

# Semester begins amid influx of campus construction projects

**BY JILL ZEMAN**  
If you're running late for class and looking for a shortcut, watch out. Unless you feel like scaling the chain-link fences scattered across campus, you'll have to take the sidewalk. But many of the detours will soon come to an end, as several campus construction projects are slated to finish in the 2000-01 academic year. Richards Hall is the first of the buildings scheduled for completion, as the \$8.7 million

renovation should finish up in September, said Howard Parker, UNL facilities planning and construction manager. The building, which was only partially handicapped-accessible before renovation, will now have new elevators and be completely accessible, he said.

Other changes to the building include new lighting, air conditioning, windows and walls, Parker said.

Another hole in the ground that has quickly transformed into a nearly complete building is the Kauffman Residential Center, which is north of the Nebraska Union.

The \$14.7 million project, which will house the J.D. Edwards Honors Program, is set to finish in January, said Tracy Aksamit, assistant manager of architectural and engineering services.

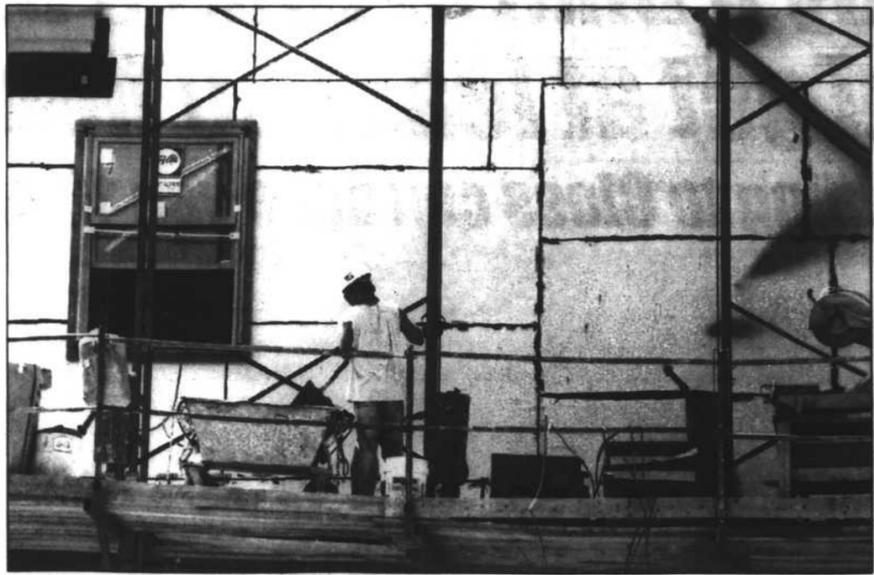
Along with dormitory-style suites, the center will hold faculty members' and administrators' offices, classrooms and a dining hall, she said.

Ground was broken for the center in July 1999, and, if all goes as planned, students will be able to move in for the fall

2001 semester, she said. While new structures are going up around campus, two buildings will be coming down this fall.

After the new Teachers College building is completed, Bancroft and Lyman halls will be demolished. The new Teachers College building, which will connect Mabel Lee and Henzlik halls, is scheduled to be completed in July.

Other projects beginning this semester are the construction of a parking structure at 17th and R streets, a newly located journalism and mass com-



Steven Bender/DN

Construction continues on the Kauffman Residential Center just north of the Nebraska Union. The \$14.7 million honors program building should be completed in January, and students could move in by the fall of 2001, said Tracy Aksamit, assistant manager of architectural and engineering services.

munications building and a new chemical engineering building, Parker said.

The journalism building, Anderson Hall, will be in the former Security Mutual Life building at Centennial Mall and Q

streets, Parker said.

Othmer Hall, the chemical engineering building that broke ground Tuesday, will be between 16th and 17th streets and Vine Street, Parker said.

The current influx of con-

struction projects is the largest in the history of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Parker said.

"The face of the campus will be greatly improved in the next five years," he said.

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## Weight of faculty salary increase may fall on students' shoulders

**BY JILL ZEMAN**

Everyone knows raising faculty salaries costs money.

The question that is now being debated is whose pockets the money should come from: the students or the taxpayers.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has taken a step in one direction at its July meeting by requesting from the Legislature a 5.22 percent increase in faculty salaries for both 2001-02 and 2002-03. The board also passed a resolution that formally commits the regents to bringing faculty salaries above the midpoint of the university's peers.

But raising salaries to this level cannot be achieved through state aid alone, and the weight may fall on the shoulders of the students, said Joel Schafer, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Schafer said he supported a reasonable increase, and his actions within ASUN will depend on how high the tuition jumps.

He may propose a

Government Liaison Committee directive to lobby for the university's proposed budget request to the Legislature, but Schafer said he needed to discuss the issue with members of ASUN and other students first.

Schafer said senators will not take a stance on the tuition increase until they know how big the increase will be.

The regents' budget must be approved by the Legislature and Gov. Mike Johanns. From that, the regents will figure how much of a tuition raise is needed, Schafer said.

"It's hard to say if and when we'll know anything," he said.

Government Liaison Committee Chairman Hal Hansen said he thought it was important for ASUN to evaluate the university's actions, particularly those involving tuition

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**Hal Hansen**  
Government Liaison Committee Chairman

increases.

"Some are reasonable, some are excessive," he said. "Student government's job is to decide which is which."

Hansen said the senate must determine where the money will go and if poorer students will be able to afford tuition.

If ASUN passes a directive to lobby for or against a tuition increase, Hansen said, the group will contact state senators, university administrators and regents to share its viewpoints.

"ASUN doesn't have a lot of direct political power," Hansen said, "but I think the Legislature is interested in what student government has to say."

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## Man caught with his alleged sex victim

**BY JOSH FUNK**

A well-known Lincoln author and youth volunteer accused of child molestation remained in jail Wednesday afternoon after the court seized his \$10,000 bail for violating the bond's no-contact provisions.

Police arrested Thomas Frye, 43, early last Friday when he was found with the 9-year-old boy who accused him of sexual assault in February.

Frye, 6139 Kearney St., had

been barred from seeing the boy by both the conditions of his bond and a protection order filed in February.

District Court Judge Bernard McGinn assessed a new \$300,000 bond with the same conditions for the first-degree sexual assault charge and a \$25,000 bond for violating the protection order, a misdemeanor.

Lancaster County Sheriff Deputy Todd Duncan testified that he found Frye's empty car parked where a bicycle path

intersects 98th Street shortly after 1 a.m. on Friday.

Frye then approached the officer from the west, Duncan said.

Frye said he was alone, but Duncan said he was suspicious of Frye's story and wanted to check the bicycle trail for other people. Frye then admitted to Duncan that he was there with the boy.

Frye and the boy were there to visit the grave of the boy's dog.

The boy had become distraught about his dog's death after watching the movie "My Dog Skip," the boy's mother testified.

The mother said that she had pleaded with Frye to come talk to her son that night because she thought Frye could calm him down. She gave Frye permission to take her son to the grave site but stayed home because she had been ill with the flu.

The boy's mother said she believes that nothing happened between Frye and her son. Both the boy and his mother gave sworn depositions in June stating that the original allegations were false.

Frye had been counseling the boy since last September, and his mother said she felt her son had been improving.

In February when the allegations were made, the boy had been hospitalized for depression and behavioral problems.

His mother said the boy was adjusting to new medications when the allegations were made.

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