

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

VANDALISM

Tire tracks on the lawn and damaged property were all police found at Lincoln East High School where vandals used a vehicle to do \$1,000

damage. The damage included three light poles, five chain-link fence posts, a biking trail sign and wooden garage door, according to police reports. Police believe the vandalism was done between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning.

Students choose Kelter as 'outstanding educator'

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

The verdict is in: Paul Kelter is the UNL students' choice of "outstanding educator."



The award was bestowed on Kelter, a visiting associate professor of chemistry, at Wednesday night's inauguration of the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska.

Kelter said he was surprised but pleased that he received the award.

"There is nothing like your students saying that what you do is valuable," he said.

Students voted for their choice of "outstanding educator" as part of the ASUN elections. A separate ballot asked each student to write in the name of the instructor they felt was "outstanding."

"This year we wanted to point out an educator who really made a difference," said outgoing President Shawntell Hurtgen, "and at the same time have students know that their evaluations matter."

Kelter said that summing up what made an "outstanding" educator was difficult.

"Defining good teaching is not something you can do easily," he said. "Let me just say that it's something that comes from the heart."

Teacher background-check bill advances with little opposition

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Department of Education soon will be able to gain access to criminal histories from the FBI on out-of-state applicants for teaching certificates, if a bill advanced by the Nebraska Legislature passes.



Senators sent Hastings Sen. Ardyce Bohlke's bill to final reading Wednesday with little opposition.

"Currently we can only do background checks on Nebraskans," Bohlke said. "It only makes sense to get the information of potential teachers who we know very little about."

Current law says criminal background information cannot be disclosed by the FBI unless state statutes are enacted to provide for the disclosure in connection with licensing or employment.

Sen. John Hilgert of Omaha said more than 500 applicants could be affected each year by the bill.

"And think of the number of kids they would teach," he said.

"The intent is to enhance the safety and confidence of the public and this important profession."

SEN. JOHN HILGERT
Omaha

"The intent is to enhance the safety and confidence of the public and this important profession," said Hilgert, who co-signed the bill.

Twenty-one other states have similar legislation, Bohlke said, but some applicants — "those out there who shouldn't be teachers" — have looked for states without the law.

Currently, Nebraska state teaching certificates can be revoked or applications denied if a person is convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor dealing with sexual misconduct, abuse or neglect.

Sen. David Bernard-Stevens, a former high school teacher in Papillion and North Platte, said the bill was an "insult to teachers."

"The goal is laudable," he said. "You don't want child abusers in the classroom."

But the North Platte senator said

the law shouldn't be restricted to the teaching profession.

"Why not do it for all people who work around children," he said. "Day care, nurses, administrators?"

Bernard-Stevens said while senators may have shown great support for the bill, he questioned how sincere they were with their vote.

"I don't see why teachers are picked on as the source of all these evils," he said.

Before the bill advanced, senators adopted an amendment that would allow the NDE Commissioner discretion on applicants.

"The applicant would have the opportunity to ask to see the records and then could ask for a hearing to explain the situation," Bohlke said.

The bill is expected to go through the final reading with little opposition.

Tax questions? Call TeleTax for recorded information on about 150 tax topics, 24 hours a day.



Attention

1996 Cornhusker Marching Band Auditions for New Members April 13, May 4, June 1 and June 8

First round playing auditions consist of a prepared solo (your choice of music), sight reading and major scales. The marching audition will take place in August. All academically eligible UNL students welcome to audition. Call 472-2505 for more information or to set up an audition appointment.

THE NEBRASKA UNION, EAST UNION, AND CULTURE CENTER ARE NOW ACCEPTING OFFICE SPACE APPLICATIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1996-1997

Applications are available in Suite 220 City Union and the Office for Student Involvement in the East Union.

IMPORTANT DATES TO CONSIDER:

- March 29 Application deadline for priority consideration (5 p.m.)
- April 2 Meeting, Nebraska Union Board, City Union, 6:15pm (Organizations invited to present concerns to the Board)
- April 9 Union Board Operations Committee presents its recommendations to the Board, City Union 5:30 p.m. (Organizations invited to attend)
- April 23 Final vote by Union Board concerning space allocations, City Union, 5:30 p.m.

Applications must be returned to Suite 220, City Union, by 5 p.m. Friday, March 29, 1996. Address any concerns to Frank Kuhn, Assistant Director of Nebraska Unions, Room 220 Nebraska Union (472-2181). Applications for East Union may be turned in at the Office for Student Involvement, East Union, by the same deadline, 5 p.m. Friday, March 29, 1996.

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