

## Law review examines ethics of medicine, law

By Michelle Kubik  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Aimed at bridging the gap between legal institutions and medical technology, the current issue of the Nebraska Law Review is devoted to articles on medicine, law and ethics.

The review, published quarterly by the UNL College of Law, is written and edited by professors and students.

Richard Duncan, associate professor of law, said that because medical technology has advanced at such a rapid rate, the law can't keep pace.

"The impact of medical technology on our society has been startling," writes Duncan in the review's dedication. "It is threatening to outrun our ability to respond through legal institutions to the new questions raised by the new medicine."

Duncan said the court's decisions on the issues of life and death will define what kind of people we are and reflect the humaneness of our society.

Among the topics covered in Volume 63, Number 4 of the Nebraska Law Review, the most recent, are:

- Medical care for infants born with severe disorders or birth defects.
- Euthanasia and the terminally ill patient.
- Malpractice suits based on the implementation of medical innovations with potentially adverse effects.
- What constitutes "medically necessary care" in awarding Medicaid benefits?
- Physician responsibility in deaths

## Preadmissions coordinator hired

A coordinator of Preadmissions for UNL has been hired to replace Patty Howell, who resigned before the fall semester.

Lisa Schmidt, associate director of the department of high school and college relations at the University of Oklahoma, will assume the duties Jan. 1, 1985.

According to Richard Armstrong, vice

chancellor for student affairs, Schmidt

has four years' experience similar to the preadmission activities. She was also a chapter consultant for Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Don Aripoli, director of scholarships and financial aids at UNL, will relinquish the duties of acting director.

resulting from improper use of drugs.

- Continued treatment of comatose or vegetative patients.

Patrick Sullivan, 1984 Nebraska Law Review editor in chief, said the review not only attempts to fill the void for courts and legislators, but also tells the general public "what could happen to them in certain medical situations."

The movement for patient's rights in medical care increasingly has become prominent, said Dr. Walter Friedlander, of UNL's department of medical jurisprudence and humanities.

"The need to settle ethical issues with legal means has become significant," Friedlander said. "When society can't agree, the decision is made in court."

Duncan said the courts often have little time to think on big issues. The review provides literature that helps lawmakers with medical decisions, he said.

Friedlander said interest in medical ethics has increased with changes in social attitudes and technological advancements during the last 15 years.

"We need to retool the laws to fit the advancements," Duncan said. Although the quarterly reviews deal with general law subjects, members of the Nebraska Law Review have decided to devote one issue to medical jurisprudence again next year, Duncan said.

Copies of the Nebraska Law Review are available through the College of Law, UNL 68583-0903. Single copies are \$6 and an annual subscription to the quarterly publication is \$18.

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