

Comet flies through sky after 4,000-year trip

BY DAVID WELCH
Staff Reporter

Amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp spotted a comet in the summer of 1995 that is now making its path across nighttime skies.

For the next three months, Hale-Bopp promises to be the most sensational sky display in almost two centuries, astronomers say.

Because Hale-Bopp only returns into view every 4,000 years, professional and amateur astronomers alike are fascinated about witnessing this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Amateur astronomer Julie Hennings, freshman business administration major, said she is eager to view the comet.

"I think it will be really neat to see, from what I've heard it's supposed to be exciting."

Don Taylor, associate professor of physics and astronomy, said four factors determine if a comet will be spectacular and stand out in the night sky. Those are: a comet's size, age, its proximity to the sun and its path by Earth.

"These things are all favorable in this case," Taylor said.

He said Hale-Bopp is 20 miles in diameter and thousands of times more dense than last spring's periodic comet Hyakutake, which gave a good show.

In each pass by the sun, comets lose a lot of ice and dust. Because Hale-Bopp only flies by earth every 4,000 years, much of the

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astronomy professor

comet's material in intact. Because of this, Taylor said, the comet maintains its splendor. In February, Hale-Bopp will be visible in the morning sky, just above the eastern horizon. Hale-Bopp will be at its closest to Earth on March 23, during a partial lunar eclipse. This eclipse should make it easier to see, Taylor said.

"What people need to do is find some published charts and start looking for it," Taylor said. "Once you find it, it's pretty easy to keep track of."

Hale-Bopp will start appearing in the evening skies during the latter part of its journey into Earth's inner solar system. The best dates to view Hale-Bopp will be March 28 to April 10 and April 26 to May 9.

Away from the glare of city lights, Behlen Observatory near Mead has a large telescope for a free public viewing of Hale-Bopp on April 11, from 8 to 11 p.m.

And before it's visible in the night skies, Hale-Bopp and comet tracking charts can be found on the World Wide Web at <www.Skypub.com>.

Student parking employees cross path of peril on job

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Brandon Stolle goes to class and has a job just like any other student. But people throw trash cans and scream obscenities at him when he goes to work.

His co-workers have been assaulted, spit on and threatened for doing this part-time job, which 25 students use to get through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Stolle is a parking cadet, employed by Parking Services. Parking cadets enforce the university's parking rules, and can be the first to bear the brunt of people's frustration.

Parking Services Manager Tad McDowell said 98 percent of the people who break the rules are "fairly mellow" when they find a ticket on their car. He said he could empathize with the 2 percent who get verbally abusive, or worse.

"It's understandable," he said. "It's no one's best day to come out and their car is being impounded."

"Everyone expresses their anger differently."

Expressions of anger have included:

- One student who was assaulted.
- A cadet who had his feet run over by a car.

- One cadet who had a pizza thrown at him.

- Several cadets who have had car keys thrown at them.

- People locking themselves in their cars to try to prevent cadets from towing the car.

- People getting in their cars and speeding away to avoid getting towed or ticketed.

- One man who started kicking and punching his own car.

Other people have spray painted meters, yanked them out of the ground and broken the gate arms on reserved lots. Still others write obscene letters to parking services — an estimated 40 per month.

"It just really varies," Stolle said. "Some people just go off."

"There are thousands of cars a day that go by that don't get a ticket. They could be one of them."

McDowell said Parking Services finds itself in a bind between its duty and public opinion. He said its workers' jobs are to maintain the parking lots, keep emergency routes through campus open and enforce the rules of campus parking.

Parking services sells permits to make the money needed to maintain the lots and provide shuttle service on campus, he said. But, McDowell said, some people try to skirt the rules and, as a result, get tickets.

"Unfortunately, some people decide they are not going to pay those tickets, or can't, and we have to impound those vehicles," McDowell said.

"We go from a minor but important reason to be here," he said, "to being the big ogres that some on the



MATTHEW WAITE/DN

DOUG WAGNER puts a warning on a truck whose window was down and parking tag was gone.

campus believe us to be."

Doug Wagner, the cadet supervisor, said the students are just trying to do their jobs.

"They're not there to pick on anyone or take out vengeance on anyone," he said. "They don't get any thrill out of writing tickets. It's just a job. It's just like going to McDonald's."

And, Wagner said, many of the perceptions of parking cadets are not true. He said cadets do not target anyone or any place.

"We're equal opportunity," he said. "Everyone in violation is going to get cited."

And there are no quotas, he said. "I wouldn't care if they didn't write a single ticket in a day," he said. "I would have questions why they didn't write tickets."

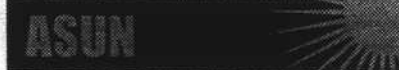
"A perfect day on campus would be no tickets because nobody parked wrong. There never has been a perfect day on campus."

Wagner, who as supervisor is called in when someone gets abusive, said students need to read their parking rules to get along on campus.

"I'd just as soon talk to someone until I'm blue in the face so they wouldn't get another ticket."

Fraternity, employment addressed by ASUN

BY KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter



After three government bills, four appropriation bills, one senate bill, a senate resolution and a bylaw change, Wednesday's meeting of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska was finally adjourned.

The meeting also featured two guest speakers.

Larry Routh, the director of career services, spoke to the senate about how Career Services was helping students find employment after graduation.

Routh said that new measures, such as sending resumes online and contacting companies on a national scale, were gathering impressive results.

Also in attendance was Eric Crump, chairman for advocacy and race relations for the Afrikan People's Union.

Crump, who attended last week's ASUN meeting to address the Sigma Chi cross burning, outlined the six areas Sigma Chi had violated within the Student Code of Conduct.

The violations Crump outlined in the code of conduct included: the unlawful possession of alcohol, the unlawful possession of firearms, dangerous conduct, disruption of university "operations, activities or functions" and harassment.

"I think it's clear on face value that there were violations of the code of conduct," Crump said.

Crump asked ASUN to consider these violations and pass legislation acknowledging they occurred.

In other ASUN news: ■ Government Bills No. 16 and No. 17 were unanimously passed, addressing bills currently within the Nebraska Legislature.

■ Government Bill No. 16 supported LB857, a bill addressing de-

ferred maintenance. ASUN supports the bill, which will give the university \$5 million in funding for the renovation of buildings on campus.

The university originally asked for \$10 million, but ASUN President Eric Marintzer said securing \$5 million was essential.

"If this bill is not passed, I believe that the cost will be put on the back of the students in the form of student tuition increases," Marintzer said.

■ Government Bill No. 17 addressed LB504, a bill that Marintzer described as "legislation that puts tenants at an extreme disadvantage."

LB504 doubles the amount of time that a landlord can demand a security deposit from one month to two months. The bill also requires that if a tenant wishes to legally contest a landlord, legal action must be taken within five to seven days. That figure was previously 14 days.

ASUN passed the Government Bill No. 17 unanimously, opposing LB504 and instructing Government Liaison Committee members to lobby against the bill.

■ Appropriation Bills 1 through 4 also were passed unanimously, approving the budget increases requested by the Lied Center for Performing Arts, the Daily Nebraskan, the University Program Council and ASUN.

■ Bylaw Amendment No. 3 was approved, making part-time students eligible to serve on ASUN subcommittees.

■ Senate Resolution No. 4 was approved with a voice vote, authorizing a survey on campus safety to be distributed and its results to be acted upon.

Candidates to partake in 4 debates

BY KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

Although ASUN candidates wanted to keep the number of election debates low, both parties agreed Wednesday to have more than they originally wanted.

At an Electoral Commission meeting for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, the possibility of five debates was discussed. ADVANCE presidential candidate Curt Ruwe and Scott Brauer, presidential candidate for KEG, both agreed that the number was too high.

They agreed instead to take part

in four.

Previously Brauer said he wanted to participate in two debates and Ruwe said he wanted to participate in three.

Tentative dates for the four debates were announced at the electoral commission meeting.

Two of the debate dates are certain.

The first debate will be March 4 at 4 p.m. at the Nebraska Union, Crib and will be sponsored by the Innocents Society, Mortar Board, Golden Key and the Political Science Honorary Board.

The Young Democrats and College Republicans will sponsor the second debate on March 6 at 12:30

ASUN Elections

p.m. in the Crib.

Another two debates will take place at dates not yet finalized. The debates will be sponsored by 10 student organizations, which expressed interest in the debates last Wednesday.

One will be sponsored by the Teachers College Advisory Board, 4-H Club, and the Residence Hall Association. It will be held either March 5 or in late February.

The other will be sponsored by the Afrikan People's Union. The tentative date set for this event is March 7.