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African-Americans
 Is a new revolution in order?
 Panel discussion on Civil Rights
 Question & Answer Segment
Tomorrow
February 16
4-6 pm
 Nebraska Union
 Regency Room B
 Black Law Students Association

Law & Order
A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Valentine's day a time of loss

From Staff Reports

Police are searching for three men who did more than \$1,000 worth of Valentine's Day shopping in a south Lincoln residence. The actual charge is burglary, related to an incident Monday afternoon at 3093 Vine St. Police report a Sharp AM/FM stereo system and Fischer brand speakers, a Sega-Genesis entertainment system and a bracelet were stolen. The items were valued at \$1,068.

Witnesses reported that two black males and a Hispanic male carried the items from the residence. The three men reportedly left the area in a large, 4-door car, described as either a Cadillac or LTD. The victim, a 38-year-old woman, reported that entry was made by forcing open the front door.

There are no suspects in the incident.

Unidentified man threatens school with time bomb

From Staff Reports

A secretary at Lincoln High School, 2229 J St., reported receiving a bomb threat early Monday.

The woman told police she got a phone call at 10:57 a.m. from a man who said there was a "time bomb" in the school, scheduled to go off in 30 minutes.

The school was evacuated, and the Lincoln Fire Department was called. No bomb was found, however, in a search of the building.

There are no suspects in the case. Threatening to use explosives is a Class IV felony, punishable by a maximum five years in prison and \$10,000 fine.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday 12:58 a.m. — Abel Residence Hall, miscellaneous.

Beginning midnight Monday 8:12 a.m. — 40th and Holdrege streets, non-injury accident, \$950 damage.

1:59 p.m. — Area 1/2 lot at 19th Street from U to T streets, hit-and-run accident, \$350 damage.

7:42 p.m. — City of Lincoln, larceny from building, pool cue taken, \$250 loss, item recovered, case cleared by exception.

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Studying science down South

Student learns world of physics, from robots to the stars

By Chris Hegarty
 Staff Reporter

Last fall, David Becher had the kind of semester some students only dream of — he got to play with robots and remote-control cars, and he was hundreds of miles away from school.

Becher, a junior electrical engineering major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was one of 26 students from across the nation to spend the fall semester at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Becher worked in Oak Ridge's physics division, where he attended conferences and seminars ranging from robotics to environmental issues. He also conducted advanced physics experiments that were part of ongoing research at Oak Ridge.

"This is pretty specialized research," Becher said. "Some of the applications will be that astrophysicists will study kinds of reactions that only take place in stars and other extreme conditions."

The program at Oak Ridge, part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Science and Engineering Research Ser-

mester, is intended to increase the number of students prepared for careers in science, math and engineering.

Becher said the experience made him look at college in a new way.

"It gives you a vastly different perspective from what you get taking classes," he said. "You have capabilities you just don't have here. They have a 25 million-volt particle accelerator, a cyclotron — you just don't get to use those everywhere."

Particle accelerators and cyclotrons are used in high-level physics experiments involving charged subatomic particles.

Becher's semester at Oak Ridge already has opened doors for him at UNL. He is working with Ned Ianno, a professor of electrical engineering, on a project similar to what he did at Oak Ridge.

Ianno said Becher's experience at Oak Ridge was an indication to him that Becher was serious about scientific research.

"I had him in class and I was impressed with his academic ability," Ianno said. "He's very reliable, very independent."

Ianno said experiences like Becher's were extremely valuable.

"National labs are wonderfully equipped facilities. It broadens your horizons," he said.

"The environment I got to work in, the equipment I got to work with, working in a national laboratory for the government, it was all quite an experience."

DAVID BECHER

engineering student

But being at Oak Ridge from September through December last year had one drawback for Becher — he is now a semester behind in his classes.

"I basically came back this semester and all my friends have moved a semester ahead of me," he said. "So I feel behind, but I also feel I have a very neat experience under my belt."

"The environment I got to work in, the equipment I got to work with, working in a national laboratory for the government, it was all quite an experience. It was a good deal all around," he said.

Credit scams top consumer complaints

By Brian Jensen
 Staff Reporter

The No. 1 complaint issued to the Consumer Protection Division in 1994 concerned credit and financial services, according to the attorney general's office.

Dan Parsons, special assistant to the attorney general, said the largest scam was by "credit repair" companies who claimed they could clear bad credit reports.

"Many people who have overextended their credit buy into these repair companies who claim they can erase the negatives in a report, when legally they cannot," Parsons said.

The bulletin claimed the office

received complaints that such companies were charging from \$50 to \$1,500 to "fix" the credit reports.

After credit services, the top ten lists personal and household products (No. 2), mail order (No. 3), automobiles (No. 4), and entertainment and recreation (No. 5).

Parsons said hundreds of complaints were issued, but few led to lawsuits.

"Most of the time it is simply a problem based on a misunderstanding between the company and the consumer. We will then act as a mediator between the two and the problem usually gets solved," Parsons said.

In the last 5 years, Parsons said,

complaints have increased significantly. The laws on the coasts have deterred con artists from staying there, and more are coming to the Midwest, he said.

"No one can say they are immune from scams anymore, because anyone with a phone or mailbox is going to be a target," Parsons said.

Rounding out the bottom five on the list were home furnishings and products, home repair, prize notification and sweepstakes, business services, and warranties and service contracts.

Anyone who needs to file a consumer complaint may do so by calling or stopping by the attorney general's office for a complaint form.

Mineral dependency, mining talks to be held

From Staff Reports

A geological engineering expert will give a lecture Friday on the environmental impacts of mineral dependency.

William X. Chavez Jr., associate professor of geological engineering at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, will make his second appearance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The lecture will be in Bessey Hall at 3:30 p.m.

He also will conduct a workshop/seminar called "Mining and its Legal Political and Environmental Constraints — Are they fair?" The workshop/seminar will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

His talk, sponsored by the UNL Research Council, is presented by the geology department and the UNL Research Council as part of the Mylan Stout Lecture Series.

Chavez has been a frequent consultant to mining interests. He holds the view that commercial miners now are more conscious of their responsi-

bilities in regard to the impact of mining on the environment than they have been in the past.

Much of his work in the Americas and Asia has involved assessing mineral prospects for their economic and environmental impact.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop/seminar should register in advance at the UNL geology department office in Bessey Hall.

Both the lecture and the workshop-seminar are free and open to the public.

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