crime incident at OU. That university ranks third with 818 reported crimes.

Norman, a suburb of Oklahoma City, has a population of 80,071 and is near a major interstate. Nearly 1 million people visit the campus each year because of sporting events and other functions, Stone said.

OU was the only Big Eight campus to have a murder committed in 1990. OU also had the highest inci-

See CRIME on 2

### Crime statistics for Big Eight universities

Crime is defined in the following categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, vehicle theft and arson.

	Total students	Total crimes reported
Univ. of Colorado at Boulder	25,176	868
Iowa State	26,475	708
Kansas State	19,301	526
Oklahoma State	21,558	312
Univ. of Kansas	26,020	960
Univ. of Missouri at Columbia	23,568	706
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln	23,985	758
Univ. of Oklahoma	22,225	818
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>23,760</b>	<b>827.9</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Justice  
Amie DeFrain/DN