



THURSDAY

30/25
Thursday, colder with snow. Tonight, continued cloudy with light snow. For Friday, more of the same.

Professor starts newspaper for sports buffs

Paper plans to fill niche by covering ignored activities

By Kristine Long
Staff Reporter

Most people don't know that Lincoln has a snowmobiling club. Even fewer people know that Lincoln has the only acrobatics club in Nebraska and more than 20,000 softball players.

Gary Vacin, professor of agricultural leadership, education and communications at UNL, didn't know these facts, either, until a few months ago.

But Vacin did know other unpublicized sports existed in Lincoln, so he created his own newspaper — Lincoln's Unnamed Sports Newspaper.

"I've always been a heck of a sports fan," Vacin said, "and it dawned on me that there might be a niche for this kind of publication in Lincoln."

Vacin published the first issue of the paper on Jan. 6. Since then, he has learned about more of Lincoln's "minor sports" and sports activities.

The paper, which is published on the first Wednesday of every month, provides coverage of sports such as tennis, hunting, softball, bowling, hockey, children's leagues and about 60 other sports not covered in local newspapers.

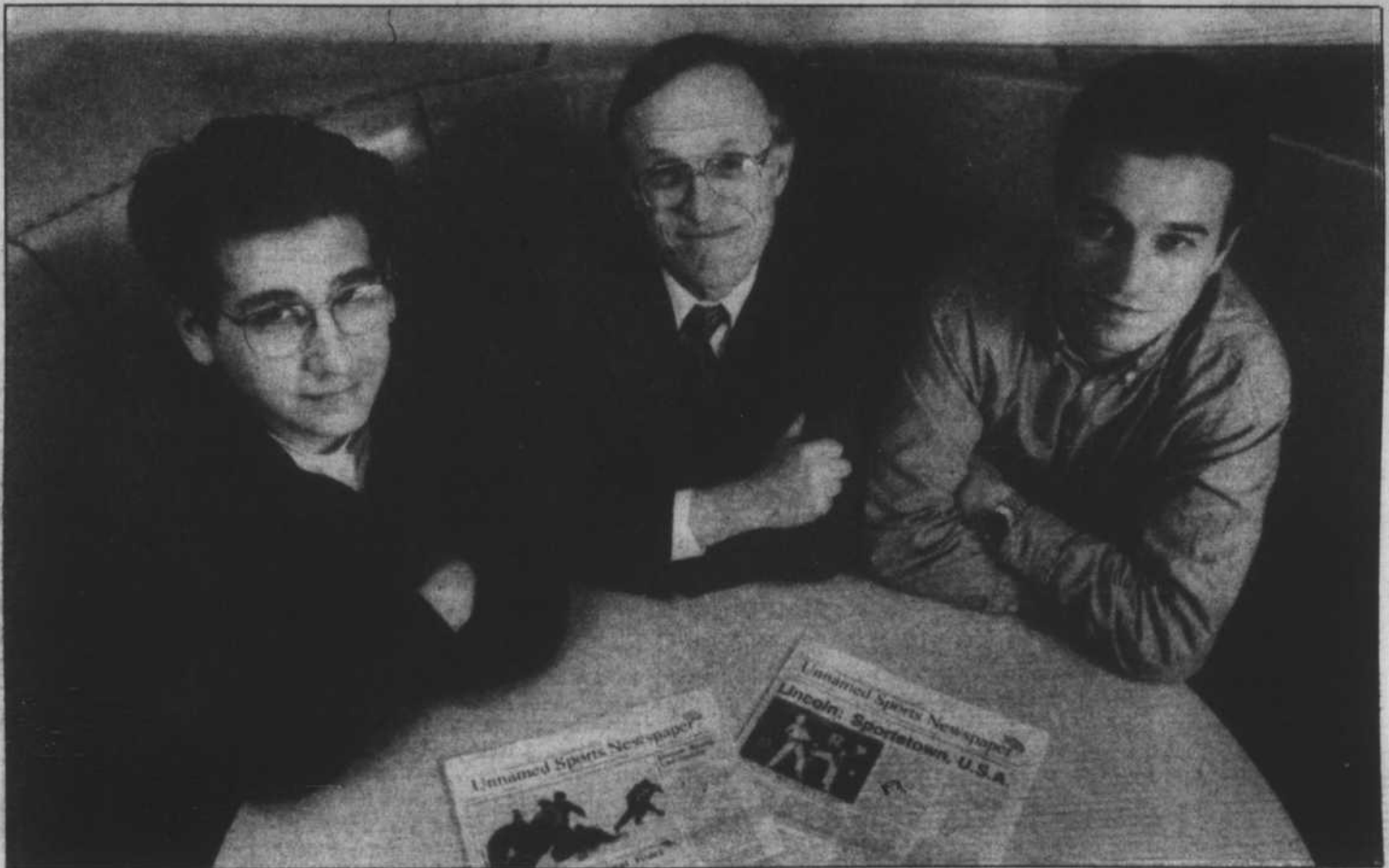
Vacin said the vast number of Lincolniters involved in sports kept the Lincoln Star and the Lincoln Journal from covering them all.

He said when he first thought of the idea for the paper, he immediately conducted a feasibility study to see if it could work.

He said he talked to sports stores in Lincoln and to journalism professors at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He received both positive and negative feedback during his study.

"I heard that Lincoln was a graveyard for niche publishing," Vacin said.



Michelle Paulman/DN

John Bacon, left, a senior advertising major, Gary Vacin, a UNL professor, and Kent Kopetzky, a senior broadcasting major, put out Lincoln's Unnamed Sports Newspaper in Vacin's basement.

But he decided to take the risk and to try to disprove the theory.

He hired two students from the UNL College of Journalism, set up a workspace in his basement and began publishing his paper Dec. 18.

Five thousand copies of the first issue were distributed free of charge. Vacin said he left copies at grocery stores, sports stores and other places where sports fans gather, such as basketball games and YMCA events.

Vacin said the newspaper carried the most comprehensive list of sports and sports-

related activities ever prepared in Lincoln. And the feedback was tremendous.

In the second issue, Feb. 3, the number of advertisers tripled, Vacin said.

Kent Kopetzky, a senior broadcasting major at UNL, is the reporter for Vacin's paper. He said he thought the paper would be a success.

"Judging from the early response," Kopetzky said, "it seems like we have found an audience."

John Bacon, a senior advertising major

who designs ads and layouts for the paper, said he was excited about the idea of a sports newspaper.

Bacon said the paper opened a whole new area because it "caters to sports that aren't usually covered, like karate and kid's sports."

Vacin said the 12-page newspaper probably would increase to 16 pages by March and it might even earn a name.

The paper is conducting a "Name the Newspaper" contest through February, Vacin said.

Federal law has NU updating old family leave policy

By Virginia Newton
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska will revise its family leave policy to comply with federal law, a university official said.

President Bill Clinton signed a bill last week that made family leave a national law. However, a similar policy has been in effect at NU since November, said John P. Russell, NU personnel director and assistant vice president for business and finance.

The NU policy allows 12 weeks of unpaid family leave during a 24-month period. Family leave is used in the event of childbirth, adoption, illness or death of a family member.

"The federal law just passed only allows for 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period," Russell said. "This is the main difference between our law and the federal law."

He said he didn't think the NU policy would need much revision.

"I understand (the NU policy) is very similar to the federal law because we modeled our policy after

federal proposals," he said.

The federal family-leave law will go into effect in six months. NU will not begin revision of its policy until after the six-month period, Russell said.

"We don't want to rush into changing anything to find out the changes were unnecessary," he said. "We'll study the law and make the appropriate changes."

Technically, the NU Board of Regents would not have to amend the policy, Russell said. In six months, federal law automatically will modify

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--Russell I
NU personnel director

the NU policy.

However, there are a number of stipulations not covered by the federal law.

"We're going to look at what the federal law states and amend where

we conflict," Russell said.

Russell said few employees had taken advantage of the university policy, probably because the policy hadn't been in effect for long and because the leave was unpaid.

UNL Anti-Semitism less than U.S. norm, professor says

Anti-semitism on the rise

ON-CAMPUS

114 incidents at 60 colleges and universities, a 12% increase since 1991 and has doubled over the last 5 years.



OFF-CAMPUS

Off-campus anti-semitism decreased 8% in 1992.

Source: Anti-Defamation League

Scott Maurer/DN

By Karen Okamoto
Staff Reporter

A Jewish organization announced last week that anti-Semitism on the nation's college campuses was on the rise, but university officials said no rash of such reports had hit UNL.

Still, one University of Nebraska-Lincoln instructor said anti-Semitism was an "institutionalized" campus problem.

Last year, 114 incidents were recorded at 60 colleges and universities, the Anti-Defamation League reported. The numbers represented a doubling of incidents in the last five years, and a 12 percent increase from 1991.

At the same time, the total number of anti-Semitic incidents nationwide decreased by 8 percent, the organization said.

Bruce Erlich, associate professor of English and modern languages and literatures, said he had received anti-Semitic treatment from administrators and faculty members on campus.

"I've been race-baited by UNL administrators in my presence to my face," he said. "They did not actually say 'dirty Jew,' but they said the equivalent to it in six different ways."

In one case, Erlich said, "He (a UNL administrator) told me, 'Jews control the profession of teaching English.'"

Erlich said the administrator also told him that "real work in the profession of English is done by poor white boys from the wrong side of the tracks" while "Jews sit on top of the profession writing books," he said.

Erlich said racism against Jews was just as real as racism against African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics. However, he said,

people do not recognize their racism against Jews as often as they do against other groups.

Erlich said he would like to see that changed.

But Eric Jolly, director of affirmative action and diversity programs, said anti-Semitism had not proven to be a "frequent" problem at UNL.

His office has received one informal complaint about anti-Semitism since he took over in September, and that incident was resolved, he said.

Peg Blake, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, said the issue of anti-Semitism had not been brought to her office's attention.

"I don't think it's a big problem on this campus," she said.

Sgt. Mylo Bushing of the University Police said he could recall less than six hate-biased crimes reported to his department since August 1991, when the police began keeping track

of such information.

However, the exact figures could not be retrieved from the computer system, and Bushing said he was not sure if any of those incidents were anti-Semitic.

Bushing said that, based on his recollection, he did not think anti-Semitism was a problem. However, some cases likely go unreported to police, he said.

In recent times, one anti-Semitic incident has been reported at Creighton University, said Bob Wolfson, regional director of ADL in Omaha.

Nebraska had a state total of 11 cases last year and nine in 1991, he said.

However, Wolfson said the numbers could be deceiving because ADL tallied only incidents that had been reported directly to it or in the press.