



Attention May Graduates

The deadline for return of your yellow
Commencement Attendance form is:

April 21, 1995

Return it to Records Office, 107 Administration Bldg.,
Service Counter B

Come Join the DN PARTY!

There's no limit to the volume
of fun you can have as a DN
staffer for the Fall 1995 semester.

We're hiring reporters for the
news, sports and arts &
entertainment sections along with
photographers, copy editors, and
artists.

You don't need to be a journal-
ism major. You just need a high
tolerance for news junkies and be
able to string together coherent
sentences.

Stop by the Daily Nebraskan,
34 Nebraska Union to pick up an
application. Applications due by
April 21st.



Doctor: Regional Center 'hopeless'

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Officials at the Lincoln Regional Center denied Thursday a report that the institution was "in exceptionally poor shape."

But one doctor, who has worked at the institution for more than 15 years, said the program was "hopeless."

During the past 125 years, the Lincoln Regional Center, at West Van Dorn and Folsom streets, has been home to some of the state's most high-profile criminals and most mentally ill citizens.

In a report by Managers Consulting Services of Shawnee, Kan., psychologist Darrel Ray wrote, "There is no evidence of leadership and vision for the future."

The center is divided, he said, "with each protecting its turf and no central administrative efforts to bring focus to the campus."

"Any efforts towards change, while positive, are seen as far too little, too late."

The recent managerial review was commissioned by the center's administration. Bill Zinn, chief executive officer for the center has refused comment to the Daily Nebraskan.

Ray has conducted institutional assessments since 1977. The January review, released to the center earlier this month, did not study patient care.

In a telephone interview, Ray complemented Zinn for taking a bold step in requesting the review, but said of the center: "This organization has got major problems, there is no hiding that. I've seen a couple worse — but

I've seen a lot better."

Dale Johnson, director of the Nebraska Department of Institutions, which oversees the center, issued a statement Thursday that he was concerned with the center's management of health care reform, managed care, effectiveness and efficiency.

The center referred all questions to Carole Smith, community relations coordinator.

Patient contact by psychiatrists and psychologists was substandard, Ray said, and professional and support staff was ineffective.

When questioned about the effect management had on patient care, Smith said: "Obviously, there is a link."

The center has passed all its accreditation reviews. An April 27, 1993, federal review favored accreditation with recommended improvement. But it wasn't until this year that the reviews included a look at an institution's leadership. The federal organization will review the center again in 1996.

The doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said administration at the center had never been effective. No one speaks out, he said, because they fear retaliation from an out-of-control bureaucracy.

"They always pass inspection because the paperwork is great, but the quality of care is not," he said.

"Treatment has not been effective," he said. "The key problem is they don't know what they are supposed to do to improve a patient. That place is hopeless."

The worst patient ward, the doctor said, was S5. The high-security ward

is located on the top level of the Forensic Mental Health Unit.

The unit houses 121 men in five wards. There are convicted sex offenders, men found not responsible by reason of insanity or not competent to stand trial.

To enter the unit, one must pass through an electric, sliding, green metal door. Inside, there is silence, barred windows, surveillance cameras, and the low murmur of chant music echoes down long, stark halls.

"There is a lot of stigma attached to people who are here," Smith said. "There is a lot of misunderstanding."

"It is easy to understand a broken leg. It is not so easy to understand a broken mind."

On one wall, beside a locked stair door, is painted a large "S5." The concrete stairwell is steep and divided by a metal screen.

But all is not well. Another door, to the right, leads outside to the yard. It is marked by a 12-foot, barbed-wire fence and in the middle stands a budding cherry tree. The small sapling is shadowed by a marker, which reads: "In Memoriam, Michael F. Weiss — A Friend."

Dealing with suicidal patients is a daily reality, the doctor said.

But the center is changing. A "turn-around team" will institute many of Ray's recommendations, Smith said. Those will include a panel to review the CEO; officers assigned to oversee support and clinical staff; and direct lines of accountability.

"We acknowledge there are changes that need to be made," Smith said. "But there is more to it than just this report."

To psychologist Matthew Nessetti, the center is healthy. Although his contact with the center is limited, he said he had been impressed. But the center remains "bogged down in bureaucracy," he said.

Smith said the report published the views of 25 staff members. Some of those perceptions are not accurate, she said.

"This is a place with a 125-year culture," she said. "It's easy for a place that old to get into some habits that may have to be looked at."

"With any organization, you get little cliques going. Sometimes those have to be shaken up."

Here's Proof That A College Degree Can Really Pay Off.

Right Now Recent College Graduates Get **\$400 off**
Every New Dodge. In Addition to Most Other Current Offers.*

Dodge Neon starts as low as
\$9,630 after \$400
college grad
cash back.**



An Automobile Magazine '95 "All Star." Cab-forward design, dual airbags, 16-valve, 132 horsepower engine.

Dodge Avenger starts as low as
\$13,476 after \$400
college grad
cash back.**



Dual airbags, double wishbone suspension, dual overhead cam, 16-valve engine.

Don't forget to ask about '95 college graduate finance plans available to eligible customers through Chrysler Credit. ★



The New Dodge

See Your Friendly Dodge Dealer Today.

*Ask for eligibility requirements. NA with certain other offers. **Base MSRP after \$400 College Graduate Cash Back. Includes destination. Excludes tax. Base models may have to be ordered. Always wear your seat belt.

**DN
RETROSPECTIVE**
The year in review!
LOOK FOR IT
On the stands May 2

DOUGLAS THEATRES

Movie Info:
441-0222
Call for Showtimes!

PRESS:

- ① ◆ CINEMA TWIN
- ② ◆ DOUGLAS 3
- ③ ◆ EAST PARK 3
- ④ ◆ EDGEWOOD 3
- ⑤ ◆ THE LINCOLN
- ⑥ ◆ PLAZA 4
- ⑦ ◆ STARSHIP
- ⑧ ◆ STUART
- ⑨ ◆ COMING SOON

the SIDETRACK

Stop by after the
Big Red party.



Sat.
Open -
during &
after the
spring
game.

935 O Street 435-9171