

## Unbelievable!

For the first time in school history the Nebraska women's gymnastics team earned a spot in the NCAA Super Six. NU scored a 196.025, beating Utah on a tiebreaker. **PAGE 7**



## Clawless 'Cat'

Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait will bring his manic brand of stand-up comedy to the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room Saturday night. **PAGE 9**

April 18, 1997

SUMMER KISS

Partly cloudy, high 80. Chance of rain later, low 45.

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## Meter accuracy winds down on R Street

Faulty timing needles stick students without minutes, money to spare

By **JOSH FUNK**  
Staff Reporter

More than one-third of the parking meters along R Street bordering City Campus don't give students the time they pay for, a Daily Nebraskan investigation found.

All 103 parking meters on both sides of R Street from 12th to 16th streets in front of Nebraska Union were each plugged with a quarter, and the time the meters allotted was recorded.

Meters are supposed to allot one hour per quarter, 24 minutes per dime and 12 minutes per nickel.

But 31 percent of the meters registered less than 60 minutes for a quarter, and 43 percent of the meters lost minutes as they counted down; however, meters also have played in favor of drivers with 30 percent registering more than 60 minutes after depositing 25 cents, and 35 percent gaining minutes as they count down.

About 39 percent registered the correct time, and 22 percent kept the correct time.

Meters are enforced and emptied by the Lincoln Police Department, but they are maintained and serviced by the Lincoln Public Works Department, where traffic engineer Larry Brage oversees their operation.

"I am disturbed by these figures. It is not our job to shortchange people," Brage said. "A meter should give you at least 60 minutes for a quarter."

Of the meters that were incorrect, 15 registered less than 60 minutes per quarter, and 19 lost five minutes or more keeping time. There were 28 meters that registered more than 60 minutes per quarter, and 32 that gained time.

Thirty-seven registered 60 minutes, and 20 kept the correct time.

These figures do not include the eight meters that were out of order because they were stuck on 90 min-

"It is not our job to shortchange people. A meter should give you at least 60 minutes for a quarter."

**LARRY BRAGE**  
city traffic engineer

utes or could not be plugged because an object was jammed in the slot.

### Winding down

Inside each of the city's parking meters is a mechanical device similar to a wind-up wristwatch with a hair-spring to keep the time, Brage said. The coin trips the spring and winds the clock to start the countdown.

When a meter is having timing problems, the serviceman must open the meter and replace the timing mechanism, so he can take the questionable timer back to the shop for testing, Brage said.

There are a few things that could cause the timing to be off, including worn pieces or meters that need adjustment, Brage said.

Until a few years ago all the meters along R Street were one-hour meters, Brage said. The timing gear was then changed for 90-minute meters. Now, the department is debating the benefits of digital meters.

"We are considering going to a meter without a handle to turn or maybe a credit card system," traffic engineering technician Alan Lee said. "But those meters wouldn't necessarily be more accurate than the ones we have now."



MATT MILLER/DN

**SOPHOMORE BUSINESS MAJOR Jeff Albertson puts money in his meter on R Street Thursday afternoon. Albertson said he has noticed that the meters do not always give the correct time, and he said he has accumulated more than 30 tickets in the last two years.**

Meters with worn or broken parts can vary greatly in the time they register. One meter registered 10 minutes after a quarter was deposited. Later, on another trial, that same meter registered 24 minutes. Another meter in the same block gave zero minutes for a quarter.

A different meter registered 42 minutes when the quarter was deposited. Then the time ran out in 35 minutes.

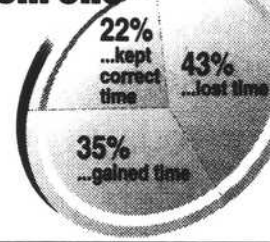
After inspecting the data from a particularly erroneous meter, Brage said that the meter could have the wrong timing gear inside. He said the only difference in the city's different meters — from those that record 10 minutes to 10 hours — is the timing gear.

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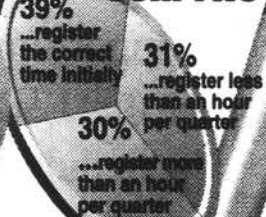
### Bad timing

The Daily Nebraskan kept records of 103 parking meters along R Street; eight were out of order. Coin One shows the percentages of meters that gained, lost or kept the correct time. Coin Two is a breakdown of how the meters measure time once a quarter is inserted.

#### Coin One



#### Coin Two



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

## Legislature takes no action on prison bill

From Staff Reports

### Legislature

Senators adjourned early Thursday afternoon and took no action on a bill that would create an incarceration work camp as a prison alternative for nonviolent criminals.

LB882, in its second round of debate, would stress counseling and rehabilitation, and includes an after-care program following release from the work camp. It is one of Gov. Ben Nelson's legislative priorities this session.

Sen. Chris Peterson of Grand Island said she wants the facility to be

for juveniles only. She proposed an amendment to postpone debate on the issue for that reason, saying the state had to consider how to best spend its money.

"(Juveniles) have the greatest need and the best chance of reform," Peterson said.

Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek said juvenile offenders were better served in the community and had no business being institutionalized.

The amendment was voted down. The session adjourned until Monday.

## Candidates: personal funds fuel ASUN election success

By **ERIN GIBSON**  
Senior Reporter

According to campaign reports, parties who win ASUN campaigns pay the price — almost \$4,100 over the last two years — most coming from their own pocketbooks.

Losing parties in campaigns spent about \$735 — one-fourth of the winners' total.

Although total spending this year fell to about \$2,070, down from about \$2,720 in 1996, campaigning

is still expensive, said ASUN President Curt Ruwe, who led the ADVANCE party to victory this year.

Getting the attention of uninterested student voters takes a lot of money, he said. The party system on campus raises the cost, he said, because a new name and party platform must be publicized every year.

"It's not a cheap process," Ruwe said. The ASUN abolished campaign spending limits, which were historically violated, after the 1994 campaign.

Ruwe alone reported donating about \$500 to the ADVANCE cam-

paign. ADVANCE senators were each asked to donate \$25, he said.

James Griesen, ASUN adviser and UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said the amount of money spent, when divided by the number of students campaigning, should not keep students from being able to run for an ASUN office.

If two candidates sought every one of the 35 ASUN senate offices, the per-candidate total would have hit less than \$30 this spring.

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