

# daily nebraskan

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## English class size limits raised

By Mary Louise Knapp

Although more students are being squeezed into English classes this semester, the situation has been eased because of funding by the vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Ned Hedges said he agreed last summer to make money from his budget to pay the salaries of English instructors.

"I talked to Max Larsen (College of Arts and Sciences dean) about it," Hedges said. "We wanted to make sure that there were enough instructors for each section of the English department."

According to James Van Horn, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Hedges contributed approximately \$32,000 to fund 20 sections of English classes.

In addition, Van Horn said, the College of Arts and Sciences paid for 10 sections of classes with approximately \$16,000.

Hedges said the English Department had anticipated putting extra students in evening classes through the Extension Division, but the additional money made this step unnecessary.

Instead, class size limits have been raised, and instructors have been asked to accommodate as many students as they can.

### Tremendous cooperation

Van Horn said he is concerned about the increased size of English classes.

"I feel that size has a direct impact on the quality of instruction," he said.

However, he said, the department has received "tremendous cooperation" from instructors, and he said he

has not heard any complaints about class size from students or teachers.

"Right now we are in the process of reviewing our guidelines for minimal class size for each department," he said. "I can't say for sure what the impact will be."

James Bellman, an English instructor who teaches three composition classes, said that he has had little difficulty adjusting to having additional students in his class.

"I am doing the same number of papers and I'm not teaching any differently," he said. Some rooms are becoming a little cramped for space, and I don't have quite as much personal contact with the students."

Bellman said his composition class limit has been raised from 17 students to 20 this semester.

### Largest group ever

"I am teaching the largest group of students I've ever had," Associate Professor of English Charles Stubblefield said.

Stubblefield teaches a 25-student evening section of a writing class which had an original limit of 15 to 17. He said he also teaches other classes of 30, originally meant for 27 students.

"I am not complaining," he said. "I have accepted as many students as there is room in the classroom . . . I don't feel that I should turn away any student who needs a class."

John Robinson, English Department chairman, said that every effort has been made to get as many students as possible into English classes.

"Some students who went through general registration were not able to get into classes," he said, but added that students who preregistered usually were placed in the classes they requested.

## State's media fairness reviewed

By Diane Andersen

Mass media representatives and their critics discussed media fairness and problems with Nebraska newspapers and radio stations Saturday at a meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists in Omaha.

On the "media side" were Harold Andersen, president of the Omaha World-Herald; Dick Herman, editorial writer for the Lincoln Journal; Chuck Roberts, anchorman and reporter for KMTV Omaha; and Ann Pederson, news editor for WOWT in Omaha.

Representing the "critics side" were State Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh, NU Regent Robert Prokop, Omaha Mayor Al Veys, and Jack Romans of the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

DeCamp, while claiming that the media didn't adequately cover the recent controversy over his campaign expenses, said he is in favor of a totally free press and that the question of press fairness "may well be irrelevant, immaterial and even dangerous."

By allowing government leaders to set standards of fairness, DeCamp argued, the First Amendment is necessarily compromised.

### Check and balances

A free press, DeCamp said, is "the ultimate check and balance over the whole (U.S.) system." He said that although Richard Nixon was a great president in foreign policy and other areas, he was "totally wiped out and demolished by the press" when he started infringing on Constitutional freedoms.

"There is no mandate on the press to be fair," DeCamp said. "The press may be their own worst enemy. Internally you (journalists) keep wanting to discipline your own members so much."

Individual journalists could improve by doing more research and not taking things like press releases at face value, he said.

"I am a media product," DeCamp said. "I might be totally destroyed by the press, but that's ok if the overall system continues to work."

Prokop said the biggest problem is not media fairness but media credibility. He said radio and television news doesn't go into enough depth on stories and that the Omaha World-Herald has "honest individuals" working for it.

### 'Self-interest'

"The Lincoln people don't get the story," Prokop said. He said Lincoln journalists tend to have conflicts of interest with their work and that the things they write are for "self interest."

"Journalistically, you (Lincoln media) have driven out-state Nebraska away from Lincoln and toward Omaha," he said, claiming that such a situation did not exist five years ago.

The Daily Nebraskan has for the most part treated him fairly, Prokop said. He said reporting at the Daily Nebraskan "has been on a much higher plane than before" in the last two or three years and that it has been "fairly balanced."

"In 1972 and 1973 it (the reporting) got to be pretty vicious," Prokop said.

He called the incidents of plagiarism by last semester's Daily Nebraskan Editor in chief, Harry Allen Strunk, a "classic case of bad judgment."

However, Prokop added "I'm sure any editorial writer has at some time pulled something out and not quoted it."

Because the NU Board of Regents are the publishers of the Daily Nebraskan, he said, they have a responsibility to worry about what the paper publishes.

Andersen said that even though the question of press fairness is not easy to define or quantify, "we should have some responsible notions on how to treat news sources."

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## NU land swap aids Malone Center

The Lincoln City Council last week unanimously approved a land exchange between the city and NU that will give the Malone Community Center part of the land needed to construct a new center.

NU gave land located between 20th and 22nd streets and T and Vine streets to the city in exchange for land at the southwest corner of 17th and Holdrege streets.

The land traded to the city was valued at \$126,660, while the land given to the university is valued at \$134,750. The \$8,000 difference in the value of the properties will be applied to a debt the city owes NU from previous land trades.

The NU Board of Regents approved the transaction at its June 14 meeting.

The council also approved the sale of the property attained from the university to the Malone Community Center for \$113,099.

Ronald Wright, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, said the university has not determined how the land at 17th and Holdrege streets will be used.

The land does have some warehouse space, Wright said, and may be used for storage space for the Campus Police equipment.

Wright said the university and city have been exchanging land since 1960s.

"The university believes in being a good neighbor with the city and helping it when possible," Wright said. "In this case, the Malone Center couldn't be built without the land so we thought the exchange was good."



Photo by Tom Gessner

David Frost wasn't the only celebrity making an appearance at Union College Saturday. One young girl attempts a tricky interview of her own.

## Frost recalls famous talks

Getting politicians to say anything is the most difficult task of interviewing, British interviewer David Frost said Saturday night in a speech at Union College.

"If you have half a mind to enter politics - that's all it takes," he said.

Frost gave thumbnail sketches of some of his more memorable interviews in his hour-long talk.

Frost commented on perhaps his most famous interview subject - Richard Nixon.

Nixon, who resigned the presidency in August 1974, was the subject of four Frost interviews which were the first detailed interviews Nixon allowed.

Frost said Nixon opened up during the interviews in his explanations of Watergate more than Frost thought he would. He said Nixon didn't open up as much in his own book.

He called Nixon the most complex character in world history.

He called Pam Smith, former prime minister of Rhodesia, a person with "expandable sincerity."

In contrast, many of those he has interviewed have lived up to their legends, he said. He listed Prince Charles, Noel Coward and Robert Kennedy as examples.

He said Kennedy's death in 1968 marked the passing of simplicity from the American political scene.

Regarding contemporary American politics, Frost said John Anderson's candidacy or that of any independent was healthy for the two-party system, which he called stifling.

On the possibility of debates this fall, Frost said Ronald Reagan was "perhaps a better performer" but that Jimmy Carter was more intelligent.

Downplaying the idea that the debates might be decisive, Frost said he feared that one line or phrase might provide artificial focus for the campaign.

On the press in general, he said he does not think the press creates world issues. He said it acts to disperse vital information hopefully without interjecting opinion.

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