

# Capitol to tow campus vehicles

■ **New charges** are \$45 for a basic tow, and \$25 more if the vehicle must be dollied.

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Staff writer

Students illegally on or near the UNL campus will have less distance to walk to get their cars than in the past, but more to pay.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Parking and Transit Services changed towing contractors in May from Lincoln Land Towing to Capitol Towing.

Capitol Towing's lot is at 921 N. Sixth St., a few blocks north of UNL. Students used to go to Lincoln Land at 410 W. P St. to retrieve cars.

"We help students out - it's only a short walk," said Kevin Anderson, president of Capitol Towing.

But Capitol charges \$45 to tow a car, with an additional \$25 if the vehicle must be dollied. Lincoln Land charged \$35.

After the first 24 hours of impoundment, Capitol charges a \$6 storage fee per day, Anderson said. Students also must pay all parking tickets to get their cars back, he said.

Capitol Towing was the only company to fulfill the university's contract requirements of reliable service, location, lighting and reasonable cost of towing.

Parking Services Manager Tad McDowell said he considered keeping Lincoln Land Towing, but it did not meet the bidding process deadline.

"The new contract will be a good contract for our office and the university," McDowell said. "It was our only choice."

Under the three-year contract, which began in May, Parking Services and the UNL Police Department must contact Capitol Towing if any vehicle is deemed a "common nuisance," McDowell said.

Most vehicles are towed if they interfere with the flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, the use of parking facilities, buildings, loading docks or garbage containers, or are parked in a fire lane or tow-away zone, he said.

"We don't like to tow cars," McDowell said. "But any vehicle in violation or with a 30-day outstanding ticket is subject to impoundment."

Pat Waegli, administrative aide to the Lincoln Police Violations Bureau, said students need to be aware that the city has meters on campus. City meters are on R, S, 16th, 17th and Vine streets.

Waegli said cars will be towed if they are illegally parked or have one or more outstanding ticket violations for more than 15 days.

The city towing fee also is \$45-\$70, with a storage fee of \$6 per day, said Pam Fittje, property supervisor at the Lincoln Police Department.

The city's towing contract is with Independent Towing, which has its lot at 921 N. Sixth St., as well.

McDowell said vehicle impoundments have decreased by 50 percent over the 1997-98 school year, partly because of UNL's centralized billing.

Anderson said in addition to paying towing fees, students must pay all parking penalties and/or fees before Capitol Towing can release a car from impoundment.

"It's important to be timely in payment of parking citations, university or city," Anderson said. "They make all the difference."

# Mooser sets 3 priorities

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to 60 percent.

The university has been successful in attracting high-ability students, Mooser said, but now those students must be challenged to their fullest potential.

Along with increasing the intellectual climate at the university, it's important to continue to look toward UNL's potential for distance learning, Mooser said.

UNL needs to be in a position to respond to the needs of the thousands of adult learners utilizing its distance learning program, he said.

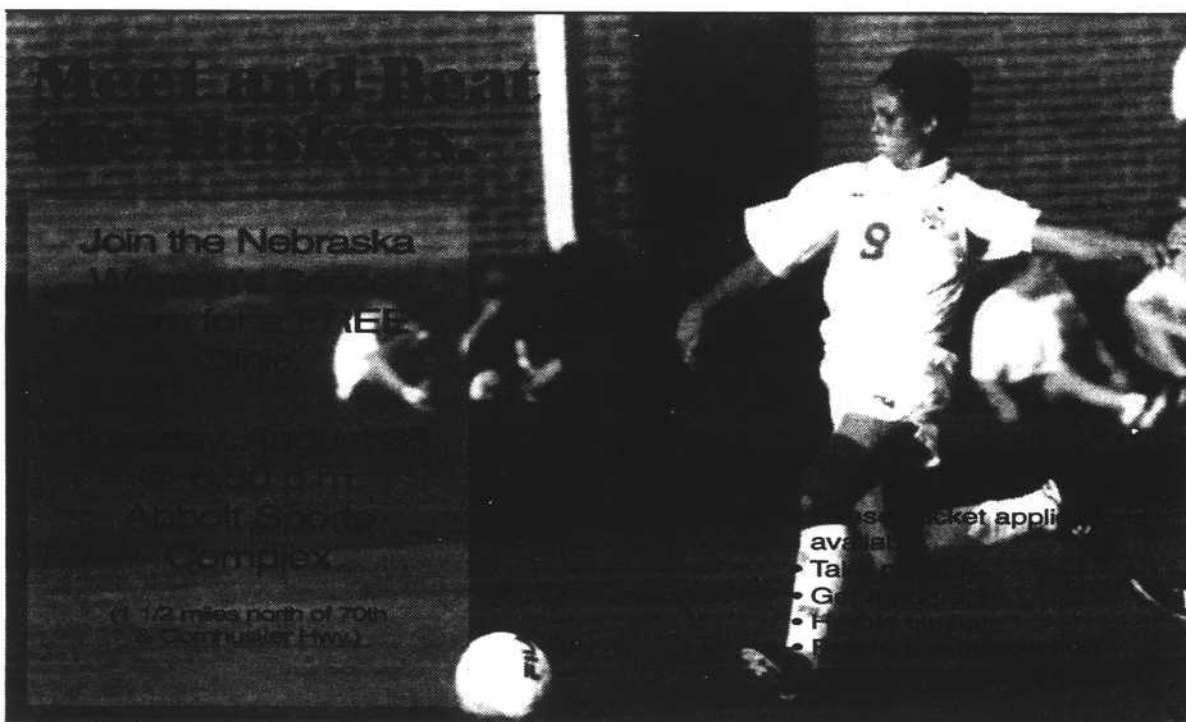
Other points Mooser made during his address were:

- The Faculty Liaison Taskforce

for Diversity has been created to address campus climate concerns. It will be headed by Rita Kean, a professor of textiles, clothing and design.

■ Responding to recent reports about the incineration of American Indian remains in the mid-1960s at UNL, Mooser said the university has been talking with the country's tribal leaders for "advice and counsel on how we can redress this desecration."

■ The passage of a constitutional amendment, which would put a lid on state and local government spending, and could cut \$20 million from the university's budget. The impending farm crisis could have an impact on state revenues, in turn affecting appropriations for the university, Mooser said.



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