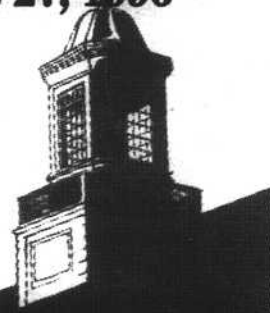


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COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 3

Picking up



RYAN SODERLEN/DN

JIM OSTERBUHR carries buckets of cement used to secure metal poles for a fence that will be north of Burnett Hall. The fence is being built in preparation for the building's renovation. See story on page 6.

Former UNL official files discrimination suit

By **CHAD LORENZ**
Senior Reporter

A former affirmative action officer is suing the University of Nebraska, saying he lost his job because he was a white male.

Martin Munn is asking for \$350,000 in a civil suit filed in federal court earlier this month.

Munn's complaint states that he was forced out of his position as the initial full-time affirmative action/equal employment opportunity officer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1991.

Munn agreed to take a reassignment in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, but later realized he had been "predestined to fail" in his new assignment, the complaint stated.

Munn accepted the new position because he thought then-Chancellor Graham Spanier wanted a minority in the affirmative action position instead, the complaint states.

When Munn started his job at the College of Journalism and Mass Communications in 1992, he was responsible for part-time teaching and

writing grants. Munn was unprepared for his duties and received no training or assistance, according to the complaint.

Also, the college did not give Munn adequate office space or equipment, did not appoint him to a faculty committee or give him an annual teaching evaluation, the complaint stated.

Munn attributed his poor working conditions to hostility on the part of Will Norton Jr., dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, the complaint stated.

Munn alleged that Norton indicated hostility toward him in 1993. Munn's complaint stated the hostility stemmed from a past discrimination complaint against Norton, which was filed while Munn was affirmative action officer.

Norton said he had no knowledge of any such contact with Munn and that he was not hostile toward Munn.

Munn is seeking \$350,000 for lost wages and benefits, mental anguish and humiliation.

John Wiltse, general counsel for the university, said he had not yet received the formal complaint and summons. The case probably would not go to trial for another year, if at all, Wiltse said.

Arrest of UNL freshman solves wallet-theft mystery

By **CHAD LORENZ**
Senior Reporter

A rash of more than 20 wallet thefts at the Campus Recreation Center last spring was cleared up this summer with the arrest of a UNL freshman.

Daniel Weyer, 19, of Seward, was responsible for 26 thefts since Jan. 1, from the men's locker room, University of Nebraska-Lincoln police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

Weyer used credit cards from 10 of those thefts to charge \$4,867 in cash advances and merchandise, Bushing said.

After arresting Weyer in one case of credit card fraud, Bushing followed Weyer's trail to solve the other thefts, Bushing said.

A little detective work by a vigilant sales clerk

at Stereo West helped Bushing's pursuit.

"The clerk did an excellent job," Bushing said. "Without him, we still may be chasing this guy."

Weyer was initially arrested on May 16 for trying to use a stolen card at Stereo West, 4011 O St. Bushing gave the following account of the arrest:

Weyer used a newly stolen card to purchase some stereo equipment, but the clerk wasn't able to process the card and gave it back.

Weyer used the store's phone to call his work and tell a manager he would be late. Weyer told the clerk he would return and left the store.

The clerk became suspicious, followed Weyer out and recorded his licence plate number and a description of his car.

The clerk then used the re-dial button on the phone to find out Weyer worked at McDonald's.

Please see **CARDS** on 6

Administrators seek solutions to dropout rates

Schools form support groups for freshmen

From the Associated Press

OMAHA — Freshmen face a big challenge this fall when they take on college and university curricula, but the schools are just as concerned about their challenge — keeping those students around for a sophomore year.

Records show that one in four freshmen do not return to their sophomore year at college. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln manages to keep all but 25.4 percent of its freshman class around for a second year. Other state colleges and universities are not so fortunate.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's withdrawal rate is 42.3 percent, Peru State 42 percent and Wayne State, 39 percent. Colleges and universities are trying to do something to improve those retention rates.

"All the research shows that the big thing is to get them from that first year to the second year," said Dorothy Weber, director of the Wayne State Col-

lege Learning Center.

Classes teach study skills and describe resources such as the library, counseling and health centers. Orientation programs focus on academic advising and schools encourage opportunities for new students to form bonds with organizations or groups of other students.

"People don't leave when they feel connected," said Thomas Thielen, Iowa State University's vice president for student affairs.

Melissa Caccamo, who became a freshman at Wayne State College this week, experienced a hint of that connection when she visited the small college with a friend last winter.

"Students just stopped and asked if they could help us," said the 1996 Millard South High School graduate. If she perseveres, she would be the first in her family to graduate from college.

"I kind of don't know what to expect," she said. "I'm nervous about meeting the roommate and about getting homesick."

"We have a serious problem. I think we can cut it in half."

JAMES MOESER
UNL chancellor

But James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at UNL, said Monday that most students' decisions not to return for their sophomore year could be traced to more concrete reasons: grades and money.

"If you survey students on any college campus, the main reason they're going to give you for not returning will be finances."

Finances alone often do not lead to students' withdrawal, Griesen said.

Please see **DROPOUT** on 6

Here Today...

Below are the withdrawal percentages for freshmen in the 1994-95 school year, at several Nebraska colleges.

School	Percent withdrawn
Peru State	42%
Chadron State	29%
Hastings	26.8%
Nebraska at Kearney	23%
Creighton	16.9%

Source: AP