

# Blue phones easy to use

By **Melanie Brandert**  
Staff Reporter

The code blue emergency phones found around campus may seem confusing to new UNL students, but using them to get help is as easy as pushing a button.

In fact, that's all you have to do. Sgt. Bill Manning of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln police department said the 36 blue phones, which are scattered throughout City and East campuses, could be used to report a crime or request assistance for vehicle problems or medical emergencies.

To use the blue phones, which were installed by the fall of 1993, callers push a button that directly dials a university operator. The operator can identify which phone was used, Manning said.

If the caller has an emergency, such as a vehicle lockout, the operator will transfer the call to the proper authorities, Manning said.

If the caller needs law enforcement or medical services, the operator will transfer the call to the university police. If the caller doesn't respond when a police operator answers the call, an officer will be dispatched to the location from which the call was made.

False alarms account for about 80 percent to 90 percent of calls to which police dispatchers respond, Manning said.

Manning said he would like to lower that percentage by educating students about the purpose of the code blue phones. Media coverage has been the main education source; the police



Gerik Parmele/DN

department doesn't offer educational programs to discuss the phones.

Sometimes callers leave the phone before police get there, because the callers fear they are being chased, he said.

Manning said no plans were in the works to install more emergency phones, but that doesn't mean more won't be installed in the future.

"It's not set at 36; the number could go higher," he said. "Need will have to dictate that."

# New Beadle Center is set to be completed next May

By **Brian Sharp**  
Senior Reporter

After two years of construction, the George W. Beadle Center for Genetics and Biomaterials Research is two-thirds completed.

Marion O'Leary, head of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln biochemistry department, said construction had been running behind schedule, but costs on the \$31.9 million building were on target.

The original completion date was to be July 1994.

"We lost a lot of time a year and a half ago with that really wet winter we had," O'Leary said. "The shell is essentially finished. We're looking at completion probably next May."

The weather has been the only

complication so far, O'Leary said. The remaining construction is inside the building, and no further delays are expected, he said.

"The weather thing was over a year ago," he said. "It's been really smooth since then. We've just had trouble catching up."

The center will be home to UNL's biochemistry and chemical engineering departments. Most of the center will be office and research space. Only 20 percent of the 138,000-square-foot facility will be for classrooms, O'Leary said.

O'Leary said once the center was finished, it would probably take most of next summer to move in. "There's a lot of equipment to move, a lot of people to move," O'Leary said. "We're probably talking about two to four months."



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