

# Low returning numbers indicate group's success, SIT members say

By IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Staff writer

When the Student Impact Team was started last year, organizers were skeptical of the success of ASUN's newest spin-off group.

Three hundred students became members of the organization last September.

Many members attended weekly meetings, while a few decided to leave the group. But most members used SIT as a stepping stone to reach other involvement opportunities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

With only three members returning from last year, SIT is ready to represent UNL students for a second year.

SIT Vice Chairman Jeff Bangert said he is happy to be one of the three returning members of the group.

"It shows us that we did our job," Bangert, a sophomore management information systems major, said.

Carrie Pierce, past SIT chairwoman, said the decline in SIT membership from last year occurred because students became involved in other activities.

"Our primary goal was to get students involved and meet other leaders on campus," Pierce said. "We did it. Students didn't need our help anymore."

Targeting freshmen, the organi-

## ASUN

zation works with the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska to get students involved within the campus community, Jeff Nicholaisen, SIT chairman, said.

"We are a branch of ASUN," Nicholaisen said. "But SIT is not the only way to get involved."

Student government President Sara Russell said ASUN doesn't tell students what to do or what organizations to join.

"Students came to Student Impact Team with real issues," Russell said. "The students themselves act upon their own issues through involvement in other organizations."

Russell said SIT members can make a difference on City and East campuses. Students need to "utilize all possible resources," she said. This includes committee openings and positions in student organizations.

Nicholaisen said this year SIT is pushing for high membership. SIT is looking for members interested in getting involved on campus, he said.

Last year SIT sponsored an ASUN election debate, hosted Pepsi Week activities, conducted a universitywide service project and helped more than 200 students gain leadership and involvement experience, he said.

This year SIT hopes to do the same, but with more students.

"We want to inspire students to accomplish their own goals here at UNL"

KATE HUTCHENS  
SIT vice chairwoman

"If students are looking for something to get involved in, Student Impact Team is an option," Kate Hutchens, SIT vice chairwoman, said. "We want to inspire students to accomplish their own goals here at UNL."

Hutchens said SIT's goals this year include volunteer work, leadership and activity involvement on campus.

Russell said there are many things this year's SIT members can become involved in.

For example, the proposed state spending lid and parking issues, as well as new student organizations, are great avenues for involvement, she said.

"SIT is the ultimate involvement experience," Nicholaisen said. "We're about getting students involved and keeping them involved."

Student Impact Team will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

# Law & Order

## Boys awaiting bus assaulted

Two 13-year-old boys were assaulted as they waited for the school bus Wednesday morning.

Police caught the three assailants Wednesday afternoon, and they were referred to Lancaster County Juvenile services, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

One of the victims told police the three boys, ages 14, 14 and 13, attacked him from behind while he waited for the bus at 25th and R streets.

The other victim told police he saw the initial attack from his house and came out to help.

The attackers responded by striking the second boy repeatedly in the head with their hands and a handgun, which police later found to be a BB gun.

Witnesses told police they saw the three attackers pass the gun to

each other during the attack.

When the bus arrived the driver called police, but all of the boys were gone when police arrived.

The BB gun was found near a large trash bin at 2323 Q St.

Wednesday afternoon police interviewed the two victims with the help of a Vietnamese interpreter.

Then on his way back to the station, the officer saw the suspects walking near Centennial Mall and Q Street.

All three of the boys were charged with assault and possession of a firearm. One boy was cited for possessing alcohol and the other for carrying a concealed weapon.

One of the three boys was carrying an army knife, and another had a bottle of Budweiser beer in his bag.

They were referred to juvenile services before being turned over to their parents.

# Lower enrollment prompts budget cuts

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we'll kindly listen to them."

The budget cuts are necessary because CFA bases fee users' budgets on projected enrollment figures prior to the start of the school year.

But student population figures are lower than those on which CFA based its budgets.

Griesen said overall enrollment is down 1.9 percent for this year.

Last year, UNL admitted 505 fewer students because of tougher admission standards.

Freshman enrollment is up 150 students from last year, he said.

"We are up in freshman, but down overall," Griesen said. "Enrollment was the main reason for budget cuts."

Griesen said many international students also felt a strong "monetary squeeze" from the Asian Currency Crisis, which prevented them from returning to UNL.

The economy that offered students plentiful and good paying jobs was another factor that decreased enrollment, he said.

CFA Chairman Paul Schreier said students pay two types of fees: Fund A fees go to student-run organizations and services, such as student government and the Daily Nebraskan; Fund B fees go to programs and services administered by the university, he said.

"Dr. Griesen was able to spare fund A," Schreier said. "The budgets there seem to be awfully tight already."

Schreier urged students to approach CFA members with questions, concerns and suggestions to where student fees should go.

"As a community we have to utilize our services," Schreier said. "Students need to take a proactive stand in student fees."

# University targets binge drinking

BINGE from page 1

and promotional practices. This includes special promotions boasting cheap, high-quantity alcohol.

But it also includes stepping up efforts to decrease the density of licenses downtown, as well as increasing enforcement of legal occupancy in crowded bars, Casady said.

He said he hopes some of the money from the grant will go toward training employees of bars so they can recognize when a customer has had too much to drink.

Reduce high-risk consumption and serving practices by increasing enforcement at bars and restaurants and at off-campus parties.

Increase student awareness of the risks associated with high-risk and illegal drinking.

This not only includes risks to the student who is drinking, but also to the students around drinkers.

Chris Linder, a student representative on the coalition and former residence hall student assistant, said secondary effects include unwanted sexu-

al advances, drunken driving, sleep disturbances and "baby-sitting," or taking care of drunk peers.

Identify activities alternative to high-risk drinking. Major said the students will play a significant role with implementing this strategy.

Enhance enforcement of the manufacture and possession of false identification. Casady said false identification may not be a big problem, but it is something that needs to be addressed.

With all of the strategies, Casady said, consistent enforcement will be an important factor.

In addition to the \$700,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the NU system has donated \$300,000 toward the effort.

The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety has allotted \$150,000 to prevent underage drinking, and the university will receive \$25,000 from the Pepsi contract to use for similar purposes.

The coalition will spend this year planning, and the program will start at the beginning of the 1999 academic year.

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