

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Doubling Up

Freshman Amanda Buchholz is the only NU woman to play two sports.  
SPORTS, PAGE 16

## DN Issues

We tackle the big topic of obesity.  
Literally.  
OPINION, PAGE 5



## Tooting his own horn



GRAHAM HOUSE, a graduate student in music performance, plays his french horn in the green space between Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Architecture Hall on Tuesday afternoon before going to work at The Gallup Organization. House said when the weather gets warm he practices outside. "It sounds better outside, and I can get some fresh air," he said.

Mike Warren/DN

## Faculty: Life sciences program needs help

### Task force recommendations mulled at forum

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

About a dozen faculty members who attended a Tuesday afternoon forum agreed on one thing: UNL's life sciences program needs improvement.

"Right now, we can't successfully implement procedures that would get us into a higher academic arena because we don't know how to do that very well at UNL," said Jack Morris, director and professor of biological sciences.

Other faculty members made similar comments during the forum.

"We need more extension," said one faculty member. "We need more research," said another.

Fortunately for these faculty members, change is on the way.

In January, a task force appointed to enhance the life sciences studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln released a report of recommendations to improve the life sciences program, said Tony Joern, professor of biological sciences and co-chairman of the task force.

Faculty discussed the recommendations at Tuesday's forum.

The life sciences, which include fields such as agronomy, molecular biology, biochemistry and horticulture, are scattered through the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Research Division.

Because of this, the departments often lack communication between each other. This has resulted in a program that could be better, Joern said.

"It's not that what we have now isn't good," Joern said. "It's that we have to make improve-

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Tony Joern

biological sciences professor

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At Tuesday's forum, Joern, along with task force co-chairman David Mortensen, presented a list of goals for improving UNL's life sciences programs. Among these goals are:

- Providing a greater balance between mission-oriented and basic research activity in life sciences;

- Forming a stronger relationship between UNL and the University of Nebraska Medical Center;

- Revamping the structure of the life sciences departments to improve communication between the various colleges and departments that offer life sciences courses.

Richard Edwards, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said he thinks improvements to research and instruction efforts could be made in the next six months.

For any improvements, Edwards stressed, the recommendations will have to win the approval of the majority of the life sciences faculty.

## Exhibit lets public act as media

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

Most students and residents of Lincoln rely on the city's reporters, editors and camera operators to bring them the daily news.

But two 53-foot trailers parked in front of Memorial Stadium during the next few days will put those who take in the news in the position of those who produce it.

The traveling NewsCapade, the mobile version of the Arlington, Va.-based Newseum, will allow visitors to act as photographers on breaking stories, edit the front page of the day's newspaper or act as anchors for the exhibit's live broadcast.

The exhibit, which will visit all 50 states by the end of the year, aims to give the public a taste of what those in the news industry do every day.

"The one thing the NewsCapade tries to do is bring the public and the media closer together in giving them an idea of what a journalist does and how news is made," said Lauren Crowley, a spokeswoman who travels with the NewsCapade.

Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today and the Freedom Forum, which funds the Newseum, travels with the museum.

In an age where public disenchantment with the media is increasing, the

Please see NEWSEUM on 8

## Man guilty in sexual assault

■ Lancaster County attorney will recommend 'stiffest sentence' for ex-comedian charged in other assaults.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

A former comedian accused of sexual assaults across the country was found guilty shortly after 7 p.m. Tuesday for the 1997 rape of a Lincoln woman.

Vincent Champ, 38, was convicted in Lancaster County District Court of raping of a 27-year-old woman who was alone playing piano in the basement auditorium of the Union College's E. Dick building late Feb. 2, 1997.

Joe Kelly, assistant Lancaster County attorney, said Champ, convicted of first-degree sexual assault, faces a minimum of one year to a maximum of 50 years in prison.

Lancaster County Public Defender Shawn Elliott, representing Champ, was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said this was one of the first, if not the first, case in Nebraska in which DNA was the primary evidence for prosecutors. The DNA at the crime scene matched DNA taken from Champ. It was the main reason for the conviction, Lacey said.

During the trial, Elliott said DNA was not 100 percent accurate, no one had positively identified Champ as the attacker in Lincoln or Omaha and that the Lincoln victim told police she thought her attacker was a white man. Champ is a black man.

But Lacey said the victim did not have a good view of her attacker, and the attacker had something covering his face.

Champ's sentencing in Lancaster County Court is scheduled for June 6.

Champ will be sentenced in Omaha District Court for raping a Nebraska-Omaha faculty member a month after the attack at Union College.

Champ pleaded no contest to the rape in Omaha, and the judge decided to wait until the trial in Lincoln was over to sentence Champ. Lacey said the crimes in Omaha and Lincoln were similar, and it is possible Champ will have similar sentences.

Depending on which court sentences Champ first—Lincoln or Omaha—will determine which sentence he will serve first, Lacey said.

Champ, a former Star Search comedian, booked primarily college shows in the Midwest through Ario Professional Artists, out of Chicago, said talent agent Scott Bass during testimony.

Based on Champ's performance schedule, similarities in physical evidence and patterns during each attack, he is suspected in several other states.

Authorities in Johnson County, Iowa, charged Champ earlier this month with first-degree kidnapping for a September 1996 rape of a University of Iowa student. The charge carries a mandatory life sentence.

Iowa is asking to extradite Champ to face prosecution in Iowa as soon as Nebraska has finished its work on the case. Lacey said Lincoln and Omaha authorities will cooperate with Iowa to the fullest extent.

Another charge was filed in Iowa for first-degree kidnapping, for an attack on a woman at St. Ambrose University in Davenport on Feb. 16, 1997.

Champ was also charged with attempted assault at Pasadena, Calif., City College.

Attacks were also reported, but charges not filed, at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., and Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

In each rape, the man asks about the victims' sexual histories, forces anal sex, uses his saliva for lubrication and asks the women to pray for him after he rapes them.

Lacey said his office will be recommending the stiffest sentence for Champ.