

**CAMPUS BRIEFS**

**Graduate student awarded Fulbright to study in Sweden**

A UNL graduate research assistant who studied roadside safety issues will have the opportunity to take his skills abroad, as he has been named a Fulbright Scholar.

Brian Coon, who received his master's degree in civil engineering last December, will study at the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute in Linköping, Sweden.

Coon expressed his gratitude for the faculty members at UNL.

"The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is incredibly lucky to have such skilled and dedicated professors," he said in a press release.

He will leave in August to spend the 2000-01 school year abroad.

**Holocaust survivors to be remembered in ceremony**

Nebraskans will take the time to remember and honor victims and survivors of the Holocaust next week at the Nebraska Holocaust Commemoration, which is scheduled for May 2.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad and Mayor Don Wesely will be on hand, and the keynote speaker will be Shelly Shapiro, director of Holocaust Survivors and Friends Education Center in Latham, N.Y.

Shapiro has been involved in exposing Holocaust deniers and has covered the trial of accused Nazi collaborator Jakob Reimer. Shapiro is an adjunct professor at the University of Albany School of Education.

The program is free and open to the public.

**Symposium on family starts May 10**

Following finals week, students will still have the chance to learn something new, but this time they won't be graded on it.

The International Symposium on Building Family Strengths will be held on East Campus on May 10-12, said John DeFrain, professor of family and consumer sciences.

Compiled by staff writer Jill Zeman

**Questions linger after Sunday's fire**

By Michelle Starr  
Staff writer

The investigation into Sunday's estimated \$7 million blaze at a South Lincoln construction site continues.

"We're doing quite a bit of digging," Lincoln Fire Inspector James Ellis said. "We've got to get to the bottom of this before we give any answer. It's too soon to say anything."

Samples from the 6:52 a.m. fire at Savannah Pines Retirement Community, 3900 Pine Lake Road, were gathered and sent to the State Patrol crime lab Tuesday, Ellis said.

Ken Scruto, an investigator at the State Fire Marshal's office, said the crime lab could take a few days or a few weeks. The lab has had a lot of work to do, so he said he expected the results to take awhile.

Bob Hampton, co-owner of the retirement community, said Sunday he suspected the fire was set intentionally. The fire didn't cause any injuries but took an hour to an hour and a half to control.

Scruto said it's too soon to tell if it was arson, and investigators are still

searching for witnesses to try to put the pieces together, including witness reports from Sunday night.

On Sunday, Lincoln Police Capt. David Beggs said police were investigating a report that a car seen near the fire matched the description of a car driven by someone who had bought gasoline around the time of the fire.

Investigators are searching the neighborhood for anyone who might have witnessed anything in connection with the fire, Scruto said.

"We're having a heck of a time trying to verify anything," Scruto said.

It is unknown how long it will take for the County Attorney's office to have enough information to act on, Scruto said.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey was unavailable for comment.

Two of the three sections of the retirement community were reduced to rubble. Within the two sections lost included a theater, dining room, bank and 125 apartments.

Hampton said more than a dozen apartments had been leased throughout the retirement community within the past 30 days.

**Student tries hand at contest**

By Veronica Daehn  
Staff writer

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senior Kendra Waltke could become the new owner of a red-and-white Case tractor this weekend.

But she'll have to keep a hand on it longer than anyone else.

Waltke found out last week that she is a finalist in a competition to win a tractor worth at least \$50,000.

Sponsored by the USA television network, the contest will see 12 people keep a hand on the prize tractor until only one person remains standing.

Waltke will be in Nebraska City on Saturday morning to begin the competition that could last up to three days.

The English and psychology major said she was hopeful for the weekend.

"I'm expecting to be really tired," Waltke said. "That will be the biggest problem."

The 12 people in the contest will be given a five-minute break each hour and a 15-minute break every six hours.

In order to stay in the competition, the contestants can't lean or doze off.

Saturday's competition will begin at 10 a.m. outside of the Farmer's Bank in Nebraska City.

An hour-long special will air on USA on Aug. 27.

The television station held its first tractor competition last year in Arizona, Waltke said. It took 72 hours for a winner to emerge.

**Program plans to mentor youth**

*Latino teens would be its focus*

By Margaret Behm  
Staff writer

Latino college students who are on the way to achieving their goals will have the chance to help Latino youths be successful, as well.

The Latino Achievement Mentoring Program is currently in development at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Byron Zamboanga, one of the organizers, said it is important for students to help out their community.

"The beauty of the program is that it gives college students an opportunity to do service for the community," said Zamboanga, third-year doctoral student in developmental psychology. "I think that people should always maintain ties to their community."

The mentor program is designed for Latino youths between the ages of 11 and 18.

Cameya Ramirez, president of Mexican American Student Association, said she wants to be a mentor so she can help Latino youth.

"I want to let them know that it may seem hard to get up here, to college, but through my experiences I can help them get through it

to be successful," said Ramirez, a senior criminal justice major.

Mentors will be recruited mainly from MASA and Sigma Lambda Beta, a Latino fraternity. Students interested in becoming mentors should contact Zamboanga at the Hispanic Community Center.

"We're in the process right now of recruiting potential members," Zamboanga said. "We're looking to recruit Latino students from all over the university. We're hoping to get enough mentors to get a one-on-one relationship."

The mentors will be available to help out with schoolwork and will be there for guidance.

One of the current goals of the program is for mentors to also become familiar with the youth's family.

Elementary, middle and high schools in the Lincoln area with large Latino populations will be called this summer and invited to participate.

The program was created to set off disadvantages that some Latino students have, Ramirez said.

"A lot of them have parents that don't speak English," she said. "So they lack the help that Caucasian students can get from their parents with homework. So eventually they give up."

**Log on to start/stop your electric service and you could win a \$50 gift certificate.**

Before you head home for the summer or move within Lincoln, you need to start or stop your electric service. Every student that starts/stops service on our website from April 19-May 7, will have their name put into a drawing for one of six \$50 gift certificates to the Nebraska Bookstore and University Bookstore.

Just go to our web site at [www.les.com](http://www.les.com), click on the Starting & Stopping Service light, go to the "I'm a student and I'm moving" section, click the appropriate option for you, fill out the simple form, submit it, and you're done.

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To be eligible for the drawing, entrants must be students who use the LES web service for stopping/starting service between April 19 and May 7, 2000. Landlords, realtors, title companies, and apartment managers are not eligible. Winners will be drawn on May 8, 2000, and notified via mail.

**N.A.B.A. NATIONAL ADULT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

The Lincoln Adult Baseball League is forming teams and will begin play starting in the month of June. Form your own 15 player plus a manager team or join as a member-player. We will place you on a team. Better yet we will help you find a sponsor. All teams will receive jerseys, 3 dozen Wilson NABA Baseballs, Baseball Today Magazine for all players, \$1 million liability insurance, a 10-12 game schedule and a league championship playoff, there are many other benefits as well.

For more information call: **"GET A LIFE - GET A LEAGUE"**  
League President - John Baete - 466-6301 or  
League Vice President - Mike Marlar - 423-5191  
or E-mail [nabalincoln@hotmail.com](mailto:nabalincoln@hotmail.com) **LET'S PLAY HARDBALL..**

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