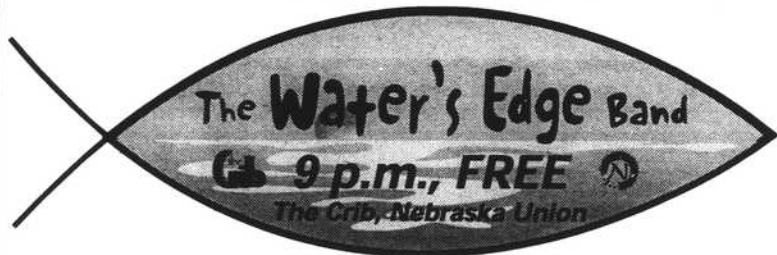


Thursday, Sept. 25



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Parking expected to be easier

By SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

Fewer freshmen may mean better parking for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln residence hall students this year.

Easier parking for students was one topic of discussion at the first meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee, which was held Tuesday.

"With 1,100 less students on campus, things are more in balance, especially in the residence hall lots," said Tad McDowell, Parking Services manager.

The committee also discussed the status of the new parking garage. McDowell said business at the new garage has been slow so far.

"We built the garage to accommodate the overflow of student vehicles," McDowell said. "It will only be a matter of time until we

expect to see the occupancy go up."

Parking Services expects to move into its new offices in the garage on Monday.

McDowell also said the parking lot west of the parking structure is open for any students, faculty or staff who wish to buy a reserved permit for that lot.

"We are making a list of people who are interested in getting a permit to park there," McDowell said.

Committee Chairwoman Linda Swoboda discussed possible goals for the committee.

"I am opening this subject up to the committee," Swoboda said. "Our main goals are to service parking needs, but I think we might want to think about becoming more pro-active."

The committee also discussed possibly having only one safety walk vs. the two traditional spring and fall walks. Swoboda said she wanted to focus the walks more on

certain areas.

"We could consider splitting the walks between the campuses, and only having one a year," she said. "I think smaller groups walking around the campus would be better."

Roger Riefler, professor of economics, said the walks should be based on need.

"We should look at the places on campus that we receive complaints about, instead of looking for trouble spots around campus on our own," he said.

McDowell also discussed some parking lot improvements and the addition of new spaces, which were completed over the summer.

Lots at 17th and Q streets and at 21st and Vine streets were paved, McDowell said. Area 20 parking was also made available on Avery Street.

McDowell said he would discuss further improvements at the next meeting.

2 Iraqi refugees convicted of rape

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later charged.

The girls' father, Salem al-Saidy, entered a pretrial diversions program in April and was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and complete parenting and anger control classes. His wife, Salima, also entered a program that required her to attend family counseling with her daughters and she was only allowed to see them under supervision.

Mario Rojas, who housed the older girl when she ran away, pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor charges — debauching a minor and contributing to the delinquency of a minor — and was sentenced to six months in jail July 12.

The girls, now 14 and 15, are living in state foster care in an undisclosed location. A family reunion is under review in Lancaster County Juvenile Court.

The case brought national media attention to Lincoln, and politicians and pundits hashed over what was being done for the refugees, and if the law should account for cultural differences.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said Tuesday that while the case held a difficult set of circumstances, the law was clear.

"For hundreds of years, the legal maxim of 'Ignorance of the law is no excuse' still prevails in this

country," he said. "Intent doesn't make any difference and consent doesn't make any difference."

The two men's lawyers, however, argued before Flowers' sentencing that both men did not know what they were doing was wrong.

Bob Creager, who represented al-Hussani, told Flowers that in Iraq, the marriage and the ages of the girls would have been legal under Islamic law.

The parents and the witnesses to the marriage encouraged the men, he said, and did not tell them they should not marry the girls.

"He doesn't understand why he's in as much trouble as he is," Creager said of al-Hussani. "He knows he's in trouble."

Cannon told Flowers that both men were unaware of the law.

"Now he knows what he did, and he is sorry," he said of al-Tamimy. "I don't think he came here intending to do anything wrong."

The judge, prosecutors and defense attorneys all said there is a need for cultural and legal education for refugees in Lincoln.

Sanford Pollack, who represented the girls' father, said the case has already educated Iraqis in Lincoln.

"With this, I am sure these types of arranged marriages will not happen," he said.



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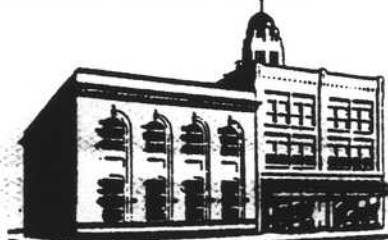
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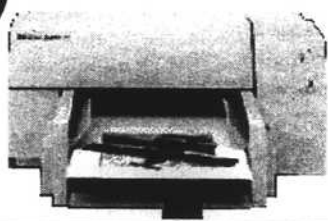
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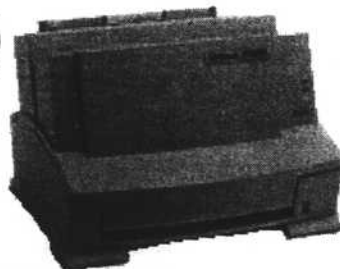
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