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Technology park would benefit state, university

By Karen Okamoto
Staff Reporter

Research opportunities, high-tech jobs to result, officials say

A technology park being developed in northwest Lincoln will benefit the state and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a UNL official said Thursday.

The technology park, which will bring together entities and businesses interested in advanced technology, is being developed by UNL and the city of Lincoln in the Highlands area.

Construction on the technology park will start in about three to eight years, Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns

said. Bill Splinter, vice chancellor for research at UNL, said the park would broaden the state's economic base by bringing new industry into Nebraska.

"Our ultimate goal is to help the economy of the state," he said.

The university also will benefit because researchers at UNL will be able to scale up their lab work to a manufacturing level, he said.

By opening businesses in the park, Splinter said, professors may work

with several barrels of material instead of just test-tube amounts.

The university, which obtains patents on professors' developments, will receive royalties from any sales that the professors make, he said.

The park also will create jobs for UNL graduates who may be interested in staying in Nebraska, Splinter said.

Many of the jobs will be high-tech jobs, he said.

UNL expertise, not money, is go-

ing into the development of the technology park, Splinter said.

The proposed park is the result of a recommendation by a committee appointed in 1988 by former Mayor Bill Harris and then-UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale.

That committee recommended focusing efforts on technology-related business development as a strategy for long-term economic development and job creation in Lincoln.

The committee also named the

Highlands as a potential site for the park, and, in December 1989, the city annexed the area.

The committee then coordinated the development of a detailed master plan for the Highlands' 600 acres with the technology park a key part of the plan.

One hundred acres have been reserved for the technology park, and 50 more acres may be added.

A seven-member coalition of Nebraska businesses and the University of Nebraska Foundation now own the

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Purse, wallet thefts rising, official says

Students should take precautions

By Juliet Oseka
Staff Reporter

Because the number of purse and wallet thefts has been on the increase this semester, students should take extra care with these items, a UNL police officer said Thursday.

Sgt. Mylo Bushing said there had been 49 purses and wallets reported stolen since January.

When a purse or wallet is stolen, the thief not only gets money and credit cards, Bushing said, but also gets a drivers license with personal information about the victim and keys to both cars and homes.

"This is information that we don't want released to anyone," he said.

Purse and wallet thefts are not just a problem at UNL, Bushing said. In February, the number of thefts reported in both the Capitol and State Office buildings also had increased, he said.

If anyone sees a person who looks suspicious or is in an area of a building that is restricted, the police should be contacted, Bushing said.

To help alleviate the problem, Bushing said students should take their purses and wallets with them instead of leaving them unattended.

"Lock these items up, or take them with you," Bushing said.

"If you want to save your place in the library, for example, leave a notebook but not your purse," he said.

Purses and wallets should not be left in unlocked desk drawers either, Bushing said. It only takes a few seconds to take a purse or wallet, he said.



Jeff Haller/DN

A student bikes across campus between classes Thursday.

Helmet usage called crucial for bicyclists

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

Once the warm temperatures of the new season spring up, many UNL students opt to leave their cars at home and ride their bicycles to class.

"They're everywhere," said Deborah Conley, a junior sociology major.

Conley said there already were several thousand frantic pedestrians on campus each day, and that cyclists caused even more chaos.

"(Cyclists) are confusing at times, especially when the weather starts getting nice," she said. "You don't know which way they're going to go, and that's when the accidents start happening."

Joan Artman, manager of the Urgent Care area at the University Health Center, said that with the increase in temperature, the number of bicycle injuries increased.

The sand and gravel used on the roads and walkways in the winter time make the sidewalks and streets slick for riders, Artman said.

Other causes of bicycle injuries include a combination of car-and-bicycle and car-and-pedestrian accidents, she said.

"As soon as it gets nice, everyone is outside on their bikes enjoying the weather," Artman said. "But they aren't wearing helmets."

"Helmets are a must because it only takes one accident to ruin your life," she said. "When you wear a helmet you have protection at all times."

Junior mechanical engineering major Allen McPhaul said he did not want to wear a helmet. "I don't need one," McPhaul said. "I trust my riding abilities."

"And besides, I don't want to mess up the waves in my hair," he said.

McPhaul also said that the cost of purchasing a helmet was too much for his student pocketbook.

Gary Baldwin, a sales associate at Cycle Works on 27th and Vine streets, said the general price range for helmets was \$40 to \$100.

"Generally," he said, "the more expensive ones are lighter, more ventilating ones, and they look cooler."

Baldwin said a few years ago, when he first

See BIKES on 3

Parking committee approves new lot, increased lighting

By Mindy Leiter
Staff Reporter

East Campus Loop primary target for illumination

The UNL Parking Advisory Committee intends to shed a little light on the East Campus Loop as well as provide for another commuter student lot on East Campus, a UNL official said.

The parking committee passed a resolution at its meeting Thursday to finance a commuter lot on East Campus that would add 195 new stalls.

Located south of the Law Library, the lot will cost an estimated \$175,000 and will be paid for through the extra parking fees, said Tom Johnson, chairman of the committee.

"By providing for more commuter student lots, we will cut down on the number of people who are parking in places they have no permit for," Johnson said. "That way we will help everybody."

The committee also passed a resolution that would increase lighting in the eastern portion of the East Campus Loop.

Mike Cacak, interim parking administrator, said the committee's decision to light the eastern portion of the loop was based on the increased use of East Campus.

Safety concerns have increased because more students are walking through the area, which has always been a lighting concern, Cacak said.

"The east side of East Campus Loop is what we have heard about the most that needs to be taken care of," he said.

"Some of the darkest areas (at the university) are on East Campus."

Lighting the East Campus Loop will cost an estimated \$58,000, Cacak said, and it would be paid using the \$4 safety fee already added to UNL parking fees. The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in the fall.

The parking lot for state employees, located east of the livestock judging pavilion, currently has no lighting. The committee resolved to place lighting on a nearby street to light the

area. In other business, the Parking Advisory Committee elected a new chairman for the 1994-95 academic year.

Dean Waddel, chairman of branch services and professor of libraries, was unanimously approved as the new chairman.

The committee also established parking maintenance and repair as another one of its priorities.

Committee members plan to use operational fees to pay for repair of potholes and cracks in the concrete, which are the result of winter damage to the lots, Johnson said.

"That might stop the complaints," he said. "People don't like potholes that are big enough to take their Lincoln Continental and make it disappear into the ground."