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The mighty fins



Jon Waller/DN

Above: Mark Kuzma, a biology graduate student, adjusts his mask and snorkel before starting water exercises Wednesday night in UNL's Underwater Scuba class. Below: Kuzma, right, and Jey Henk submerge to practice safety techniques.

UNL snorklers scuba around swimmingpool

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

The clear, blue water sparkles in the evening lights. It's warm and humid as the young scuba divers suit up their gear and test their equipment.

There's excitement and anxiety—it's their first dive. Actually, it's their first time in the water. Oh, and it's in the Mabel Lee Hall swimming pool at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Class starts at 6 p.m. sharp. Philip Seamans, a civil engi-

neering freshman, was finishing adjusting his back-up air regulator just before the first dip.

"I'm hot, nervous — a little bit," he said. "I'm wondering what it's going to be like with 75 to 80 pounds strapped to my back."

Seamans said that after paying a \$90 lab fee, buying his fins, snorkel, mask and books, the class had already cost him more than \$200, just in supplies.

It may be fun, he said, but it's also going to be the most expensive class he's taken yet at UNL. Luckily, Heartland Scuba Center provides the other equipment.

"Just make sure you blow those bubbles," says Chris Stuart when the class surfaces after spending 20 minutes underwater. Stuart is an open-water scuba instructor with the Professional Association of Diving Instructors.



In all, 14 students suited up for Wednesday night's dive. Another group would take to the pool later in the evening.

Almost 50 people are signed up for the one-credit-hour class. Scuba

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Shooting suspect in court today

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Carlus Patterson sat clutching her boyfriend as the crowd scattered.

He had just been shot, at near point-blank range, in the face. There was blood everywhere, Patterson recalled Thursday. All she could do was hold his head up and apply pressure to the wound on his left cheek.

"I thought he was dead," Patterson said.

Jason Daniels remains in serious condition at Lincoln General Hospital following the Wednesday night shooting at Grandpa's Ribs and Secret Sauce, 2630 Orchard St.

Police say Terrance Rupert, who owns the restaurant, allegedly fired a .380 semi-automatic pistol at Daniels during a disturbance at the location. Rupert remains in jail, charged with attempted second-degree murder and using a weapon to commit a felony.

The Lincoln restaurant nearly emptied after the shooting late Wednesday night, Patterson said.

Lincoln Police Officer Charles Solano reported when he arrived at the scene, Rupert was holding the gun at his side.

Police Sgt. Anne Heermann said reports indicated the incident began after a contest. Patterson and two other girls allegedly got into a dispute over prize money. Three other men, including Daniels, soon joined in, Heermann said.

Rupert had asked Daniels and Patterson to leave when Daniels hit him in the jaw, Heermann said. The pair was being escorted out, she said, when Rupert allegedly returned with a gun and fired at Daniels.

For James White, Wednesday was something of an incident waiting to happen. White owns a duplex directly behind the restaurant and has been unable to rent it out since Grandpa's moved in.

"It's been a nightmare around here," White said. "It does kind of make a guy nervous when stuff like that happens when he's trying to sleep."

Grandpa's Ribs was closed Thursday.

See DANIELS on 3

Candidate wants students to get ACCESS

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of reports taking a look at parties campaigning for the ASUN presidency.

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

As the presidential candidate for the ACCESS party in this year's ASUN election, Chad Pekron wants to give students more access to student government.

"We want to promote ASUN and make student government look like it's doing something," Pekron said. "People might not feel it's doing much for them. We want to show them it's something they should care about."

Pekron said the ACCESS party, whose ticket has not been completely filled, wanted to involve more residence hall and off-campus students in executive positions in student government.

"We feel that without forming our own party, we won't have any chance at getting into student government," he said.

Eric Vanderwoude, vice presidential candidate for the ACCESS party, said the party's main goal was to get all students, not just Greeks, involved in government.

Pekron said they wanted to involve minority students in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska also.

"The environment for minority students has been a place where they have no power," he said. "Hopefully, in the future they can feel more comfortable and be able to participate in ASUN."

To gain minority support, Pekron said his party had been trying to contact groups such as the Mexican-American Student Association.

In their platform, Pekron and Vanderwoude have outlined problems at UNL they want to

change.

Pekron said one rule that needed to be changed was the residence hall policy on cohabitation.

"It's unfair that you can stay up all night doing whatever you want, but the moment you fall asleep you are breaking housing policies," he said.

The cohabitation policy needs revising because it is hypocritical, he said.

"It's not so much that we're in favor of guys having their girlfriends over all the time," he said. "It's just really hypocritical that you can stay up having sex all night, but you can't fall asleep."

Another major goal of the party that would affect all students is making teacher evaluations available to students.

"We want to help out students when picking out their classes to see if a professor is good or

not," Pekron said.

Another idea on the ACCESS platform is to change the foreign language requirements for graduation, he said.

"The foreign language requirement is a real burden to people who want to graduate," he said. "We want to make it easier to get a foreign language minor."

Pekron said 12 credit hours were needed to get a minor in most subjects, but students can take 16 credit hours of a foreign language by taking Spanish 101/102 and 201/202, for example, and still have to take more classes to complete a minor.

Another solution to that problem would be reinstating the Modern Languages class in place of 202-level foreign language classes, he said.

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