

Recruiting games

NU Coach Danny Nee practices a recruiting philosophy that pays off but neglects some of the top in-state talent. Part two of the Daily Nebraskan's State of the Huskers report. **PAGE 7**



Writing home

The release of "Guide to Nebraska Authors" confirms more than 700 resident writers and a flourishing local literary scene. **PAGE 9**

January 26, 1999

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

Windy, rain possible, high 42. Breezy tonight, low 30.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 98

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 87

Accused don't respond to Schwebach suit

■ The university advises political science faculty members not to comment on the harassment accusations.

By IEVA AUGSTUMS
Senior staff writer

A tight-lipped atmosphere permeated the UNL political science department Monday, after a lawsuit alleging sexual harassment incidents were covered up behind department doors.

At the advice of university counsel, faculty members would not discuss the case.

"I'm sorry, but I cannot comment," said John Comer, political science department chairman, who was identified in the lawsuit as allegedly disregarding complaints brought to him by an undergraduate in the spring of 1996.

"We have been instructed by the university that all information regarding the case is to be directed to university general counsel," he said.

Graduate students, however, were not told to keep quiet, and some spoke about the department's climate

"Personally, I haven't seen or heard anything that can be considered harassment," said Nancy Heltzel, a first-year political science graduate student. "But I have only been here since the fall."

Valerie Schwebach, a former assistant political science professor, filed a sexual harassment lawsuit Thursday against the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

The lawsuit details Schwebach's allegations of harassment in the political science department soon after she arrived at UNL in 1994 until her resignation in May 1998, as well as information regarding several graduate stu-

dents' sexual harassment complaints.

NU General Counsel Richard Wood said the university was aware of the lawsuit, but he would not comment on it because he said the university had not formally been served court documents.

"Our general policy in this office is not to comment on litigation," Wood said. "When we are served, I can tell you we will file the appropriate proceedings in federal court refuting the allegations."

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brian Foster, who is mentioned in the lawsuit or the atmosphere of the political science department.

"I cannot make any comment because I know nothing about the lawsuit," Foster said. "The only information I know is from what I read in the Daily Nebraskan (on Monday)."

Eric Brown, one of Schwebach's attorneys, said he thought it was odd that some political science professors were unaware of the lawsuit.

"It's very interesting because this thing has been explored in many administrative areas," Brown said. "People should know about, or at least have heard about, the case."

Please see **SUIT** on 2

Up the down staircase



A LONE STUDENT climbs the stairs in the north entrance of CBA on Monday afternoon. Tomorrow, winter coats may need to be traded in for raincoats and umbrellas — there is a 40 percent chance of rain and the highs are expected in the 40s.

MATT MILLER/DN

Underage drinkers could lose licenses

By JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Lt. John Kucer of the Sarpy County Sheriff's Department dreads knocking on the doors of strangers in the middle of the night to tell them their teen-ager has just died in a drunken driving wreck.

But it has been part of his job the last 20 years, he told the General Affairs Committee on Monday as he testified in favor of a bill that would bring an automatic driver's license suspension for those convicted of minor in possession of alcohol.

A minor caught attempting to purchase alcohol would be subject to an automatic license suspension under LB126, sponsored by Stanton Sen. Stan Schellpeper. The bill would also require parental notification of an MIP offense.

The committee did not vote on the bill Monday because Schellpeper planned to meet with liquor retailers, who were opposed to the bill, either today or Wednesday. LB126 would also stiffen penalties for liquor license holders who sell to minors.

Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen, who

"At long last, MIP will no longer be something to laugh about."

DWITE PEDERSEN
Elkhorn senator

has sponsored similar legislation in the past, said receiving an MIP was a joke to many Nebraska teen-agers, and said the penalties were weak and inconsistent. He said he hoped this bill would put an end to that.

"Time and again, kids have told us that the penalties have to be stiff enough to do some good."

"At long last, MIP will no longer be something to laugh about."

Kathleen Tinley, a 17-year-old senior at Omaha's Duchesne Academy, said respect for MIP laws was lacking among teen-agers. The only way to cor-

Please see **ALCOHOL** on 2

Police department up for accreditation again

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

The Lincoln Police Department is hoping to retain its status as one of a select group of nationally accredited law enforcement agencies.

This week the department is being evaluated on more than 300 law enforcement standards as part of a periodic recertification.

Nationwide, 447 of the approximately 17,000 law enforcement agencies, or 2.5 percent, are accredited.

A team of assessors from the

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies arrived Sunday, and will be in Lincoln until Wednesday.

"Accreditation promotes pride and self-confidence within the department," Chief Tom Casady said. "And there is the distinction of being part of a small group."

During its visit, the CALEA team is examining police records and guidelines, interviewing key people, riding with officers and gathering public input.

Monday night the assessors held a public hearing to let citizens voice con-

Please see **POLICE** on 2