

## Forger extraordinaire puts skills to 'good' use

By Betsy Miller

At the age of 16 he began a career of forgery and impersonation that prompted the *New York Times* to start a column about him. The television series "It Takes A Thief," was based on his life. Now there is a movie, "Catch Me If You Can," about his exploits.

Frank Abagnale, 32, told a crowd of approximately 150 UNL students in the Nebraska Union Sunday night about adventures that included posing as an airline pilot, a doctor, a lawyer and a college professor at Brigham Young University.

Abagnale was a 16-year-old from a wealthy family, educated in Europe, and possessing an I.Q. of 140 when he decided to run away from his home in upstate New York.

At 16, Abagnale was six-feet-tall and graying at the temples; this led to little questioning when he cashed checks.

At first, Abagnale had a modest account which he wrote legitimate checks from, but he decided that he could easily make a career of writing bad checks.

Airline pilots were well-respected people and Abagnale decided that posing as one, he would have little trouble cashing phoney checks.

He had his own uniform tailor-made and pasted decals from a model plane kit of a Pan-American Airlines plane to an I.D. card he had with his picture and fake name to begin his career as a pilot.

Abagnale said that since all airlines will cash checks from other airline employees, he would go from counter

to counter of different airlines cashing bad checks.

After Pan-Am became suspicious, he moved to Atlanta, Ga., where he told his apartment manager he was a pediatrician.

He became chummy with another doctor in the complex who eventually landed Abagnale (alias Frank Williams in Atlanta) a position as a high-ranking doctor on a local hospital staff.

To become a lawyer, Abagnale studied the Louisiana Napoleonic law codes and took the bar examination. He passed the bar on his third try and got a job with the state attorney general's office.

After Louisiana, Abagnale was a professor of sociology at BYU for two years and simply kept one chapter ahead of his students to know what was going on.

"The Mormons never quite got over it," Abagnale said about the reaction when FBI officials told them who Abagnale really was.

After five years in prison he was given a new start in Houston, started the firm of Frank W. Abagnale and Associates, an educational and consulting firm which advises businesses on avoiding check frauds and white-collar crime.

Despite his fame and money, Abagnale said he wouldn't do it over again.

"I missed my entire youth and cheated myself out of a great deal," he said.

"I would give a leg or an arm or an eye to wake up and be 16 again," he added.

"What you have is a great deal more than what I have."



Daily Nebraskan photo

Frank Abagnale

## Increase approved despite opposition

# Regents approve increase in graduate tuition

By Jim Faddis

An increase in graduate student tuition was approved Friday by the NU Board of Regents.

The increase is not to exceed \$2 per credit hour for the 1981-82 academic year. A \$2 increase would make graduate tuition next year \$31.25 per credit hour, while tuition for undergraduate will be \$29.25.

Besides the tuition increase, the regents also adopted an NU Executive Graduate Council resolution that says after the first year of the tuition difference, the council will study the effect of the tuition increase on graduate enrollment. Any additional phases of the increase will be based on the results of this study.

The resolution also says the increased income from the tuition difference should go to improve graduate education and research.

The Executive Graduate Council resolution was adopted in place of a proposal from NU President Ronald Roskens stating that graduate tuition be increased during the next four years to 25 percent more than that charged undergraduates.

The graduate tuition increase was approved, after the

regents heard five people speak against the increase. Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln and Robert Prokop of Wilber voted against the increase.

NU President Ronald Roskens said the move was "practical because graduate instruction is known to be more expensive" than undergraduate.

He said most land-grant colleges have a differential rate ranging from 25 to 100 percent.

The increase is "equitable, reasonable, but not widely supported," Roskens said.

Because of this lack of support, Schwartzkopf said he opposed the increase. He said he was originally for it, but after hearing that student, faculty and teacher groups opposed it, he said, "There just isn't enough support for it."

Val Pullen, president of the Nebraska State Education Association, told the board that many teachers who are required to take graduate courses will be hurt by the higher tuition and will be forced to ask for higher teaching salaries.

Many teachers will be driven away from the university to other colleges, said Erwin Goldenstein, director of doctoral studies in the UNL Teachers College.

Goldenstein said if graduate students are charged more because of higher instruction costs, then all students in fields that cost more to teach should be charged more.

Graduate student enrollment will decrease because of the tuition hike, offsetting any expected university income gain, UNL Student Regent Renee Wessels said.

But Roskens said that while undergraduate tuition has gone up in the past five years, enrollment also has increased, indicating that tuition increases seemingly don't affect enrollment.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha asked where the money will come from to pay for graduate programs if the tuition rate isn't increased.

Hansen said that either all tuition would have to be increased 5 percent, or the university would have to increase its request for state support from 18 to 19 percent.

"There is nothing illogical about asking people to bear part of the cost of their education," Hansen said.

In other action, a proposal by Prokop to separate the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources from UNL and rename it the University of Nebraska-Agriculture, Extension and Natural Resources was defeated because of the lack of a second.



Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha listens to debate at the NU Board of Regents' meeting last Friday.

Photo by Mark Billingsley

## Ticket transfer motion defeated

By Jim Faddis

Although the entire NU Board of Regents agreed that student and faculty football tickets should be transferable, it appears that students and faculty will have to wait until next year before they can legally let someone use their football ticket.

A motion to make the tickets transferable immediately was defeated Friday on a 4-4 vote because four regents said more time should be spent forming a new policy.

Although the motion failed, Board Chairman Robert Raun of Minden did direct NU President Ronald Roskens to develop a new ticket policy to be presented to the board in December.

Regent Robert Prokop of Wilbur made the ticket proposal because he said the present ticket policy is unenforceable.

"Why have a policy that is unenforceable?" he asked.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said there is nothing wrong with letting another member of a student's family use the student's ticket. Schwartzkopf said reports that a large number of students sell their tickets at outlandish prices are exaggerated.

The problem with making football tickets transferable is that students get the tickets at a discount price, Raun said. Student tickets are \$5 a game, faculty tickets are \$7.50 and general admission is \$10.25.

Raun said if students and faculty were charged the general admission price, "there would be no problem with letting them do whatever they want with their ticket."

The university would gain an additional \$91,465 from each game if it charged \$10.25 for each student or faculty ticket, said UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney.

But UNL Student Regent Renee Wessels said that higher ticket prices would create a financial hardships on some students.

If the ticket prices aren't increased in a few years, though, the university will have to start charging student fees for athletics, Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha said. UNL is the only Big Eight school without a student athletic fee.

"That is a decision you (the regents) have to make," Devaney said.

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