Programmers prepare UNL boasts new for 2000 coding issue

By Josh Funk Staff Reporter

Though 2000 signals a wave of technology think it's 1900.

equipped to handle the change in cen- stored in their memory. turies as the digits of years change from 1999 to 2000.

line of code that relates to dates in be tediously corrected by programcomputer programs. When the pro- mers. grams were written, programmers used a two-digit entry, the last two digits of a year, for the date.

So at 12:01 a.m. in 2000 those twodressed this problem in its Winter and the new system. 1997 University of Nebraska Computing Services Network newsletter.

Don Sand, a special assistant with the University of Nebraska Computing Systems Year 2000 task force, is working to eliminate the problem in turn of the century.

"There is no silver bullet to fix the problem," he said.

Also, some older personal computto the memory function on a car ste- university. reo. It saves the system configuration until the power is turned back on.

This glitch will affect systems with not far away," he said.

ongoing databases such as health and personal records and systems that date computations because computers could generate negative ages.

The problem might not be limited new technology, it could make today's to computers. Other household appliances such as microwaves and wash-Many of today's computers are not ers could be affected if they have a date

There is no quick fix for this prob-The problem stems from a single code with the erroneous date in it must lem either. In software, every line of

All the information that is saved in the two-digit format must be converted to a four-digit format, or prodigit counters will reset to 00 or 1900. grammers must develop a program to The University of Nebraska ad- act as a bridge between the old system

Sand said most computer users might be in for a shock.

'They don't realize the impact of this, or they just don't see it as a problem," Sand said.

He said the biggest problem is to all university computers before the find all areas affected by the change, and the university is working hard to address the problem now before it becomes too late.

UNL Vice Chancellor for Informaers have 1980 as the start number in tion Services Kent Hendrickson said their BIOS chips, which are similar the issue was a concern for the entire

We are trying to make sure that we deal with it now because 2000 is

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with disabilities feel at home and ca-roundings, she said. pable in the university, and its ability to help all students learn better with she said, but without adaptive techtechnology.

Randy May, a 1993 UNL graduate, said he came to the university in minimum requirement. 1987 from Springdale, Ark., when he heard about Horn and UNL's center to assist students with disabilities.

pairs his mobility and speech, but he to another person. communicates well with the help of

a typical mouse.

"If I needed to work on the computer, at night or on the weekend, Christy (Horn) would come in and open up the center just for me," May said. "If she knows you are trying, she will go the extra mile."

bachelor's degree in political science, the improved work output. he said. May, 35, now works as a re-

Horn said May was a shining example of the type of student the would like others - like May - to

Smart students with disabilities often feel they cannot overcome obstacles to its increased ability to help students their contributing in academic sur-

> All students have a contribution, nology, those with disabilities could spend all their time to complete the

A few years ago, students who could not type or write an assignment because of mobility impairments May has cerebral palsy, which im- would have to dictate the assignment

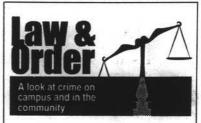
Now special keyboards and voice adaptive technology, such as the spe- recognition software help such stucial keyboard and joystick instead of dents typewrite a class assignment on a computer.

> Unlike dictating assignments, students have freedom to change any part of the assignment without absorbing another's time, she said.

The resulting independence is a That mile helped May complete his boost to students' morale, as well as

Horn said she hoped the center search analyst, and said he was happy could help all students learn better the center's new facility will allow through its research in teaching and Horn to assist more students with dis- learning methods, and its wide range of adaptive equipment.

"I love my lab," she said, and



ARREST

Omaha police arrested a Lincoln bank robbery suspect at a roller skating rink in Omaha Saturday for parole violations.

Edward Schrader, 27, is a suspect in the Friday robbery of the Union Bank and Trust Company, 3643 S. 48th St.

On Friday at 9:30 a.m., a man went into the Lincoln bank and gave a note to the bank teller, who gave him an unknown amount of

Omaha police got a call Saturday from someone at a roller skating rink in Omaha who recognized Schrader, Lincoln Police Capt. Steve Ott said.

Schrader is being held in Omaha for the parole violation. Ott said they have not arrested Schrader in connection with the robbery, and the investigation is continuing.

UNL professors return

ALBANIA from page 1

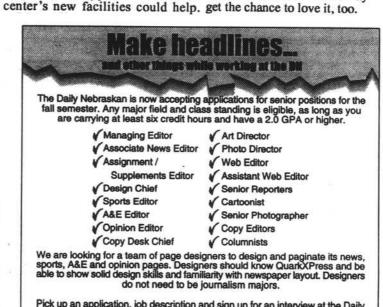
night, just after Gupta had been notified by the U.S. Embassy that he would leave via airlift within two hours. Lee said he later called back to the hotel where Gupta was staying, but Gupta had checked out.

At 9 a.m. Friday, Lee heard a report that the Albanian airlifts had been Hambley were safe. Hambley plans to suspended because of dangerous gunfire on the planes.

"I was really a nervous wreck," Lee said. "I was worried about their safety."

For hours, Lee did not know if the two professors had escaped successfully or had fallen to the gunfire that had stopped the airlifts.

Relief came at noon, when Gupta called from Italy to announce he and return to UNL after visiting family in Philadelphia.



Pick up an application, job description and sign up for an interview at the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union. Applications are due March 21. Interviews will begin March 31. And don't forget, applications for current staff positions are always accepted. UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admission or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations regarding the same.

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