

# Daily Nebraskan

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## High-tech internships

By Patty Pryor

A measure to create more internships for students in engineering and computer-related fields was considered by the Legislature's Revenue Committee Monday.

LB1037, introduced by Sen. Chris Abboud of Ralston, would provide tax credits for businesses which employ students in such internships. A \$500 credit would be awarded for every 1,300 hours of work done by students in on-the-job training.

In opening testimony, Abboud said the bill was drafted in response to studies conducted for the state Department of Economic Development that showed Nebraska lacking in highly skilled labor.

In addition to providing appropriately trained labor in high technology fields, Nebraska must retain a greater percentage of these trained individuals within the state, Abboud said.

A study done by the Nebraska Alumni Association showed that 61 percent of university engineering graduates leave the state. Such a statistic supports the need for LB1037, he said.

"Hopefully, once these students start working in Nebraska firms they will remain here upon graduation," he said.

"Keeping these highly skilled graduates in Nebraska is essential for the economic development of the state."

The bill would also provide a valuable link between classroom theory and practical application of that theory in the real world, Abboud said.

"And as any instructor will tell you," he said, "this is the best type of education a student can get."

Ferd Anderson, executive secretary of the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers, agreed.

"Cooperation between businesses and the university is a very beneficial arrangement," he said. UNL's Engineering College already has one co-op program, Anderson said, which will not be affected by LB1037.

Finally, Don Aripoli, director of scholarships and financial aids at UNL, outlined a number of the bill's benefits.

"This bill will induce students to go into high-need, high-tech industries," he said, "and these are the kids who will be the leaders in business and industry."

Additionally, he said, "Students really appreciate the opportunity to work. They see it as not having a loan, they see it as making contacts and they see it as practical experience."



Damian Lettler/Daily Nebraskan

## Free health center screenings to test for high blood pressure

By Deb Pederson

To help with early detection of high blood pressure, the University Health Center will give free screenings in the Nebraska Union 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Wednesday.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, health center director, said hypertension, which is part of high blood pressure, should be detected early because it is treatable. Left untreated, damages progress with time. The rate at which damages progress differs from person to person, he said.

"Folklore says there are symptoms with high blood pressure," Fleischli said. "That is most often not true."

Hypertension-related damage occurs in three target organs: the brain, the heart and the kidneys.

High blood pressure speeds up the process of hardening of the arteries, Fleischli said. This increases chances of a person's blood supply getting cut off, he said, which can lead to a stroke or heart attack.

The kidneys play a key role in controlling blood pressure, Fleischli said.

"It's like a kink in a garden hose," he said.

Because an artery clot causes a drop in blood pressure near the kidneys, the kidneys "think" the blood pressure needs to be increased. The kidneys send out a hormone to increase the body's

blood pressure, Fleischli said.

This starts a rapidly progressing feedback process that can lead to a hypertensive crisis, he said. The crisis is a medical emergency, he said.

"At one time it was said of all the cases of hypertension only one-third of the people knew they had it," Fleischli said. "Of this one-third, only one-third were treated for it. And of the one-third who were treated, only one-third were treated accurately."

These statistics recently have improved to about one-half, Fleischli said.

Treatment includes a low sodium diet with weight control, he said. Also, people with hypertension must begin aerobic exercise with stress reduction, he said.

There are two parts to a blood pressure reading, Fleischli said. One, the systolic reading measures when blood vessels expand. The other, the diastolic reading measures when blood vessels constrict. For a good reading, the systolic should register below 140 and the diastolic below 90, or 140/90, Fleischli said.

Other factors are taken into account with the reading, Fleischli said.

If the people smoke, take birth control pills, are overweight or don't exercise, blood pressure readings could change, he said.

"The screenings are not definitive," Fleischli said. "We never use a single reading. A series of readings are needed to verify the condition."

## ASUN candidates field questions

By George Phillips

Representatives from four ASUN parties discussed ASUN's role in the university and the goals of their respective parties in a debate Sunday night at the East Union.

Aim was represented by Mark Scudder and Curt Oltmans; Unite by Michael Geiger and Heidi Burkund; US by Kevin Goldstein and Julie Meusbarger, presidential and first vice-presidential candidates, respectively.

Michael Cassling, first vice-presidential candidate, represented the Fashion party.

Panel member and president of the Afrikan Peoples Union, Elizabeth Burden asked the parties to give the overall role of ASUN to UNL.

Geiger said ASUN needs to go out to students for input and lobby for students.

Burkund said Unite would attend meetings of different groups.

Goldstein said ASUN needs to do more than represent. It should be a service-oriented group and source of information.

Leadership and contact with other groups on campus should be emphasized, Scudder said.

Cassling said student motivation should be addressed by putting issues in the Daily Nebraskan and having students vote on them.

Matt Wallace, president of ASUN, asked the parties to give two or three main goals they would like to achieve with ASUN.

Scudder said he would like to improve UNL's representation in the Legislature. NSSA needs to lobby on specific issues that affect UNL. He also said the building of the Performing Arts Center and the consolidation of the University Bookstore are important.

Cassling said using the Daily Nebraskan to tell what ASUN does would improve representation.

Geiger said using students at large to free senators from committee work would allow ASUN to get out to other organizations. Greater senator familiarity with the Legislature was also important.

Meusbarger said the typing center, renter's union, and biweekly update sheets were important to serve students.

Cassling said he also represented the views of the Don Ho party, which had to attend important meetings in Hawaii.

## Computer grades, analyzes exams

By Tammy Kaup

Students may think the most difficult part of an exam is answering the questions, but instructors also may sweat when preparing the exams.

A computerized test analysis system in Seaton Hall can help instructors decide which questions to use on a future test, which to eliminate and which to revise, said Delivee Wright, director of the Teaching and Learning Center.

The test analysis system also interprets the computerized instructor evaluations that students complete at each semester's end.

"We put a lot of time and effort into (the system), and we hope it helps both the professors and the students taking the test," Wright said.

Wright said the Teaching and Learning Center has offered test analysis services in the past, but because of obsolete equipment they changed to the new system. She said the new program combines the three or four analysis alternatives given to the instructors in the past.

The system costs about \$30,000, Wright said.

Wright said the computer can describe the test results in many ways for instructors. Students' scores can be arranged alphabetically in a grade book, posted by student identification number, or both.

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