

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 95 NO. 91

THURSDAY

27°

WEATHER:

Today - Windy & colder.
North wind 20 to 30 mph.
Tonight - Blustery & cold.
Low near 5 to 10.



January 25, 1996

Computerized cruisers empower police

TransPulse technology provides UNL officers with instant information

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Police at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have cutting-edge technology as a new side arm.

That side arm is the TransPulse in-car computer and it could help police solve more crimes, respond to calls more quickly and fight crimes more safely. Officers also will be able to stay on the street longer.

Computers are being installed in six university police vehicles, Sgt. Bill Manning said, and all six should be on-line by April.

The computers, created by Transcript International in Lincoln, would provide officers instant access to information and communication right in their vehicles, Manning said.

"This car is becoming a very expensive office," he said.

The university police were the first to use TransPulse computers for law enforcement, Manning said.

The computers, integrated with high-powered radios, can send messages between cruisers and headquarters, Manning said.

The messaging capability cuts down on radio time and saves work for the dispatcher, he said.

After the dispatcher sends a call out on computer, the information appears on the officers' screens, Manning said, so they don't have to call back to have an address or description repeated.

The computer allows the dispatcher to send a call out to every computer, so every officer can look out for a suspect, Manning said.

With less radio traffic and confusion, people calling for police assistance will not have to wait as long, he said.

The computer also keeps police and parking records on file so officers can access them from their vehicles instead of calling the dispatcher for information or returning to headquarters, Manning said.

An officer investigating a suspicious vehicle, for instance, can cross-reference the license plate number with past reports to determine if it was stolen or vandalized.

The officer also can look up intelligence reports to find tips or clues that could help solve a crime, Manning said.

Manning said he hoped to add links to the National Crime Information Center and Nebraska Crime Information System. Officers could see if a vehicle or individual was wanted nationally or statewide.



Travis Heying/DN

Corporal Carl Oestmann of the UNL Police Department drives around campus Wednesday in a cruiser equipped with a new high-tech computer.

Officers should know, for safety reasons, if the person they're contacting is a wanted criminal, he said.

A detachable keyboard also would let officers enter incident reports in the cruisers. Then they could stay on patrol in case anyone needed assistance.

Officers usually return to headquarters a

few times every shift to type in their reports, Manning said.

The computers, which operate by touch-screen and keyboard, will be easy for officers to use, Manning said. He said he could train officers to use the TransPulse for a couple of hours while on duty.

Nelson says license bill needs time

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson said Wednesday he was troubled by the Legislature's failure to advance a bill he said would "put kids first."

Legislators ran out of time Tuesday to decide on LB592, which would automatically revoke the driver's licenses of parents who refuse to pay child support.

But Nelson said in a press conference he was optimistic that both sides would reach an agreement within 45 days.

"Perhaps the parties are going to be able to get together and resolve some differences," he said. "Maybe not all parties, but those who are sincerely interested in seeing something go through the Legislature this year."

"The truth of the matter," Nelson said, "is that opponents of the bill have given deadbeat parents, or non-custodial parents who don't pay, the license to continue to ignore their responsibility."

Nelson said mishandled visitation rights often were used as an excuse to not pay child support.

"In difficult situations today, we see young people squeezed in a parental power play," he said. "So it's the interest of the kids we have at heart here first."

Sens. Chris Beutler of Lincoln and Curt Bromm of Wahoo flanked Nelson at the Capi-

See **NELSON** on 6

3 proposals for union plaza made to ASUN

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

A fountain spraying water into its center, a rock bed interspersed with water jets and a permanent stage are among the features that could be part of a replacement for Broyhill fountain.



Design plans were presented Wednesday night to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. Neal Dean of Sinclair-Hille & Sasaki Associates is the chief architect for the project.

The first design calls for a circular fountain with jets shooting water into the fountain's center.

The second would be a bed of rocks interspersed with high- and low-level jets vertically propelling water.

The third design would be similar but more uniform and much more spread out, with the rock bed fountain extending the width of the Nebraska Union.

All three designs are still in the proposal stage.

Kim Todd, campus landscape architect and interim director of physical campus planning, said designs could borrow elements from each other and additional ideas could, and probably would, be incorporated.

"When looking at these design plans, the most important focus is what the water will do," Todd said.

ASUN must also consider what will be exposed during the winter.

"Broyhill fountain has a lot of exposed elements after we drain it for the winter," Todd said. "We want to find a design that will make this an attractive feature all year long, because it is cold during the academic school year"

See **ASUN** on 6

Study: Teachers lack sex education

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

A lack of sex education in college might mean future teachers can't properly prepare to handle real-world classrooms and problems, according to a study released Wednesday.

Researchers from the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States found that because of a lack of required sexual education classes for students in teacher's colleges, the nation's teachers may be ill-equipped to deal with AIDS, sexuality and gender issues in the classroom.

The survey was conducted at 169 colleges and universities nationwide. At least one school from each state was included, said Debra Haffner, president of SIECUS.

Thirty-eight states require sex education in their elementary or high schools, but few teachers are trained to teach sex-education courses, the

study found.

Health teachers or school nurses are usually slated for the job, Haffner said.

One in seven colleges require health education classes, but they are not focused enough to cover all important sexual issues, she said.

No universities or colleges require teaching students to take a course about AIDS education, she said, and only 1 percent of sex courses offered are "comprehensive."

Classes defined as comprehensive by SIECUS included those that include aspects of human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health and society and culture issues, Haffner said.

At UNL, Teacher's College students are required to take Health 100, a broad-based health course that touches on women's health and sexu-

See **STUDY** on 6

Ready for the Real World ?

Of 169 colleges and universities sampled from 1993 to 1995, 87 percent offered at least one health course and 90 percent offered a sex education elective to education majors.

However:

- Only one in seven schools required health education for all education students.
- Only one in eight offered a health course with AIDS in the description.
- Only 1 percent of sex education courses offered were considered comprehensive.
- Not one school required AIDS education.

Source: Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States