

Sea semester offers students chance to study coastal ecology

By Lynn Mongar

A "seamster"—a semester at sea studying coastal ecology, maritime history and other subjects—is being offered to any student who has completed at least one year of undergraduate education.

The fall "seamster" will begin when the schooner Harvey Gamage leaves Sept. 17 from Rockland, Maine for eight weeks. The schooner will make several stops in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Delaware before the "seamster" ends in Nassau,

Bahamas. The "seamster" offers full college credit courses and is being supervised by Southampton College of Long Island University, New York.

Randy Schulte, a Lincoln marine biologist, said he would advise any student interested in the subject to take sea trips.

"Anything that can get you near the sea is great. It's hard to learn it in a book," said Schulte, who is a UNL food science and technology graduate student.

A UNL life sciences professor said UNL students interested in marine biology should plan graduate work in a coastal state.

Prof. Carl Gugler said it would be unrealistic for a person to look for a job in marine biology without actual exposure to the ocean.

Gugler said that employers would ask, "Hey, what? In Nebraska?"

No program for marine biologists exists at UNL, according to Gugler.

However, he said that a marine biology student needs a solid background in biology, math and physics.

"Chemistry, math, physics and biology are more important than seeing the animals if you want to do anything (in marine bi-

ology)," he said.

Eben Whitcomb, designer of the "seamster" program said he has never had a student from Nebraska.

"The overwhelming majority of students are from the East coast states. Although, we do have a student from Iowa this fall," he said. Whitcomb said the cruise is not specifically for biology majors.

"We're not a research vessel," he said. Other courses offered are: literature of

the sea and sailing and ichthyology (the study of fish). The only required course is in navigation and seamanship.

"The students actually run the ship about mid-term," Whitcomb said.

The voyage costs \$3,200, which includes tuition, lab fees and accommodations.

Whitcomb also said that state and federal grants or scholarships may be applied to the "seamster."

Spanish novelist to lecture at UNL

A Spanish author will visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus this fall to discuss his works with students.

Luis Romero, a novelist, short story writer, essayist, poet, historian, newspaper columnist and art critic is expected Oct. 5. Romero will attend a class studying his works, which will begin before his arrival and continue until mid-semester.

Romero has been awarded two major literary prizes and is both a corresponding member of the Hispanic Society of America and an honorary fellow of the society of Spanish and Spanish-American studies.

That society, along with the Mid-American State Universities Association and the UNL Department of Modern Languages and Literature, is sponsoring his visit.

During his UNL visit, Romero, a participant and historian of the Spanish Civil War, will visit classes and deliver public lectures. His first is scheduled for Oct. 18, when he will speak about the current cultural and political situation in Spain, and its effect on writers. He will speak at 8 p.m. in the English Department Library, second floor of Andrews Hall.



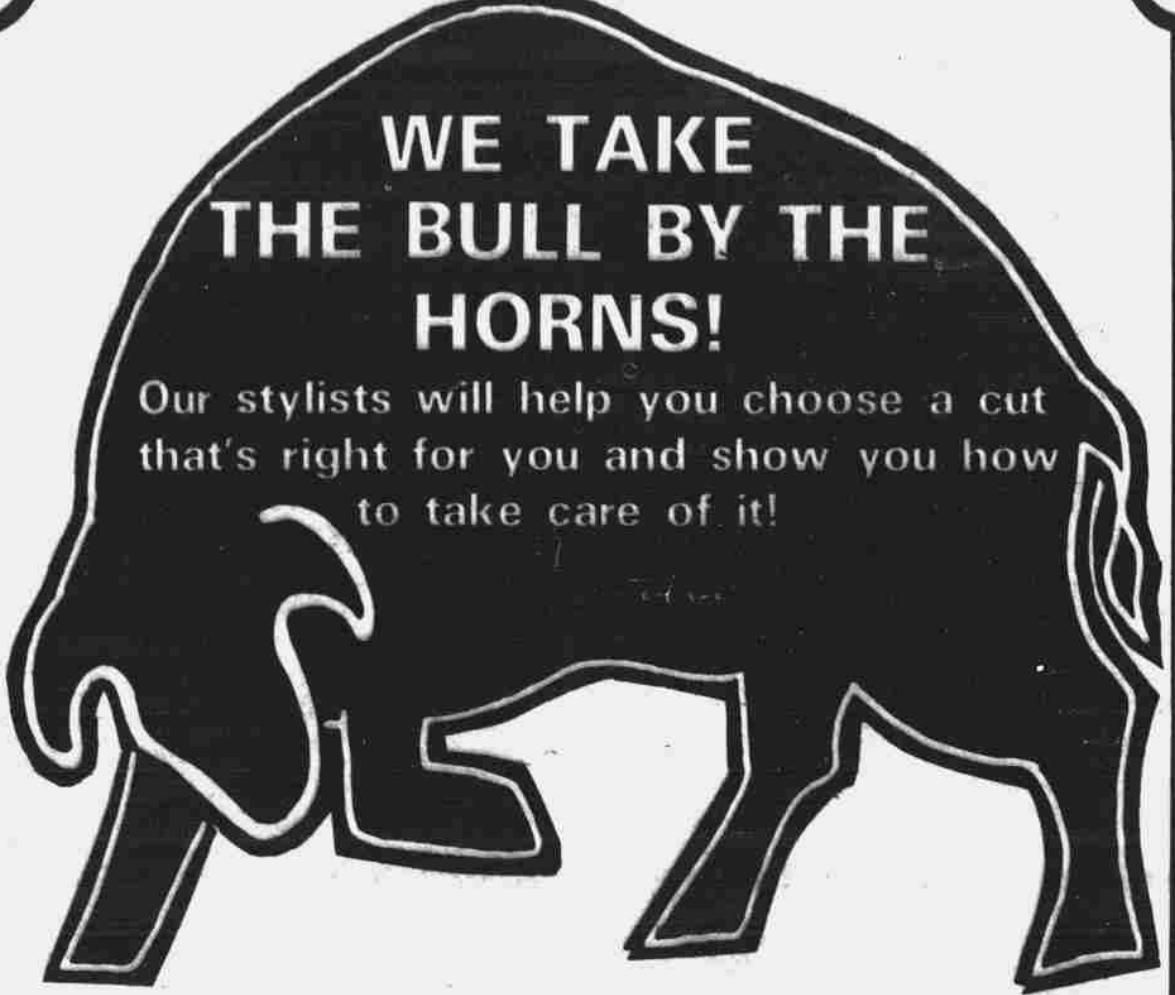
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