

# New group hopes to take active role

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

Minority students wanting to improve relations with UNL Police officers launched a new student organization to express their concerns Monday night.

Geno Venegas, president of Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) and member of the Mexican American Student Association, said the group, which met at the Nebraska Union, would give underrepresented student organizations a chance to communicate and work with University Police.

Venegas, a senior psychology major, was hired by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police to act as a liaison between the department and minority students.

Venegas said the Francisco Renteria case brought minority and law enforcement relationships to light on campus.

Renteria died Oct. 1, 1994, after a scuffle involving Lincoln Police officers and one UNL officer.

Some students disapproved of the university officers' actions following the incident. Venegas said the organization wanted to calm those feelings.

"When we confront a police officer, we act differently when compared to white people," he said. "We've been conditioned to be fearful."

Kevin Nguyen, a member of the Vietnamese Student Association, said he was with a group of friends when a police cruiser slowed down and followed them for a short distance.

"That could be kind of racist," he said. "They shouldn't have to do that because we're minorities." Police officers have said they

are working on diversity training, he said, but too much of it has been just lip service.

Nasim Cross, a member of the Afrikan People's Union, said police could "have their way and not answer to anybody."

"It's become acceptable — harassing people and being suspicious of everything you do," he said. "They get away with it."

"What message are we sending when a police officer can say, 'I'll do what I want, and you'll cover my back'?"

Cross said police officers should be setting an example rather than breaking the rules.

"When they catch someone, they practice all these tactics, but they need to practice some self-control," he said.

Some students also defended the officers.

"They are putting their lives in danger," Nguyen said. "They take their chances too. They get shot. They get killed."

Students offered three suggestions to improving minority and university police relations:

- begin stress-management classes for university officers.
- work on exerting self-control in high-pressure situations.
- set up a system where students and others can register complaints against an officer they believe is harassing them.

Venegas said he wanted the group members to bring their discussion back to their respective groups.

"I know this organization may not make a big difference at the start," he said, "but we hope it will spread."

# Muslims celebrate holy month

By Alex Harriger  
Staff Reporter

For Masroor Malik, the next month will be an exhilarating religious experience.

"There is a special feeling in the air during Ramadan," said the graduate student in mechanical engineering. "It's a feeling that I just can't describe. You can feel it all around you. It's a feeling that everything is blessed."

Ramadan, a holy month on the Islamic calendar, begins when the new moon is first sighted. Muslims around the world, like Malik and more than 700 others in Lincoln, will begin observing Ramadan this week.

Malik, secretary of the Islamic Foundation of Lincoln, said Ramadan was the holiest of all months to Muslims — a special time to gain strength from themselves, understand the plights of the needy and perform good deeds.

The Islamic Foundation of Lin-

coln is planning to send a shipment of food, clothing and money to refugees in Chechnya during Ramadan.

During the holy month, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. They break their fasts at night, when it is acceptable to consume anything except pork and alcohol.

Malik said the reasons for fasting included gaining self-restraint from worldly pleasures, as well as a true appreciation for those who go every day without food or water.

"It gives me more desire to help those who suffer because it gives me a sense of how others feel when they are hungry and thirsty," he said.

Ramadan lasts for about 30 days, Malik said, and the last 10, while not required, are very important. The end of the month, he said, was the last opportunity for Muslims to perform good deeds. Muslims believe that Allah rewards them 70 times for their good deeds, he said.

During the last 10 days of the month, Malik said, the Islamic Foun-

datation of Lincoln organizes "all-nighters" for Muslims, or anyone interested, to break their daily fasts and pray.

Malik, a native of Karachi, Pakistan, said Ramadan in America was a bit different than in his homeland. However, he said, it still provided a special opportunity for him to be close to friends and to teach Islam.

To accommodate residence hall students observing Ramadan, the Selleck dining hall will provide special meals students can pick up and eat later.

Ron Burke, director of food service in Selleck, said students on the university's food service program could pick up food in microwaveable styrofoam containers at 6:45 p.m. each evening to break that day's fast. They may also pick up cold cereal to eat before dawn the next day.

Hot breakfast also will be available at 6:15 a.m. each day during Ramadan, he said.

# 2 fans arrested at Eagles concert

From Staff Reports

Two Eagles fans who decided to take it to the limit ended up arrested on charges of assault and failure to comply with an officer.

Michael Brown, 22, was arrested at the Eagles concert Saturday night after UNL Police received several complaints that he was being disruptive.

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said Brown was pushing and shoving other fans, and became verbally abusive after one concert-goer told him to quiet down.

The incident occurred shortly after 9 p.m. Manning gave the following account:

Officer Brian Peters and Cpl. Brian Scusa both contacted Brown and his 22-year-old brother, Aaron.

The officers reported a strong smell of alcohol on both brothers, Manning said, and escorted them from the Bob Devaney Sports Center, where the concert was being held.

Michael Brown, however, decided to follow Peters back into the building and grabbed hold of him. When Peters then attempted an arrest, Aaron shoved Scusa to get to the arresting officer.

# CUT COST

Continued from Page 1

said. After the student was readmitted by administrators, she counted the number of students in class on a Friday. The following Monday, McGoveran said, the student found five more people in class who apparently had not been dropped.

"I want to tighten up on professors and administrators and lighten up on

students," he said.

When asked, McGoveran said that he saw himself as a student advocate.

"We have 500 prosecutors, one objective ombudsman and no defense attorneys," he said. "If a student is trying to get something, and someone is keeping them from it, I'll help them no matter what."

McGoveran, who worked on tug boats on the Missouri River for 12 years before a motorcycle accident

sent him back to school, said his age would help more than hurt.

"I always say that we put Loud (ASUN president Andrew Loudon) in and it got quiet," he said. "Put the old man down there and see how loud it gets."

However, McGoveran said, he is dedicated to students.

"If it costs me the chance to get an education, I'm willing to pay that price," he said.

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# POLICE REPORT

- Beginning midnight Wednesday**  
9:31 a.m. — Larceny from building, Nebraska Union, Bookbag taken, \$230 loss.  
1:25 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, Area 1/2 19th and U to R streets, side mirror broken, \$100 damage.  
2:04 p.m. — Burglary, Administration, printer taken, \$1200 loss.  
2:14 p.m. — Accident, non-injury, Union Meter Lot, \$300.  
2:18 p.m. — Disturbance, Lied Center.  
11:13 p.m. — Shooting, assist Lincoln Police, 2630 Orchard.  
11:35 p.m. — Accident, 1300 block N. 16th, non-injury, \$5000 damage.  
1:37 a.m. — Disturbance, 13th and R streets.
- Beginning midnight Tuesday**  
12:59 a.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, Abel Hall, sprinkler head broken, \$50 damage.  
9:14 a.m. — Larceny from building, case cleared/unfounded.  
11:08 a.m. — Outside police assistance, case cleared/unfounded.  
12:41 p.m. — Property damage, Area 20 at 14th Street and Avery Avenue, \$150 property damage.  
1:00 p.m. — City of Lincoln, miscellaneous.  
1:55 p.m. — Richards Hall, injury/sickness.  
6:37 p.m. — Abel Hall, wallet and contents stolen, \$35 loss.  
6:37 p.m. — Abel Hall, theft by deception, unknown loss.  
7:08 p.m. — Law Library, miscellaneous.
- Beginning midnight Monday**  
12:11 a.m. — 12th to 13th street, miscellaneous.  
4:24 a.m. — Alarm/security, accidental trip by custodian.  
11:34 a.m. — Larceny from auto, 12th and R streets, \$100 damage, \$340 loss.  
1:55 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, Area 3 Harper-Schramm-Smith, mirror broken, \$50 damage.  
2:36 p.m. — Larceny from building, Campus Recreation Center, bag and contents, \$220 loss.  
2:56 p.m. — Larceny from building, 715 N. 16th St., cellular phone taken, \$100 loss.  
3:40 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, Andrews Hall.  
4:29 p.m. — Fire, Area 1/2 19th and R to U streets, \$2,000 damage to vehicle.  
5:05 p.m. — Accident, 14th and West meter lot, \$200 damage.