

## Days of grade inflation ended at UNL — officials

By Kathryn Haugstatter

Administration officials at UNL agree that the days of grade inflation and the "easy A" are ended, mainly because of increased faculty awareness.

Mary Cunningham, assistant director of Admissions and Advising, said the all-university grade point average for the '78-'79 school year was 3.016, the same as the '75-'76 school year.

She said grading policies that were instituted in the late 60's and early 70's helped a student raise his cumulative grade point average.

The pass-fail and bankruptcy policies help the student who has a bad semester or who wants to try a course that he has no background in, but they also contributed to grade inflation, she said.

But, Cunningham added that since these policies have been in operation for more than one college generation, their effect on grade inflation has leveled off.

"The College of Business Administration has seen an overall downward trend in GPA's since 1975," Associate Dean Arthur Kraft said. "We don't have grade inflation here."

KRAFT SAID the grades for each course in all depart-

ments are charted every semester and the average in 1975 was 2.93 within the college. He said the figure is presently 2.81.

"It still seems high to me but it's down compared to what it used to be," Kraft said.

He said some of the faculty have become more rigorous in their grading policies and many courses now test writing skills in addition to the knowledge of the course material.

The faculty of the College of Arts and Science also is kept informed of the state of grades in the college. Donal Burns, associate dean, said a list of the average grades for the college, for each department and for every class with 70 students is distributed every spring.

"Its purpose is to inform everyone of the existence of certain grades and to publicize the idea that grades may be more inflated than they should be," Burns said.

Burns added that the lists have been effective in reducing the GPA one tenth of a grade point.

"SOME PEOPLE say grade inflation is no problem," Burns said. "I don't agree. If the university fails to pick out the good from the average student, someone else will have to, perhaps, by nationwide exams. The university will lose its ability to recommend students to employers."

T.E. Hartung, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture, said employers are aware and concerned with the problem of grade inflation.

"But the measure that our prospective employers are using is based on performance rather than GPA's," he said.

Hartung added that the data the college has compiled indicates a rise in GPA's from 1971 to 1975. He said an awareness on the part of the faculty has resulted in a decline to what he calls "a reasonable level."

According to Hartung, the 50th percentile GPA for freshmen in the College of Agriculture is 2.476, for sophomores it's 2.760, for juniors it's 2.896, and for seniors it is 2.974.

Cunningham said other factors contribute to high grades at UNL. She said every year 50 percent of the freshman class at UNL comes from the top fourth of its high school graduating class and the ACT scores for incoming freshmen are above the national average.

This is a reason why the average GPA for first-time freshmen in the second semester is 2.774, which is higher than most schools, she said.

"By senior year, the average GPA is 3.113 because only the really good students stay," Cunningham said. "The ones that don't do well, don't stay."

## Speaker's visit spurs petition

By Barb Richardson

A petition for an injunction against ASUN, President Bud Cuca, Treasurer Kent Whitacre, and Student Court Justice Bob Gleason was presented to the Student Court Tuesday night by ASUN Sen. Todd Adams.

Adams asked the court to stop the Senate from paying the United States Student Association Director Frank Jackalone \$25 for traveling expenses to UNL.

On Oct 3, the Senate passed appropriations bill No. 10 which allocated \$25 for Jackalone's traveling expenses to UNL today.

Adams said the Senate was acting against the Regents bylaws which say that "political or ideological nature (speakers) may not be supported from mandatory student fees (UPFFs) but may be supported from funds collected on a voluntary basis."

The appropriations bill the Senate passed did not specify that student fee money would be used, but Bob Gleason in an earlier interview said that it is customary for the Senate to use student fee money for appropriations unless the bill approving the allocation specified otherwise.

Because of the nature of the petition, and the timeliness, Chief Justice Mike Brogan said that the other justices of the court would be called for their decision. He explained that except for himself, Bob Gleason, who asked not to hear the case because of conflict of interest and Dave Hartmann, all the other justices had prior commitments.

In the Court's decision that will be handed down today before noon, Brogan said they will decide if the court has jurisdiction to hear Adams' case and also will determine if an injunction will be placed on ASUN's action.

Adams explained to the Court that he

had jurisdiction because of Organic Act 3, passed last spring. The Act gave all regularly enrolled students standing in Student Court.

"I'm a student of ASUN. I have standing to challenge the actions of ASUN by the virtue of Organic Act 3, which gave all students that right. I'm challenging ASUN action; therefore, the Court has jurisdiction to hear my case," Adam said.

Adams said he wanted a restraining order to protect Whitacre from violating the Regents bylaws, to protect ASUN from looking bad and to give people time enough to voluntarily collect money to pay for Jackalone's visit.

Bob Gleason told the court that ASUN had three accounts. One for book exchange money, another for student fee money and the third for non-student fee money. Gleason said the third account came about when ASUN sold a van.

Adams told the Court that ASUN could not use money in accounts that were not from student fees because the money used for political speakers must be voluntarily collected. He added that the money from the van and the book exchange were not voluntarily collected for political speakers and therefore, should not be used for speakers.

The ASUN Constitution does not give the Senate the power to allocate non-mandatory student fees, Adams said.

In an earlier interview, Bud Cuca said that he agrees with Adams' action because the Senate should use "prudence" while allocating their money.

Cuca also said he thought the court had jurisdiction to hear Adams' case because Organic Act No. 3 gave all students the right to be heard by Student Court.

Jackalone will be on campus today and according to Kent Whitacre ASUN will have to pay him today or send him a check, depending on what the Court decides.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Undaunted by Tuesday's cool temperatures and brisk wind, Paul VanLith, a UNL art student, took refuge in the sunken gardens where he found a few quiet moments to munch on an apple and contemplate life.

## Police: 'rape' rumors unsubstantiated

By Kevin Field

Rumors around campus that there have been an unusually high number of sexual assaults appear to be unsubstantiated. The UNL Police Department has not received any reports of sexual assault on campus this fall.

The Rape Crisis Center has not received any reports of women being assaulted on campus since school started, but there have been 3 or 4 reports of students being sexually assaulted off campus, according to Joanne Dunn, director of the center.

The number of attacks rumored to have occurred ranged from 17 to more than 50. Jacki Tobin, residence director of Sandoz Hall, said she is aware of the rumors and had heard that 47 attacks had occurred this fall. She said she failed to find any backing to the rumors after checking with the UNL Police and her superiors.

She added, however, that the student assistants have met with their floor to discuss methods of avoiding attack and what to do in case of an attack. There also is a possibility of creating an escort service for women who must go somewhere at night

and do not want to go alone, she said.

Captain Robert Edmunds of the UNL Police Department said, "I am not aware of a rumor concerning a specific instance of crime spreading like this one."

Dunn said such rumors tend to build-up the truth to a point where things are way out of proportion.

Karen Kuczarski, residence director of Pound Hall, said that she also is aware of the rumors and that, "nothing has been substantiated anywhere." There have been incidents unrelated to sexual assault, however, she said.

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