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Moeser begins plan to strengthen UNL

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Students, hang on to your desks — some of your classes are about to get harder.

When UNL Chancellor James Moeser took his position earlier this year, he vowed that he would make a degree from UNL "mean something."

He said he wanted employers, graduate schools and professional schools to see a degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a badge of success.

To ensure that, Moeser said, UNL needed to do three things: raise admission standards, make sure courses are rigorous and demanding and reinvent the honors program.

Starting in the fall of 1996, UNL changed its admissions standards to include more college preparatory courses. Before this fall, students ac-

cepted to UNL had to have an ACT score of 20 or better, rank in the top half of their class or have 10 core college preparatory courses under their belts. Now, students must take 16 specific college preparatory courses as well as meet the ACT or class rank requirements.

Because UNL is a land-grant, public institution, it has been said that the standards are unfair to Nebraska high school students who may not meet the criteria. But Moeser said the main purpose of the standards was to force high schools to better prepare students.

"I don't think it's a good use of taxpayers' money to let students in who are not prepared to do collegiate work," he said. "We can almost predict failure."

The admission standards were not made to keep any students out of UNL, said Lisa Schmidt, director of admissions.

"No one will be denied," she said.

"We may just defer their admission until they gain additional academic preparation through correspondence courses or a community college."

Schmidt said some students who did not meet requirements would be admitted on a case-by-case basis. For example, a student from a very small school who graduated fifth in a class of six with a 3.5 GPA would be admitted, despite not meeting the class rank criterion.

Only about 2 percent of new freshmen and transfer applicants did not meet those standards this fall. But compared to some other Big 12 universities, UNL's standards are pretty lenient.

At Texas Tech University, students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class need to score a 22 on their ACT, and the top 25 percent of high school graduates need to get a 25 ACT score. At the University of Missouri in Columbia, the average ACT score of freshmen applicants accepted is a

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24. At the University of Colorado, the median GPA of new freshmen is between 3.2 and 3.7.

On the other hand, Kansas state universities admit anyone who graduated from an accredited Kansas high school.

Moeser said he didn't have plans to toughen admission standards again. But, he said, admission standards prob-

ably are not what need to change to make UNL graduates more esteemed.

"I'm more concerned about change of the internal character of the university itself," Moeser said. "It's not just a matter of raising the admission bar, it's making sure the curriculum of the university is rigorous."

Please see MOESER on 6

Kicked out



JUNIOR UNL SOCCER PLAYER Tanya Franck fights for the ball with an Oral Roberts University player Friday night. The Huskers won 5-0

Ex-NU coach files lawsuit against Lacey

FORMER LINEBACKERS COACH Kevin Steele seeks \$1 million for comments made in a Sports Illustrated article.

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

Former Nebraska Linebackers Coach Kevin Steele is suing Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey for alleged defamatory comments made in a Sports Illustrated article.

Steele, who now coaches for the Carolina Panthers in the National Football League, is seeking \$1 million because Lacey's statements caused "substantial damage."

In addition to the federal lawsuit, Steele's attorney has filed a \$1 million tort claim in Lancaster County Court that makes the same allegations.

The complaint did not specify the nature of the damage.

Lacey's comments in the September 1995 issue of Sports Illustrated dealt with a .22-caliber handgun used by Tyrone Williams to shoot at an occupied car in January 1994.

Williams, who now plays for the Green Bay Packers, pleaded no contest to a felony weapons charge and misdemeanor assault last week. His sentencing is set for Nov. 19.

The article reported that Steele kept the weapon while police were still investigating the incident. The article did not identify a source for that information.

Lacey told a Sports Illustrated reporter that the handgun should have been given to authorities immediately, but Lacey never mentioned Steele's name in the article.

Steele said that he demanded a retraction from Lacey in a letter dated Sept. 26, 1995, but Lacey declined.

Neither Steele nor Lacey's attorneys were available to comment Monday.

Robert Grimmit, Lacey's attorney, said last week that Steele's complaint was groundless.

"We view this complaint as lacking in merit and will vigorously defend Gary Lacey," Grimmit said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Weekend fraternity party results in MIPs

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

Three busloads of UNL students were cited as minors in possession of alcohol near Blair Saturday night.

Blair police, with help from the Washington County Sheriff and State Patrol, ticketed at least 36 minors after stopping buses traveling to a fraternity party. Minors in the buses were drinking liquor and beer, police said.

Members of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and their dates, totaling about 100 people, were riding in chartered buses to Tekamah for a barn party, president Scott Moller said.

Blair Police Chief Marvin Doeden said police stopped two of the buses near an Amoco gas station at 19th and South streets in Blair.

Police had received complaints from residents living near the gas station that the students were urinating in their yards, Doeden said.

When the officers entered the bus, they saw open bottles of liquor, and cans and bottles of

beer, he said.

Everyone on the buses was given a Breathalyzer test, Doeden said, and Blair police issued 25 tickets for minor in possession.

One person was cited for providing false information after giving police a false age, he said.

The third bus was stopped by State Patrol and Washington County officers north of Blair, Doeden said.

Trooper Eric Grosseohme said the State Patrol issued 11 tickets for minor in possession. All minors with a trace of alcohol on their breath were ticketed, Grosseohme said.

Washington County Sheriff Loren Jones said he did not know how many MIPs his office issued. Jones said he thought the total number of tickets issued by all agencies was about 50.

Moller said the incident was unfortunate for the members and their dates.

The trip was an alternative to drinking on campus, Moller said, and safer than risking lives with intoxicated drivers.

"
They kind of did selective enforcement of their own policy."

SCOTT MOLLER
Lambda Chi Alpha president

Some Lambda Chi Alpha members talked to attorneys and thought some charges may be dropped because of the way officers handled the incident, Moller said.

On one bus, officers issued MIPs only to minors who registered above a .02 blood-alcohol level, Moller said, while on another bus, minors with any trace of alcohol on their breath were ticketed.

"They kind of did selective enforcement of their own policy."