



SPORTS

Cook & Bergman

It's not a talk show, but they are one of the best diving duos in the nation. Erik Cook and Danny Bergman are also complete opposites. **PAGE 9**



OPINION

Long-hairs needn't apply

A law student is denied admission into class because of his long hair. Columnist Tim Sullivan debates the issue. **PAGE 5**

FRIDAY

January 22, 1999

IMPENDING DOOM

Windy and cold, high 31. Light snow tonight, low 20.

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Dogs help cops take bite out of crime

German shepherds add canine loyalty to city's police force

By **JOSH FUNK**
Senior staff writer

Two of the newest officers in the Lincoln Police Department were imported from Germany.

Though the two officers don't know many English words, their American partners are not worried about communication problems. They've already learned the 20 basic commands they'll need.

But the two new guys, Kimbo and Unny, are — almost literally — itching to get on the job.

Kimbo and Unny are both German Shepherds, and they are the newest K-9 officers for the Lincoln Police.

The two new dogs were brought in to replace two retiring K-9 officers.

Unny, who already had three years of experience with the Keith County Sheriff's office before coming to Lincoln, would stand expectantly by the door when his partner, Ed Simpson, had to go to work without him.

Unny moved in with Simpson in mid-December, but they could not start training together until this week.

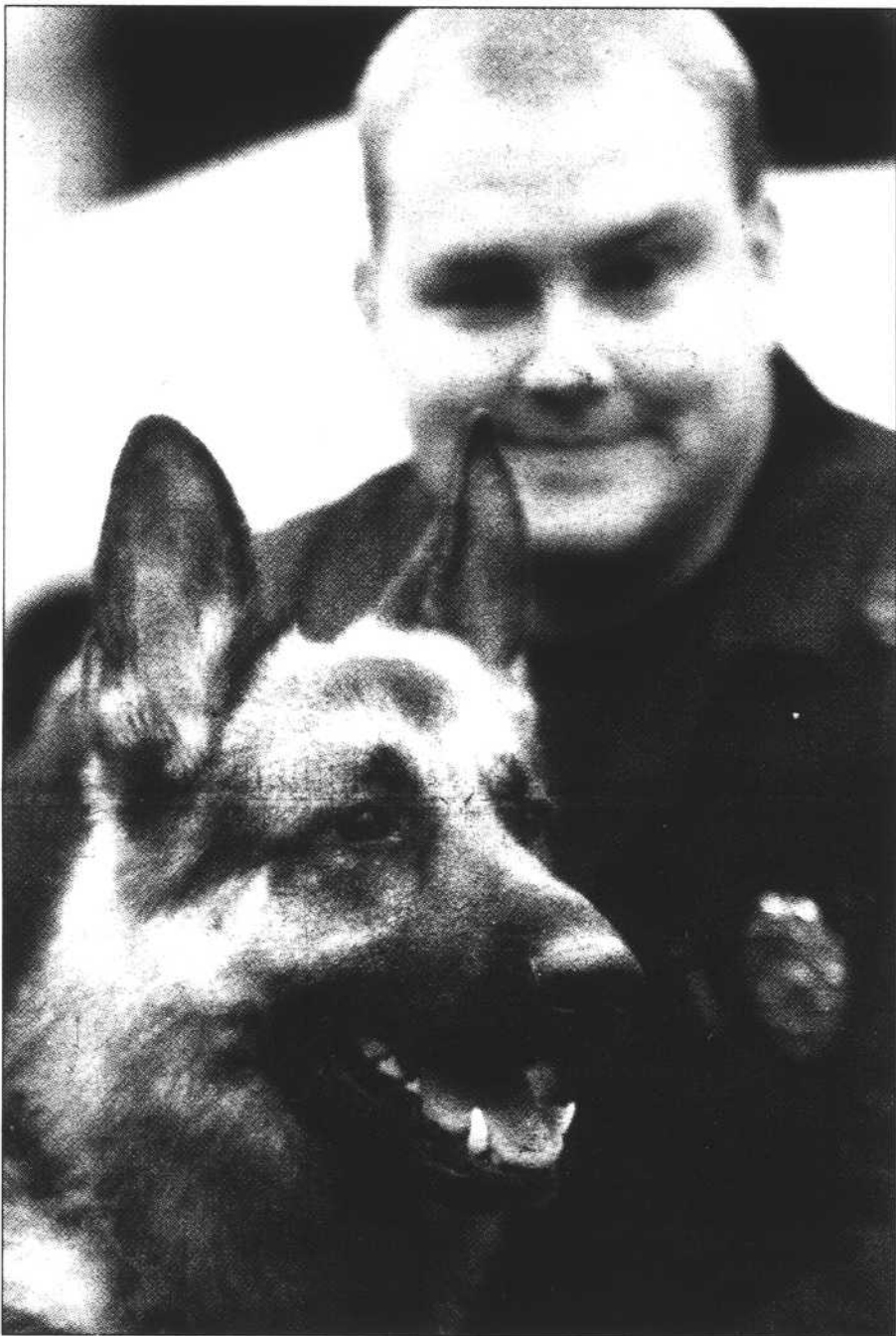
Simpson, an eight-and-a-half-year-veteran, is new to the K-9 team, so he and Unny have started an eight-week training program to learn how to work together.

Lincoln's K-9 program started in 1983, and now there are four dogs on the force, Capt. Al Soukup said.

All of the Lincoln Police K-9s are multi-talented with training in narcotics detection, officer protection, building searches, tracking people and general obedience.

K-9 jobs on the force are hard to come by, Simpson said.

"I've always been interested in dogs and



KIMBO, THE NEWEST member of the Lincoln Police Department, teams up with Officer Tyler Dean to keep the streets of Lincoln free of drugs and criminals.

LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

Please see **DOGS** on 2

Fewer crimes committed on campus in 1998

By **JOSH FUNK**
Senior staff writer

In 1998, crime continued to decline on UNL's campuses, as it has for the last six years.

Statistics released Thursday show fewer incidents of commonly committed crimes.

University Police cite several factors for the decrease in crime including, but not limited to, their programs.

Theft, the most common campus crime, was reported 553 times in 1998 — down from 574 in 1997 and a peak of 978 in 1993.

"I think people are starting to take better care of personal and university property," Sgt. Mylo Bushing said, "and they have been better about reporting suspicious individuals."

Bushing said a few simple precautions could help prevent most of the thefts that occur on campus:

■ Lock up valuables or don't leave them unattended, especially in residence halls, cars and heavily trafficked areas such as the

Recreational Center.

- Make sure valuables are out of sight.
- Be aware of the surroundings.

University Police have been working to take away the opportunity for thieves.

Bushing said police had success with some new surveillance techniques last year to catch thieves operating in parking lots. Larcenies from cars constitute a large number of the thefts on campus each year.

Sixty-three burglaries were reported in 1998, which is down from 75 the year before.

But Bushing credits the Community Service Officers that patrol campus for having the greatest impact on thefts and other crimes since the program started in 1993.

"The presence of the CSOs in academic buildings and residence halls has helped a lot in securing those areas," Bushing said.

There were no first- or second-degree sexual assaults reported on campus last year, though there were five third-degree sexual assaults.

This statistic may not be representative of the sexual assaults on campus, he said,

because they are commonly not reported to police.

"The thing with sexual assaults is that it

Please see **CRIME** on 2

Crime 101

Crime at UNL declined in 1998 in almost all categories.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Assault	35	35	30	26	27
Larceny/Theft	714	683	589	574	553
Alcohol	5	1	11	80	54
Drugs	8	17	21	24	14

Source: UNL PD

JON FRANK/DN

Education bills may increase NU efficiency

By **IEVA AUGSTUMS**
Senior staff writer

This week, state legislators have introduced a series of bills that could ultimately increase the efficiency of higher education in Nebraska.

Senators say they have similar ideas when it comes to restructuring the NU system.

University of Nebraska officials, on the other hand, are unsettled about those same ideas.

"I think one needs to take a look at various possibilities in an attempt to make us far more efficient," NU President Dennis Smith said. "There are many options. These bills are one option."

The Legislature has introduced five bills and two constitutional amendments directly involving higher education and the university this semester.

One bill, LB631, sponsored by Speaker Doug Kristensen of Minden, would make Chadron State and Wayne State colleges part of the NU system. It would also turn Peru State College into a community college.

Another bill, LB561, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Pam Brown, would create the Higher Education Board of Regents by merging the NU Board of Regents and the state colleges' board of trustees.

"My perspective is to have an overall vision for higher education in the state," Brown said. "I think that it is best accomplished with these bills."

Ron Withem, NU government relations director, said the university will have an active role in how higher education will be recognized statewide. Internal discussions about the bills will take place in the near future, he said.

There already have been informal discussions between state legislators and the two boards.

Members of the NU Board of Regents say they believe it is too early to predict the type of impact the bills will have on the university.

"At this point I am going to take a very neutral position," said Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo. "I have not studied the bills; I've only had them explained to me."

Regent Don Blank of McCook said everyone needs to look at the "big picture" before any decision is made.

"We should look at what is the best for the state of Nebraska," he said. "That doesn't mean I support or oppose them; I'm just saying these bills are worth looking at."

UNL Chancellor James Moeser said he could not speak for the NU system or the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but said he personally favors the two bills.

"There is a great deal to commend these bills. What we would have is an efficient form of higher education with equal governance," Moeser said.

Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln agreed.

"My personal view on the matter is everything but negative," he said. "These bills benefit the state."

Wilson said his background as a member of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education from 1984-88 has helped form his opinions.

Under LB631, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education would be eliminated through a constitutional amendment.

"It's the best interest in the state to consider a modification of higher education governance," Wilson said. "This would be a start."

If the two boards merge and the commission is eliminated, Smith said, the new board would be able to handle the number of students effectively.

"A vast majority of students are already at the university, and one governing body would be easier," Smith said. "It would decrease some of the administrative effort — conceivably make us more efficient."

Brown said the timing for these bills couldn't be better.

"The big picture is the millennium — education is a life-long approach," Brown said. "We need to look at what we need and see how education fits in with today."