

# Engineering students take to the racetrack

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was acquired by the engineering department last spring, said Tom Spilker, director of Engineering Extension in the College of Engineering and Technology.

Spilker and the interns had an engine builder from Omaha do some work on the car rather than trying to do all of the initial engine work themselves.

"These cars are very sensitive," Spilker said, "so you don't just buy this stuff."

After the work on the car was complete, UNL staff member Dennis Smith was appointed to drive the car, and the racing season got under way.

Spilker said the university car - No. 7 - was raced mainly at two racetracks: Eagle Raceway and I-80 Speedway.

Competition in race-car driving differs from most university sports, Spilker said.

"We don't race against other institutions; we race against actual race-car drivers," Spilker said.

That difference eventually led to a major opportunity for the new program.

During one race this summer at Eagle

Raceway, the university crew was pitting beside Ed Kosiski, the 1998 National Champion of the Nashville Winston Racing Series. After the first race, Kosiski's engine went out.

Spilker said the university crew offered Kosiski the use of their car. Kosiski accepted.

Kosiski continued to drive the university car from time to time - once in a State Fair race.

Spilker said Kosiski won the race and became the Nebraska State Champion in the Grand National Class.

With a successful season completed, Spilker said he was optimistic about the program's future.

Spilker said several goals were outlined as the program was developed with the goal of making engineering fun and educational.

Realizing that a race-car program was the ticket, the department researched race-car driving in Nebraska, and the program combining the two elements was developed.

"People in our state love our university sports," Spilker said. "We've also found that motor sports are prominent in our communities."

Some of the program's goals have already

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**DAVID ASTUTO**  
mechanical engineering major

been met, he said, such as participating in a race, developing student internship positions and testing acceptance with the general public.

"The racing community and general public like us. Vendors and other competitors have been very friendly to us," Spilker said.

Other goals have yet to be realized.

The program currently has no corporate sponsors, which are a necessity, Spilker said. Expansion of the program is also a goal.

"We want to get a few more cars. Right now we are still young, still learning," Astuto said. "We want to have seminars and different types of cars. We're in the early stages right now."

Another intern, Chad Seymour, a UNL

mechanical engineering senior, said he would like to see improvements in technology.

"One thing we'd like to do is design some kind of cooling device. It gets pretty hot in the car for the driver," Seymour said.

Seymour would also like to see a sleeker body design and a computer system capable of monitoring certain things such as acceleration and suspension while the car is being driven.

Astuto said he considers his involvement with the program a valuable experience, and he will be back on the crew next year.

"I love it to death. This is my field. This is what I want to go into when I graduate," Astuto said.

# Center gets food careers cooking

**■ Potential entrepreneurs receive assistance and advice about processing business.**

**BY DEREK LIPPINCOTT**  
Staff writer

Selling barbecue sauce requires more than just a good recipe and some spare ribs.

Cooking aside, the technical aspects of marketing and selling a product can often be the hardest part.

But thanks to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Food Processing Center, potential entrepreneurs in the food business have been getting help for years.

Donna Satterthwaite, founder of Heartland's Finest Barbecue Sauce, is just one of numerous entrepreneurs who said the center has helped their businesses succeed.

The center helps potential entrepreneurs handle the everyday problems of the food-processing business.

Since 1989, the Food Processing Center has helped nearly 100 entrepreneurs from Nebraska and across the nation. Seventy-one percent of those

businesses are still operating today, said Arlis Burney, the center's marketing manager.

Burney said the program helped new businesses avoid problems that might cause them to fail.

"The seminar 'From Product to Profit' helps the entrepreneurs decide what steps to take to start their business," Burney said. "Then they can use our technical assistance to help them weed out problems."

Starting a food business with the center's help is a three-step process. Fees for assistance can cost several hundred dollars.

The program offers a seminar covering marketing, business and technical issues as well as labeling, promotional, advertising and pricing strategies.

After that, potential entrepreneurs can receive personal assistance in product and business development.

Entrepreneurs also can get technical assistance, which aims to improve efficiency, productivity and profitability of the new business.

Satterthwaite said she was most appreciative of the program's technical assistance and marketing skills.

"The technical assistance that the program offered has helped me under-

stand food safety to make it a safe product for the consumer," Satterthwaite said.

"In the marketing aspect, they've given me numerous names of stores for contacts and taught me how to advertise."

Although Satterthwaite works only part time on her barbecue sauce business, she said the center has helped her sell 400 cases of sauce per year.

Joyce Stoll, founder of Oriental Secrets, which makes sauces, was also appreciative of the technical assistance.

"We wanted to market our sauces, so we went to the seminar 'From Product to Profit,'" Stoll said. "We had the dream; we just needed help getting over the wall of the technical department."

"(The center) helped us find jars, boxes and even a graphic design."

Stoll, who also owns a Chinese restaurant, said the assistance program helped her sell about 1,800 jars of sauce per year.

"We couldn't have done it without them," Stoll said. "UNL had the staff to hold our hand all the way through, and we wanted them to hold our hand all the way through."



## Suspect sought after shots fired into Lincoln trailer

Several shots were fired into a Lincoln trailer early Sunday morning after one of the trailer's residents finished a conversation with another man.

The residents of the trailer in the 200 block of Countryside Lane reported the shots around 4 a.m., Lincoln police Capt. David Beggs said.

Beggs said the shots were fired between five and 15 minutes after the suspect and the victim concluded an antagonistic phone conversation.

Police were unable to find bullet holes until daylight, Beggs said. He did not know the caliber of the gun used but said the holes caused by the weapon were small.

Beggs said police are looking for a suspect and did not release a name or description.

## Man allegedly burglarizes two cars at Lincoln nightclub

Police arrested a Lincoln man at Guitars and Cadillacs, 5400 O St., after a security guard reported seeing him break into two cars in the nightclub's parking lot Thursday night.

Devon Helmstadter, 25, apparently returned to the nightclub where police arrested him for vandalism and larceny from a mother vehicle.

Officer Katherine Finnell said the security guard saw Helmstadter running from a car after the car's alarm went off.

Compiled by senior staff writer Jake Bleed

# RHA topics include homecoming

**BY JOHN HEJKAL**  
Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association discussed homecoming events and improvements to RHA administration at its meeting Sunday night.

Much of the meeting's focus was on homecoming activities.

"We want to promote homecoming throughout the residence halls and get the residence halls involved," said Liz Ormsby, RHA vice president.

RHA is in charge of the homecoming banner competition, said Jadd Stevens, RHA president.

Two senate resolutions also were passed Sunday.

A bill to allocate \$200 to voice-mail for hall government presidents was approved. A bill was also passed requiring anyone receiving funds to submit a report detailing how funds were spent within a week of the sponsored event.

RHA also addressed the issue of getting regular office hours. It plans on having someone available to answer calls at its office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the week, Ormsby said.

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