

Alcohol-free chapters demanded by fraternity

From Staff Reports

Phi Delta Theta fraternity's international office has demanded all its houses be alcohol free, University of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter members said Wednesday.

John Sullivan, UNL chapter adviser, said the UNL house had only briefly discussed the declaration, but the house was already dry as required by university policy.

"I think it's a good thing," he said, but "it doesn't concern our house." Mitch Riley, chapter vice presi-

dent, said the declaration would only have an effect on the chapter if it broke UNL's no-alcohol rule and was reported by a campus security officer.

The chapter then would be penalized by Student Judicial Affairs and also would suffer sanctions from its international fraternity, he said. Right now, the chapter would not face punishment from the fraternity, he said.

Sullivan said the province president of the international fraternity planned to visit the UNL chapter in two weeks. He said did not know if the reason for the president's visit was the new dry policy.

Merger backed by regents

UNMC from page 1

Association announced it wanted to buy Clarkson Hospital several years ago, the university cited a 1953 agreement that UNMC would have first dibs on buying the oldest hospital in Omaha. A lawsuit was filed as a result.

Now, unnecessary animosity exists between the two neighboring hospitals, Allen said. This animosity will dissolve if the two Omaha hospitals enter a joint operating agreement, he said, complete with an enclosed walkway between them.

"It's better to have people working together," he said. "They both have things that the other needs."

Both Miller and Allen said the agreement would eliminate duplications in staff and resources between the two hospitals, which are across the street from each other.

This would save money for both Nebraska taxpayers and hospital patients, they said.

Miller said the regents have not yet officially discussed the partnership, but he would be very supportive.

UNMC spokesman Tom O'Connor said there were a lot of details to be hammered out in the proposal agreement, much of which will occur if and when the regents approve the measure. Neither organization's existing assets

are included in the possible agreement, he said.

The new corporation will be governed jointly by UNMC and Clarkson staff on a 12-member board of directors, O'Connor wrote in a statement. Six members of each staff will be included, as well as two nonvoting members — the dean of UNMC's College of Medicine and the yet-to-be-named CEO of the corporation.

Allen said Clarkson's current CEO, Louis Bergher, would be an excellent candidate for CEO of the combined corporation. Bergher helped turn Clarkson from a hospital losing doctors and money to a "modern, money-making machine," Allen said.

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Wiccans celebrate start of spring

WICCA from page 1

gions, said Wicca didn't have a defined dogma and was different for all participants.

The importance of the vernal equinox may be a universal Wiccan belief, but would be individually understood and practiced, she said.

"Deity is a personal concept," Harris said. "Some people use the Greek gods, some the Native American gods, it's a very personal thing."

A different direction

Harris said that although Wiccan ceremonies were participant-specific, some basic symbols, tools and actions provided a general framework used by all.

All Wiccan ceremonies begin by "casting a circle," or creating a circular space in which the ceremonies' participants are protected and their energies contained, Harris said.

The action involves honoring and invoking the four directions — east, south, west and north — and the four elements — earth, water, air and fire. Often, the circle is physically outlined with stones, herbs or incense sticks.

Harris said reasons for drawing a circle varied according to the ceremony's participants, but could include seeking protection, enlightenment or — in the case of the Order of the Red Grail — honoring spring's arrival.

"The general theme would be cel-

ebrating nature's resurrection, the return of spring," Harris said. "It's actually a pagan Easter."

Jason Blodgett-McDeavitt said the Order of the Red Grail would privately celebrate spring's arrival through the Persephone myth on Saturday.

"It's a living religion, not static," Jason Blodgett-McDeavitt said. "It's tied to the earth and, therefore, it is very natural for it to progress. Some groups will do the same thing every year. We like to change and grow as our group does."

A public discussion and ritual are scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A St.

Between The Lines

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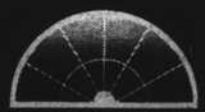
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Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE

A 16-year-old boy drew a blade, which he made in his cell, on an Attention Center employee while trying to escape early Tuesday morning.

The boy asked an employee for a glass of water at 1:45 a.m. Tuesday, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said. When the employee returned, he opened the door to hand it to the boy. The boy then slammed into the door and ran past the man.

Heermann said the boy ran to the exit door, only to find it locked. He came back and demanded the keys from the downed employee.

The employee refused, Heermann said, and the boy drew a blade made from a piece of Formica. The boy raised the blade, commonly known as a shank, at the man but did not strike, she said.

Police officers arrived, and the boy was taken into custody without incident.

The Attention Center, 2220 S. 10th St., is a juvenile detention center.

The boy was cited for assault by a confined person and attempted escape.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT

A husband and wife were both cited in a fight that resulted in the man getting stabbed in the face and a neighbor getting slapped.

Police were called to 4721 Briarpark Drive when a neighbor called 911. When police sorted it out, Heermann said, they found the following:

Darrell and Debra Jordan got into a fight in their apartment, reportedly over Darrell Jordan's drug use. The fight became physical, with both of them punching and

kicking each other.

At one point, both fell to the floor. Debra Jordan then grabbed a knife that was on the TV stand and slashed his left cheek.

Darrell Jordan then ran into the hallway, calling for help. He knocked on a neighbor's apartment door, holding a blood soaked towel to his face, and asked the neighbor to call 911.

The neighbor went into her apartment to call 911 when Debra Jordan appeared at the door. Debra Jordan said something to her husband, then slapped the neighbor across the face.

Police arrived and cited both Debra and Darrell Jordan for third-degree assault. Debra Jordan was booked for second-degree assault and use of a weapon to commit a felony for slashing her husband with the knife.

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