

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

DOMESTIC ASSAULT

A woman was held prisoner and beaten throughout the night by a man she checked into a local hotel with last weekend.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said the 34-year-old woman reported to police that on Saturday she and David Parson checked into the Budget Host Inn Great Plains at 27th and O streets.

The woman said Parson became upset with her and started hitting her in the face and head. He then would not let her leave, and beat her about the head and face throughout the night.

The woman went to St. Elizabeth's Hospital and was treated and released for bumps and bruises to her face, two black eyes and a swollen forehead.

Officers booked the 33-year-old Parson for false imprisonment and third-degree assault. Parson lists his address at 110 Q St., which is the Lincoln City Mission.

Panel says tenure ensures quality faculty

Some say public misunderstands hiring procedures.

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Although the tenure system contains flaws, the tenure system remains important to ensure academic freedom, members of a panel discussion on campus said Tuesday.

Members of a panel at the Wick Alumni Center agreed tenure was necessary to attract good faculty to the university and to protect faculty with unpopular but important ideas. The public misunderstands the purpose of tenure, and mistakenly views it as lifetime job security, the panel said.

Panelists also agreed that faculty currently undergo review to varying degrees, and many may not need a stricter review.

They debated what constituted a reasonable review of performance and what level of performance was unacceptable.

Panel member Richard O'Brien,

vice president for health sciences at Creighton University in Omaha, said universities have a responsibility to the students and community that supports them to check the quality of tenured faculty.

Faculty members should be required to maintain the same extraordinary level of performance they achieved when they were first granted tenure to keep their status, O'Brien said.

"We do apply very high standards to young faculty," O'Brien said. "Performance reviews should be strict."

Panelist David Moshman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of educational psychology, said the requirements to obtain tenure are extreme, and tenured professors might not meet all requirements every year.

Tenured professors should not be kicked off staff, he said, because their contributions might change from specific tenure requirements in teaching and research publication.

Even if the public doubts the quality of some tenured professors, tenure should not be viewed as a guarantee of employment regardless of performance.

"The public should go after those who give stability rather than those who have it."

ROBERT HALLER
UNL English professor

"That's certainly not what it is," he said.

Tenure should be viewed as a reversal of the burden of proof, Moshman said. Non-tenured faculty members must work to prove themselves worthy of tenure. After tenure is granted, the burden of proof shifts to the university to prove they are unworthy.

Every faculty member should be reviewed, he said, adding that his department had a systematic and rigorous review system.

Robert Haller, UNL English pro-

fessor, said the public misunderstanding of tenure was unfortunate. People with little job stability are misguided in seeking to disrupt the job security of others, he said.

"The public should go after those who give stability rather than those who have it," Haller said.

Haller said hiring more part-time faculty and less tenured faculty was a "formula for a loss in quality" that tight budgets seem to require.

Panelists said universities should work to find an appropriate balance between ensuring academic freedom and quality, while reviewing tenured faculty. They said there would be no easy answer to the tenure debate.

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