

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Phillips sentencing moves

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Lawrence Phillips is scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday on two misdemeanor charges in Lancaster County Court.

Phillips, who was charged in September with trespassing and third-degree assault, originally was scheduled to be sentenced Friday. However, Judge Jack Lindner granted a continuance in Phillips' case this week because his attorney will be out of town and unable to prepare for the sentencing hearing.

Phillips, a Nebraska I-back, was convicted of breaking into teammate Scott Frost's apartment and assaulting Kate McEwen, a member of the women's basketball team. Police said Phillips dragged McEwen down a flight of stairs and repeatedly hit her.

The case drew national attention when Phillips was immediately thrown off the football team. He pleaded no contest and was reinstated to the team Oct. 24.

Prosecutors have said Phillips likely will receive probation.

Drunken drivers

Lincoln police are cracking down on drunken drivers during the holiday season. Additional officers are placed on the streets at random sobriety check points.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, 16 people were arrested for driving while intoxicated. Police also arrested two minors for violating the .02 blood-alcohol content law.

For the next three weekends, additional officers will be patrolling the city for suspected drunken and drugged drivers.

UNL receives grant to study climate's effect on ecosystems

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

The National Science Foundation has awarded UNL a \$500,000 grant to help analyze how climate change influences ecosystems in the Great Plains.

The grant, to be shared with Colorado State University, will help researchers understand how small-scale land-use changes could affect large-scale ecosystems, said Bill Easterling, director of the Great Plains Regional Center for Global Environmental Change at UNL.

Researchers will look at deliberate and natural land-use change. Natural ecosystems as they adapt to global warming and other climate changes that occur will also be studied, he

said.

Easterling said researchers would start by talking to farmers, ranchers and local resource managers to help them understand factors that control the way land is used.

More intense studies of smaller regions in the Great Plains are planned.

"In the past, we tended to look at big, global-scale climate changes and their possible impacts on large regions," Easterling said. "But we've never really gotten down to the sub-county level and tried to understand exactly how land-use change decisions are made with respect to the weather and climate variations."

The addition and subtraction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will also be studied during the three-year project.

Traffic

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firm in charge of the new design, is looking at how to reroute traffic during construction, said Rich Ruby, district engineer.

Motorists could use Highway 6, West O Street, the I-80 27th Street exit, Highway 77 and extensions on K and L streets, he said.

Diverting traffic from the lane under construction to the lane not under construction was suggested, he said. That would mean the lane not under construction would be temporarily converted to a two-way road, he said.

But this "head-to-head" traffic would cause problems during the highway's peak morning and afternoon rush hours, Ruby said.

Gottula said it would become impossible to get a tow truck or medical equipment through I-180 under those circumstances.

"There would be a lot of traffic jams," he said. "People wouldn't know what to do."

Lincoln's downtown system of one-way streets also creates a problem, he said. Parts of one-way Ninth and 10th streets would have to be made into two-way streets, and some businesses along Q and R streets could be shut off.

Either way, the construction will affect businesses downtown and in the Haymarket.

Lou Shields, president and CEO of the Downtown Lincoln Associa-

tion, said the construction might deter tourists from the Haymarket.

The association was worried about bringing in tourists, she said, so it suggested a plan to keep at least one southbound lane open during the construction. A northbound detour would be less of a problem.

In the end, the Haymarket could benefit from the construction, Shields said, because the plan includes a pedestrian underpass at Ninth and T streets from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus.

Kim Todd, campus landscape architect, said the construction would affect the university in ways other than traffic congestion on football Saturdays.

It would disrupt a parking lot west of Ninth Street used by UNL students but not owned by UNL, she said. She also said UNL wanted to make sure the detour would not send traffic on 16th and 17th streets through campus.

Detour maps will be sent out in admissions and information packets, she said, so campus visitors can find an easy route to campus.

A media blitz in Denver, Omaha, Grand Island and Valentine also will warn people of the changes, Gottula said, and signs on I-80 will direct motorists to alternate routes.

People interested in the project can attend an open meeting from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Ramada Inn Convention Center in the Haymarket.

ASUN

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vice officer," Cauble said. "We hope to have two to three more officers by the end of the year and I'd like to have 18 total."

Cauble also discussed helping RHA and its escort service by contributing services and a golf cart.

"We would be able to donate a few radios to allow them to communicate without having to pay for cellular phones," he said. "We're also plan-

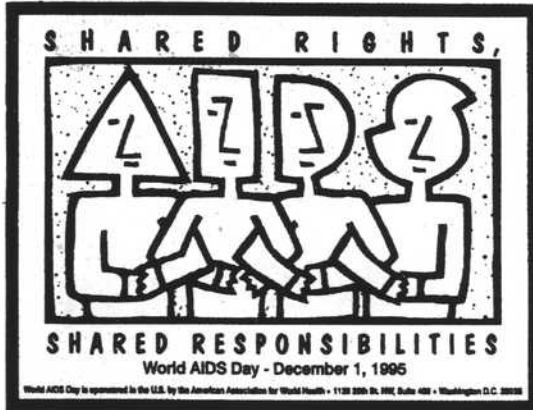
ning on selling three used squad cars, the profits from which will go toward buying four new golf carts."

In other ASUN action, the senate passed a bill thanking Residence Hall Association President Philip Chillers for his long service to the university and another stating that professors should state all requirements for courses on the syllabus and should not add requirements at a later date.

<http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/>



UNL World AIDS Day Activities



World AIDS Day - December 1, 1995

FREE Red Ribbons!

FREE Love Safely Packets!

Just stop by the World AIDS Day Information Booth at the NE Union, 10-2 p.m.

State Capitol Lights Dimming!

From 6:45-7 p.m. (CT) the lights at the State Capitol will be dimmed in conjunction with the White House's lights dimming.



Sponsored by PERSUNL (Peers Encouraging Responsible Sexuality at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln), 472-7440. PERSUNL is a University Health Center Program.



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