

## City Council OK's widening of East O Street in 6-1 vote

By John Hejkal

Staff writer

The City Council approved an ordinance on Monday that will widen East O Street.

The council voted 6-1 in favor of the plan. The \$15.2 million project will widen O Street to three lanes along the 1.3 miles from 52nd Street to Wedgewood Drive.

No timeline exists for the changes. Councilman John Camp cast the lone vote against the ordinance.

He said he supported doing something to ease congestion on O Street, but Camp had some concerns about the impact on businesses located along the street. He also said there were some engineering concerns that had not been fully addressed.

Camp hopes to institute an incentive plan for the contractor of the plan in order to ensure that construction is finished as quickly as possible.

"Any way we can minimize the inconvenience to the businesses in that area, the better," he said.

Camp said some good things

would come out of the plan, such as the use of U-turns on O Street. He hopes to make U-turns available in other places in Lincoln, such as 84th Street and 70th Street.

"It was a borderline vote," he said. "I just had a feeling of discomfort concerning the impact on businesses."

Ed Swotek, first vice-president and strategic planning and special projects manager for First Federal Lincoln Bank, said the plan will hurt many businesses in the O Street area.

The plan takes out left-turn lanes from Cotner Boulevard to 56th Street along O Street, he said, which could hurt businesses in the area, including the First Federal Lincoln branch at 135 N. Cotner Blvd.

"We're very, very disappointed with the outcome of the vote today," Swotek said.

He said all the options had not been fully exhausted in coming up with a plan that would better satisfy area businesses and neighborhoods.

"The neighbors don't want that, we don't want that, but that's the plan, and we'll just have to make the best of it," Swotek said.

## Union increases services

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

More computers and longer hours are making their debut at the Nebraska Union this semester.

The Nebraska Union is now open from 7 a.m. until midnight Sunday through Thursday, and from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, said Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska Unions.

In addition, beginning today, UNL students will be able to check out and use laptops at the Nebraska Union information desk.

Laptops will also be available for check-out at Nebraska East Union sometime next week.

Swanson said there were several reasons for the changes.

Student fees were increased in 1998 to help pay for the addition to the Nebraska Union, Swanson said. Keeping the union open later is one way to make the increase useful to students.

The construction at Love Library has also played a role.

"Almost simultaneously to finishing our construction, Love Library started theirs," Swanson said.

Because of the construction at Love Library South, some study space has been lost. Longer Nebraska Union hours will help offset the lost study space, Swanson said.

And, for students who need a pick-me-up while studying, the Caffina Café is also staying open later - until 10 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

Swanson said the change in hours is a pilot program. After this semester, the Union Board will study the results

NEW NEBRASKA UNION HOURS	
Monday-Thursday	7 a.m.-12 a.m.
Friday	7 a.m.-11 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m.-12 a.m.

and see whether or not to keep the new hours.

The Nebraska East Union hours will stay the same for now, Swanson said.

"We don't see a demand at the East Union yet," he said.

Along with being able to study later, UNL students also have access to more technology at the Nebraska Union. Five new laptops are now available for check-out at the information desk.

The addition of the new computers is a joint effort between the Union Board and Information Services.

Swanson said the computer lab in the Nebraska Union was consistently full from the first day it opened about a year ago.

"This quickly raised the question of whether we at the union were providing enough computer laboratory space for students," Swanson said.

Cody Northrop, chairman of the ASUN technology fees committee and a member of the Union Board, came up with the idea of making laptops available for check-out, said Linda Roos, coordinator of research support.

"The laptop program is a way to provide computing access to students

as an extension of the lab that is already in the union," Roos said.

The new Dell laptops, valued at \$3,500 each, can be checked out free of charge to UNL students.

In order to check out the new machines, students must present their student IDs and one other form of identification at the information desk, Roos said. They must also fill out two forms - a checklist of the computer components they are using and a laptop check-out agreement.

Students are then free to plug in the laptops to any of 44 ports around the perimeters of the main lounge and food court.

And soon, they may not even have to plug in.

"Once we started talking about this, the creative juices began to flow," Swanson said.

Within one month to six weeks, a transmitter will be installed in the main lounge that will have a range of 100 feet. The transmitter will allow students to use laptops and access the Internet from almost anywhere in the main lounge.

"We think that will pretty well put us at the cutting edge of technology," Swanson said.

Come check out Lincoln's hottest new salon and spa!

Tranquility Salon

Open Mon.-Sat. Tues. & Thurs. evenings

328.0777 Spa 2901 Pine Lake Road

## Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity



This annual award is presented to one, two or three people (students, faculty or staff at UNL). It recognizes significant contributions to the development of a humane, educationally creative, just, and caring community on the UNL campus.

Nominations for the award may be submitted by anyone associated with UNL. More information, nomination forms, and guidelines are available at:

- IFC-Panhellenic, NU 332
- Residence Hall front desks, RA's & Maintenance offices
- Most college, school and division offices
- Student Involvement offices, NU 200 & ECU 300
- Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.
- Human Resources, Admin. 407
- Facility Maintenance & Landscape Service offices
- Office of Student Affairs, Admin. 106
- Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th 68508 - 476-0355
- Website: <http://www.unl.edu/tidball/>

Nominations are due February 14, 2000

## Event to help students study abroad

By Katie Muetting

Staff writer

Students wishing to expand their educations should consider expanding the borders of their college campus.

And the Office of International Affairs will be offering information to make the experience of studying abroad easier.

The Spring 2000 Study Abroad Extravaganza will be held today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the main floor of the Nebraska Union.

Sponsored by International Affairs in January and September, the extravaganza will feature sessions on study abroad programs, travel opportunities, scholarships and financial aid.

For some programs, studying abroad costs the same as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's tuition, but others may cost several thousand dollars more, said Caroline Routh, assistant director of scholarships and financial aid.

Routh will suggest ways students can pay for their study abroad.

Some study abroad programs may appeal to students with specific majors, but most programs have no major requirement or other prerequisites, said Christa Joy, Study Abroad director at International Affairs.

"It's very important for students to be aware of what's going on in the world," Joy said.

Students can do this through studying abroad, which adds value to

their degrees, Joy said.

Through UNL programs or approved UNL programs, students can study virtually anywhere in the world, Joy said. During the 1998-1999 academic year, UNL had more than 400 students studying abroad.

Students who attend will be eligible for prizes such as a \$250 scholarship and a European rail pass. The Extravaganza will feature a student returnee's photo contest, as well as presentations by students who have studied abroad.

Dara Lacy, a UNL doctorate student, will speak about the Australian Educator Exchange Program. She said that she gained a different perspective of education, and the "cultural experience was unbelievable."



### Just for kicks

Lydia S. Gonzales/DN  
LINCOLN HIGH school students Mike Cooper, 17, Adair Polk, 15, Aaric Gomez, 17, and Marcus Tiedgen, 15, play hacky-sack in the school's parking lot Monday.

don't like what you see?  
got something to say?  
**feedback@**  
dailyneb.com

### Spring 2000 Study Abroad Extravaganza

Today, January 25, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Main Floor, NE Union

#### Schedule of the Information Sessions

11:00 a.m.	Eastern Europe Programs
11:30 a.m.	Pan Pacific Summer Conference
Noon	Scholarships & Financial Aid
12:30 p.m.	Japan Exchange Semester
1:00 p.m.	Australia Educator Exchange Program
1:30 p.m.	China Cultural Studies
2:00 p.m.	Rotary/Fulbright Scholarships
2:30 p.m.	Internet Study Abroad Resources

International Affairs 420 University Terrace [www.iaffairs.unl.edu](http://www.iaffairs.unl.edu) 472-5358