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Men's swimming programs axed by NU

The cut came amid concerns of the Athletic Department's continuous budget deficits.

BY DAVID DIEHL

The University of Nebraska and Athletic Director Bill Byrne announced Sunday that men's swimming and diving would be discontinued as an intercollegiate sport at Nebraska effective

with the 2001-2002 season. The women's swimming and diving teams will continue as UNL intercollegiate sports.

The move comes because of budgetary concerns, a one-and-a-half page release by the Nebraska Sports Information Department stated. The men's and women's swimming programs operate on a collective \$1.3 million budget. The Nebraska Athletic Department operates on a \$39 million slate

but overran its funding by \$250,000 in its 1999-2000 fiscal year.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents adopted a resolution earlier this month to consult with the NCAA about expenditures in collegiate athletics.

The resolution's sponsor, Regent Chuck Hassebrook, said the move to drop swimming was not a result of his resolution but a sign of how athletic programs were affected by the "arms race"

of spiraling costs — exactly what his resolution was aimed at preventing.

The move also comes after an internal investigation into the swimming program that began last September. The investigation led to the suspension and eventual retirement of former Coach Cal Bentz.

The program was left under the direction of Interim Coach Paul Nelsen. Nebraska is scheduled to appear before the NCAA

committee of infractions in September 2001.

Eliminating the men's program will save about \$500,000 annually, the release said, as swimming, a non-revenue sport, is one of the most costly Olympic sports at NU. The drop leaves just four Big 12 schools with intercollegiate men's swimming and diving.

Nelsen couldn't be reached for comment because he was in Austria Sunday evening on a

recruiting trip.

Jonathan Haggerty, a Nebraska assistant coach, said he was shocked when he found out about the decision. Haggerty said coaches and players caught wind of the program drop through talk and e-mails prior to the official word, which came from Associate Athletic Director Bob Burton.

With programs throughout

Please see SWIMMING on 3

David Casen/DN
Sgt. Larry Kalkowski of the University of Nebraska Lincoln police patrols UNL's campus Saturday.



Campus officers see other side of nightlife

BY JILL CONNER

While many students are out and about partaking in their weekend excursions, they may be unaware of who silently watches them.

Two University Police officers shared their experiences during the lulls of routine building checks and the "rush-hour" of DWIs Saturday night, 9:21 p.m.

Sgt. Kalkowski, starts his cruiser, a GMC Jimmy.

While driving familiar streets on city campus, Kalkowski listens to the

dispatchers call out different codes on the various channels of his radio mounted on the middle of his console.

"It's tough to predict whether anything's going to happen," he said.

"There will be three or four days of sheer boredom, then anything can happen," he said, as he parked his cruiser a few blocks away from another university officer who had made a traffic stop.

Kalkowski, nicknamed "Ski" by other officers, said as a shift supervisor, he often checked to make sure nothing

happened.

"I'd say 98 percent of the time, nothing happens, but you never know when something is going to go wrong," he said.

But tonight, the "A" shift — which runs from 10:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. — means only the silent drive listening to the radio and routine parking lot checks.

"Except for a few obscene phone calls, it was pretty quiet," he said. 9:49 p.m.

After being called back to the station to lock up a student's firearms in

the police department's special storage, Kalkowski returns to the cruiser.

Again, he drives the routine streets and parking lots and listens to the radio.

A Lincoln Police Officer drives by and the two wave to each other, like ships passing in the night.

"There has definitely been times when we were glad to see each other," Kalkowski comments.

Kalkowski said certain situations,

Please see POLICE on 3

Professor's interest, study of insects draws attention

Editor's note: The following is the first in a series of three stories about professors who received universitywide awards for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity and Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity.

BY SHARON KOLBET

Brett Ratcliffe's interest in beetles has evolved since his first bug-collecting attempts at age 10.

At that time, aiming lighter fluid at butterflies was the only insect-collecting technique he knew of. But his attitude toward entomology changed significantly after his family moved from Georgia to Japan.

"I spent my formative years in Japan, a country that values and encourages insect study and collections," he said.

Today, Ratcliffe is a professor and curator of insects at the University of Nebraska State Museum. His passion

for entomology was recently recognized when the university named him a recipient of the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award.

Ratcliffe attributes the award to "the group effort" of the insect division at the State Museum.

Mary Liz Jameson, research assistant professor of entomology, said Ratcliffe was being modest in deflecting praise.

"Ratcliffe is a leader and has done a great deal of work to form what is the most important scarab beetle collection in North America," she said.

Scarab beetles are a family of beetles, including lady bugs and dung beetles.

Right now, the Nebraska State Museum is home to more than two million insects and arachnids, including the fourth largest scarab beetle collection in the world.

In 1999, the efforts of Ratcliffe and

the insect division were rewarded when the Smithsonian Institution decided to transfer the national collection of scarab beetles to the University of Nebraska.

In March 1999, the insect division group known as "Team Scarab" traveled to the Smithsonian to prepare and transport nearly 300,000 specimens from Washington, D.C. to their new home in Lincoln.

The Nebraska State Museum now has one of the most comprehensive collections of scarab beetles in the world.

"Lincoln, Nebraska, is becoming well known in the world of scarab research," said UNL graduate student Andrew Smith.

Smith, a native of Canada, said he read about Ratcliffe's research and chose to attend UNL so he could work with Ratcliffe.

"Ratcliffe is a world-renowned scholar. He was the only person in

North America I wanted to study under," he said.

Smith has been working with Ratcliffe for nearly three and a half years. He said Ratcliffe's hard work was a big reason the Nebraska State Museum was chosen to receive the Smithsonian's national collection.

"Moving such a large collection is a very big deal," he said.

To aid in the scarab research and the mentoring of graduate students, Ratcliffe and Jameson received a grant of nearly \$750,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Ratcliffe said he encouraged those who wanted to learn more about activities in the division of entomology to check out the Web site at www.museum.unl.edu/research/entomology/index.htm.

Ratcliffe said he felt a real sense of

Please see RATCLIFFE on 7

Author gives account of life on USS Nebraska

BY JILL CONNER

The biggest Nebraska Husker fans could be living in the deep ocean about 50 miles off the coast of Georgia.

As documented in the book by Doug Waller, "Big Red," the crewmen of the USS Nebraska, a Trident submarine, take pride in their namesake.

Waller stopped by the University Bookstore on Saturday to promote his new book about the life aboard a nuclear submarine.

The inside of the submarine is not unlike the inside of the University Bookstore, including a sign above the kitchen labeling it the "Cornhusker

Café," he said.

Waller, a foreign policy reporter for TIME Magazine, said he approached the Navy with the idea of documenting the three-month period when a Trident Submarine was at sea, and the Navy assigned him the USS Nebraska.

"It's the best boat on the waterfront — the Navy's not dumb," he said.

Waller said the title of the book came from the nickname of the submarine, which they stole from the University of Nebraska.

"They really take state pride seriously," Waller said.

Waller started investigating the submarine in 1998 and said his book

tried to show what a three-month stay on a Trident submarine would be like.

Calling it an "underwater cruise ship," Waller said if the submarine was stood on one end, it would be taller than the Washington Monument.

The USS Nebraska is one of the Navy's 18 Trident submarines and is armed with 24 strategic ballistic missiles and 120 nuclear warheads, Waller said.

This much nuclear power represents twice the explosive power of all the conventional warheads detonated in World War II, he said.

Please see WALLER on 7



Jennifer Lund/DN
Douglas C. Waller signs his book at the University Bookstore on Saturday. Waller wrote "Big Red: Three Months on Board a Trident Nuclear Submarine."