

# OUT LIKE A LAMB?



Scott Bruhn/DN

Just when you thought it was spring ... Wintery weather struck again Sunday night and Monday morning with snow, ice and high winds. Wind-chill temperatures reached 40 below in some areas. Relief is on the way, though, as temperatures will reach into the 40s and 50s by Wednesday.

# Media play roles in democracy

By Michaela Pieler  
Staff Reporter

Showing a political candidate's positions instead of his personal life presents a challenge to the American media, a UNL journalism instructor told international students Monday afternoon.

Voters no longer make their decisions on the basis of party affiliation but on the candidate as an individual, said Charlyne Berens, faculty member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's news-editorial department.

"We know enough about the candidates' families, their favorite food and about the question whether Bill Clinton can lose any more weight," she said.

Berens participated in a panel discussion, which was part of the International Affairs office's American Democracy Program for international students. Other panelists included Mike Stricklin, UNL journalism pro-

fessor; Kathleen Rutledge, city editor of the Lincoln Journal Star; and Kent Wolgamott, entertainment writer for the Journal Star.

Journalists must keep in mind which role they play in a democracy, Rutledge told about 30 people in the Nebraska Union.

Voters cannot attend all political meetings, she said, so the media must represent them.

"We have to ask questions on behalf of the public," she said. "We have to make sure public officials are doing what people want them to do."

Journalists in a democracy apply their own intelligence and experience to analyze events for their readers.

"We are not just stenographers," she said.

Only citizens with some background knowledge can make informed voting decisions, she said.

"How else should they know whom to vote for?" she said.

Yenbo Wu, director of international student programs at IA, asked the panel how journalists could claim their information always was objective.

Berens, former co-publisher of the Seward County Independent, said the media never could be objective.

"We don't live in a vacuum," she said. "All we can do is try to be fair and always show our reader more than one side."

Opinion statements should be restricted to the editorial pages of a newspaper, she said.

Stricklin said extreme news, however, had a better chance to be reported.

"The media tends to focus on the extreme, like on Pat Buchanan," he said. "Bizarre tales are always more likely to be told. Journalists have a 'gee-whiz' attitude."

# Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

## Police investigation leads to drug bust

### NARCOTICS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County drug unit made the first arrest Friday in one of the city's largest narcotics investigations.

Lincoln Police Lt. Duaine Bullock, who is leading the investigation, said police seized 5 pounds of amphetamines from a location near 48th and Van Dorn streets. Its estimated street value is \$200,000.

"That's probably the largest I can remember seeing in Lincoln," he said.

Undercover police bought 3 pounds of amphetamines from German Muralez, 28, who was arrested on suspicion of delivery and possession of narcotics, Bullock said.

Muralez was arraigned in Lancaster County Court on Monday and charged with possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver. He is being held on \$50,000 bond.

Police then served a search warrant for a garage near 70th and A streets, where they found 2 pounds of amphetamines, Bullock said.

The Lincoln Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Lancaster Sheriff's Office and Omaha Police have worked on the investigation for the past few months, Bullock said.

Bullock refused to give details about the investigation, which is still

pending, but said police would probably make more arrests this week.

### ASSAULT

A Lincoln teen-ager was stabbed during an argument at a pool hall on North 27th Street on Saturday evening.

My Duong, 23, entered the pool hall with a large knife and allegedly lunged at 17-year-old Viet Tran, according to police reports.

Tran dodged the blow but still suffered a cut to his back, police reports stated.

Police later apprehended Duong, who fled the scene. He was arrested on suspicion of second-degree assault.

### BURGLARY

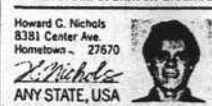
Burglars broke windows to get inside two businesses on South Street on Friday night.

Burglars broke into Hillis Phillips 66 Service Station, 600 South St., and took a battery starter kit and cash from the register for a total loss of \$310.

Nothing was taken from Tina's Cafe, 616 South St., but burglars did \$500 damage to the front glass door.

— Chad Lorenz

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