



What a racket

Though she originally planned to stay in the U.S. for only a year, German-native Jennifer Thoste is now a senior leader on the tennis team. **PAGE 7**



Puccini! Puccini!

UNL's School of Music is bringing a double dose of operatic works by Puccini to Kimball Recital Hall starting Thursday. **PAGE 9**

February 25, 1998

A GOOD DAY TO SLEEP IN
Chance of thunderstorms, high 52. Windy, low 33.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 97

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 110

UNL speed limits to drop

By JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

By the end of next week, drivers may have to ease up on the accelerator and make more stops as they cruise to campus on North 14th Street.

Or, they can settle for a traffic ticket. Currently, the speed limit is 35 mph on North 14th Street up to W Street, where it falls to 25 mph in front of the Campus Recreation Center. Soon, the

35 mph speed limit will be lowered to 30 mph south of New Hampshire Street. And that's not the only change students can expect to see in the area.

Right turns on red lights will be prohibited for southbound and westbound traffic at the 14th and Vine streets intersection and for eastbound and southbound traffic at 16th and Vine streets.

Several other safety measures already have been implemented.

"(A reduced speed limit) will slow people down earlier," said John

Wiechmann, chairman of ASUN's Government Liaison Committee. "This way we are slowing down traffic before they get to students."

Eliminating right turns on red lights may reduce accidents because drivers will have to slow down and look for pedestrians, he said. Usually drivers are usually looking for traffic, not students, when they turn right on red.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska also had said it wanted yellow flashing lights near pedestrian crossings at 14th and Vine streets.

Rick Haden, public works department operations and maintenance manager, said public works decided against the yellow lights because drivers need to focus on people crossing the street all over, not just at crosswalks.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Dave Harnly said pedestrians who don't obey traffic laws often are not held responsible. The law prohibits crossing the street outside of crosswalks, especially during heavy traffic.

"I can tell you that pedestrian high school and college students tend to think they are invincible and cars will stop for them when they are crossing the street illegally," Harnly said.

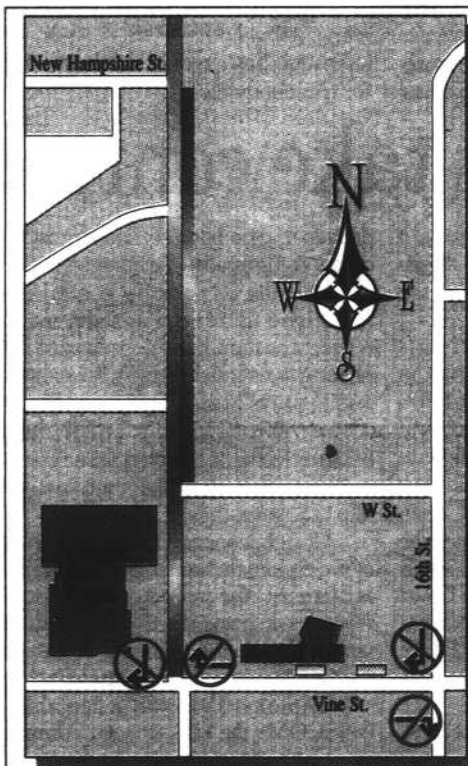
Unless an accident occurs involving a pedestrian who is at fault, pedestrians are rarely ticketed, he said. The same is true in downtown Lincoln, Harnly said.

"The age-old, 'look both ways' that you tell your first- and second-graders needs to be re-enforced," Harnly said.

Within a week after the speed limit and no right turn signs are put in, the Lincoln Police Department will be enforcing the changes, he said, such as handing out \$15 tickets for turning on a red light.

Speeding ticket fines are:
■ \$25 for 6-10 mph the limit.

Please see **TRAFFIC** on 2



- Current Speed Limit 35 mph
- New Speed Limit 30 mph
- Current Speed Limit 25 mph
- Old Bus Stop
- New Bus Stop

Hey there, slow down

New traffic regulations designed to help pedestrians safe include a new speed limit between New Hampshire and W streets to slow drivers before they reach Vine Street. Prohibited right turns on red lights will keep drivers alert for pedestrians crossing the streets.

JON FRANK/DN

Shhh ... she's sleeping



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

SARAH WILHELM, who majors in biology and women's studies, takes an afternoon nap in the Sheldon Memorial Sculpture Garden Tuesday. The weather won't stay spring-like for long as temperatures are expected to fall into the 30s later this week.

Alliance to give voice to Asian-Americans

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

As a Filipino-American, Tani Evans was glad when he heard about the new Asian Student Alliance last spring.

Evans, now secretary of the Alliance, said because he commutes from Omaha, he had not met a lot of Asian-American students.

Many of the Asian groups, such as the Malaysian Student Association and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association are comprised mainly of international students. There is no UNL Filipino group.

The Asian Student Alliance will give more Asian students, especially Asian-Americans, a sense of belonging, Evans said.

The group started during the 1997

involvement

spring semester. About 10 students recruited members, and this year they are working at establishing themselves, said President Linda Tran.

The group will serve four purposes:

- To foster unity and Asian pride.
- To provide a sense of community and belonging among Asian students from diverse Asian ethnic backgrounds.
- To provide a safe and supportive environment for Asian students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- To provide Asian students with a unified voice.

Please see **ASIA** on 6

ACADEMIC RIGOR:

Ascension of academia Faculty say UNL must raise standards

Editor's note: This week the Daily Nebraskan will take an in-depth look at one of the hottest issues in UNL curriculum: academic rigor.

Because it could change the face of the university's education, the DN will examine how it affects incoming students, current students and faculty.

By BRAD DAVIS
Senior Reporter

If faculty and administrators achieve their goal of increasing academic rigor, students can expect to see changes in the classroom.

Essay tests, closely and critically graded writing assignments, and "hands on" research may be commonplace in UNL classes.

But the extra work, administrators

say, will be worth it when students find how much more they learn and discover the added value of a degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

For UNL to remain competitive with its peer institutions and fulfill its mission to educate its students, the university community must unite to create an academically rigorous environment, administrators and faculty members said.

An environment where students and professors are committed to learning, class is the most important topic of conversation and an academic energy and excitement can be felt around campus is not impossible to achieve, Chancellor James Moeser said.

This rigorous environment, he said, includes faculty who say, "we will challenge you to the utmost, but if you

will do your part and work hard, we will work just as hard to help you succeed."

Moeser, who dismissed recent attacks on UNL for its grade inflation, said the central indicator of an academically sound university is not its grades, but instead the challenges it issues its students.

Richard Edwards, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said some people thought a measure of academic rigor was how many students get failing grades.

"We're interested in retaining our students," Edwards said. "We refuse to measure our academic rigor by how many students we flunk out."

Edwards' definition of academic

Please see **RIGOR** on 2