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Flag Fiasco

South Carolina's use of the
Confederate Flag ignores history.
OPINION, PAGE 5

Learning Curves

The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery's
exhibits for the semester include two
student exhibits. A&E, PAGE 10



Court to review abortion

■ The U.S. Supreme Court will consider addressing a Nebraska case about partial-birth abortion.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

The U.S. Supreme Court will review a Nebraska petition concerning a partial-birth abortion law and decide later this week if it will hear the state's case.

Among the issues raised by the petition are the interpretation of Nebraska law and a state's rights to regulate abortion without placing an undue burden on the mother.

It would be the first of several cases concerning partial-birth abortions heard by the court and would also help determine the degree to which a state could restrict a woman's right to end a pregnancy.

Nebraska law prohibits partial-birth abortions. The statute has not gone into effect because of a challenge by LeRoy Carhart, who performs abortions in Bellevue.

Carhart filed an appeal with the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, stating that Nebraska's law concerning partial-birth abortions was so vague that it potentially bans all abortions, which is unconstitutional.

Please see COURT on 3

Braving the horde



DESPITE ONLINE booksellers' steadily increasing advertising to college students, many students opted to wait in lines at the University Bookstore on Monday to buy their books. One Web site has started to compare online textbook prices. FOR STORY, PLEASE SEE PAGE 6.

Josh Wolfe/DN

Police: Party detail a success

Fewer problems, disturbances have been reported

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

The crackdown on Lincoln parties continues, and the Lincoln Police party detail program is showing signs of success.

In a press conference Monday, program initiators Sgt. Brian Jackson and Sgt. Terri Lobdell said the project, which began in the fall of 1998, has produced positive results and continues to be successful.

Police said there was a 65 percent decrease in wild party calls from fall 1998 to spring 1999 for the center team section, which patrols the near downtown area.

"I think we've had an impact," Jackson said. "We try to be more proactive than reactive."

The project, known as party detail, was created to help enforce the law at large gatherings and attempt to keep the number of neighbor complaints to a minimum.

It started with a focus of infiltrating parties and maintaining order from within, and as those complaints decreased, police turned their attention to the partygoers themselves.

They are looking to decrease complaints by controlling loud music, disturbances and littering, decreasing the number of people outside and controlling parking violations, Lobdell said.

Part of the detail includes sending plain-clothed officers into parties, so

"We try to be more proactive than reactive."

Sgt. Brian Jackson
Lincoln Police sergeant

police are able to determine if alcohol is being sold at the parties and if minors are drinking.

Once an offense is seen, the plain-clothed officers call for uniformed police.

Sometimes the officers would card people at the parties to make sure they were drinking legally, Lobdell said.

This past semester, officers were denied entrance into a home.

Police said it was a sign of improvement because it showed the tenants weren't letting unknown people into a party.

The officers use tips from neighbors to look for potential party sites and sometimes use neighbors' houses as home bases to watch parties' activities.

"When you have citizens making complaints, it shows they're interested," Lobdell said.

The party detail update showed that during 12 nights, 90 citations were given from August 1999 to December 1999.

These citations included 63 for minor in possession, 11 for maintaining a disorderly house, five for procuring alcohol and five for selling alcohol

without a license.

The previous semester showed 91 citations in a period of six nights, police said.

On Dec. 9, 1999, eight of 24 liquor stores sold to minors during a compliance check.

The update's figures indicated that parties tend to be seasonal, and Lobdell agreed.

The greatest number of problem incidents tend to happen during the football season, especially in the beginning of the fall semester.

The spring semester is not as busy during the winter months but will begin to increase as soon as the weather gets warmer, Jackson and Lobdell said.

The officers also want to make sure the hosts know that they are responsible for their guests. Even if the hosts don't know the guests, they are responsible for anything that happens in their homes.

The owners, if 21 years or older, could be cited for procuring if minors are caught drinking, but other guests of legal age would not be charged, Lobdell

Please see PARTY on 3

Johanns, senators support mentoring

By Veronica Daehn

Staff writer

In Scottsbluff, high school students help out at downtown businesses to see what the work force is really like.

In Lincoln, young adults shadow workers at United Airlines to learn more about life than they ever would in a classroom.

And in Ogallala, a program called M-Team provides child care for young mothers while they take classes.

Gov. Mike Johanns said it's time for the state to help support these programs.

To do that, Johanns wants the state to dish out \$1.5 million in general funds.

"The money I'm proposing is literally an investment in the future," he said.

If legislation introduced Monday by Omaha senators Jon Bruning and Mark Quandahl were to pass, mentoring and programs called "school to career" would grow with the additional money. Under Johanns' initiative, \$2 million would be used to support school-to-career programs across the state.

An additional \$1 million would be used to support statewide mentoring programs.

State funds would pay for half of

the \$3 million, Johanns said, and the other half would come from local organizations involved with the programs.

Mentoring programs, like Tom Osborne's TeamMates, are already in place throughout Nebraska.

Last year, there were 1,400 mentor matches in 24 Nebraska school districts.

Johanns said he does not want to rebuild those programs. However, the additional state funding would provide more resources and allow the programs to benefit more young people.

Mentoring and school-to-career programs are crucial to the healthy development of Nebraska's youth, the governor said.

With the shortage of skilled workers in the state, the positive training of young people has become even more important.

"These programs promote more effective learning and provide better learning experiences," Johanns said. "But they require the cooperation of employers and educators."

Holly Pollyfeis, deputy commissioner of the State Board of Education, said mentors are a crucial part of young people's lives.

"Most educators go into the business thinking they can save the world," Pollyfeis said. "But, we've found it's one child at a time with a mentor."