

Professional schools fill despite tuition increase

By Mary Louise Knapp

In spite of increased tuition rates, graduate and professional colleges at UNL are receiving more applications than they can accept, officials say.

The NU Board of Regents voted this summer to request a 15 percent tuition increase for medical, dental, and other professional schools and a 10 percent increase for graduate students, plus \$2 more for each graduate hour taken.

The regents also requested a 10 percent tuition increase for undergraduates.

Bob Lovitt, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance, said the tuition increase was necessary because the cost of instruction for professional and graduate students is higher than for undergraduates.

Lovitt said graduate students are usually taught by senior faculty members who receive higher salaries than other faculty members. Equipment costs for students in fields such as dentistry and medicine are also extremely high, he said.

Henry Cherrick, dean of the College of Dentistry, said the higher tuition rates have not affected enrollment at all.

Foul study results mistreated-official

By Tom Shelton

Calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's report a "desk-top audit," Jerry Hood, chief of water and waste management of the state department of environmental control, said the declaration of Lincoln as a pollution "hot spot" has been "mistreated and misinterpreted."

An EPA official said he stressed that the studies are highly preliminary. Bill Landis, public information specialist at the EPA's regional office in Kansas City, said the studies may be expanded through actual monitoring of streams by EPA technicians.

Hood said the National Resources Defense Council misinterpreted the EPA's reports and leaked them to the press. He said the NRDC made the reports sound more serious than they really were.

"The EPA never intended to say the 34 cities in their survey were the most contaminated areas in the country," Hood said.

"They (NRDC) took the list and made their own interpretations about what they meant," Hood said. He said the reports were given more credence than they merited because of their speculative nature.

The EPA's nationwide survey was based on projections, not actual monitoring of streams.

"They (EPA) should put people in the field and take samples," Hood said.

Hood said the industries of the entire state have tried to comply with the EPA's disposal recommendations.

"They have gone far beyond the requirements of the EPA, realizing the EPA may place more stringent rules on discharge in streams," he said.

Hood indicated that the EPA may change its advice on industrial disposal as more data is collected about the damaging potential of various wastes.

Ron Maulsby, public information director for Lincoln's Goodyear Plant, said his company clings to its claim that the EPA's study was highly speculative, and that Goodyear has complied with the EPA's demands that waste be disposed by using the best technology available.

Landis said the EPA's nationwide hunt for pollution seed beds was prompted by pressure from environmental groups.

"The environmental groups felt we weren't doing our job, and they wanted us to be more expedient," he said.

Landis said the significance of the EPA's studies cannot be fully assessed until those further studies are done.

"Keep in mind this is very preliminary," he said. "We're not saying yes you do (have pollution), we're saying it is possible because of industries around the streams."

The EPA's official statement reaffirmed the fact that its surveys were compiled "not by water samples but rather by paper and pencil calculations on toxic pollutants that may be present based upon the rate of discharge of toxic pollutants by industries into streams."

Ann Grosuch, EPA administrator, recently sent a letter to Gov. Thone which apologized for any misinterpretations resulting from the EPA's study. Hood, who has a copy of the letter, said he would not disclose any further details of its contents until a later date.

"In fact, we have many more students than we can accept," he said.

Cherrick said fees for the dental college are about the same as the national average. Students will pay a flat fee of \$949 per semester this year. Non-residents pay \$2,098 per semester.

The dental college is filled to capacity with an enrollment of 66 students this semester, he said.

Chancellor Neal Vanselow of the College of Medicine said the number of applications to the college has far exceeded the number of places for students.

"The students have known that due to the university's Five-Year Plan, tuition would increase," he said.

Vanselow said the usual tuition increase for state-supported public schools this year is 13 percent, and the increase for private schools is 15 percent.

"The reason that our tuition increase is a little higher

than most public schools is that our tuition has been lower for quite some time," Vanselow said.

Because of the new economic policies of the Reagan administration, the medical college will lose large amounts of federal funds, thus making tuition increases necessary, Vanselow added.

Russell Nelson, associate dean of graduate studies, said he has received no complaints from graduate students about the tuition increase.

"There is no slowdown in coming (of graduate students)," he said. Although registration of graduate students will not officially end until Friday, Nelson said that the number of student applications received is already more than anticipated.

More than 10,000 applications have been received so far, he said.

Nelson said a graduate advisory council consisting of faculty and graduate students has recommended the regents study the proposed increase further.

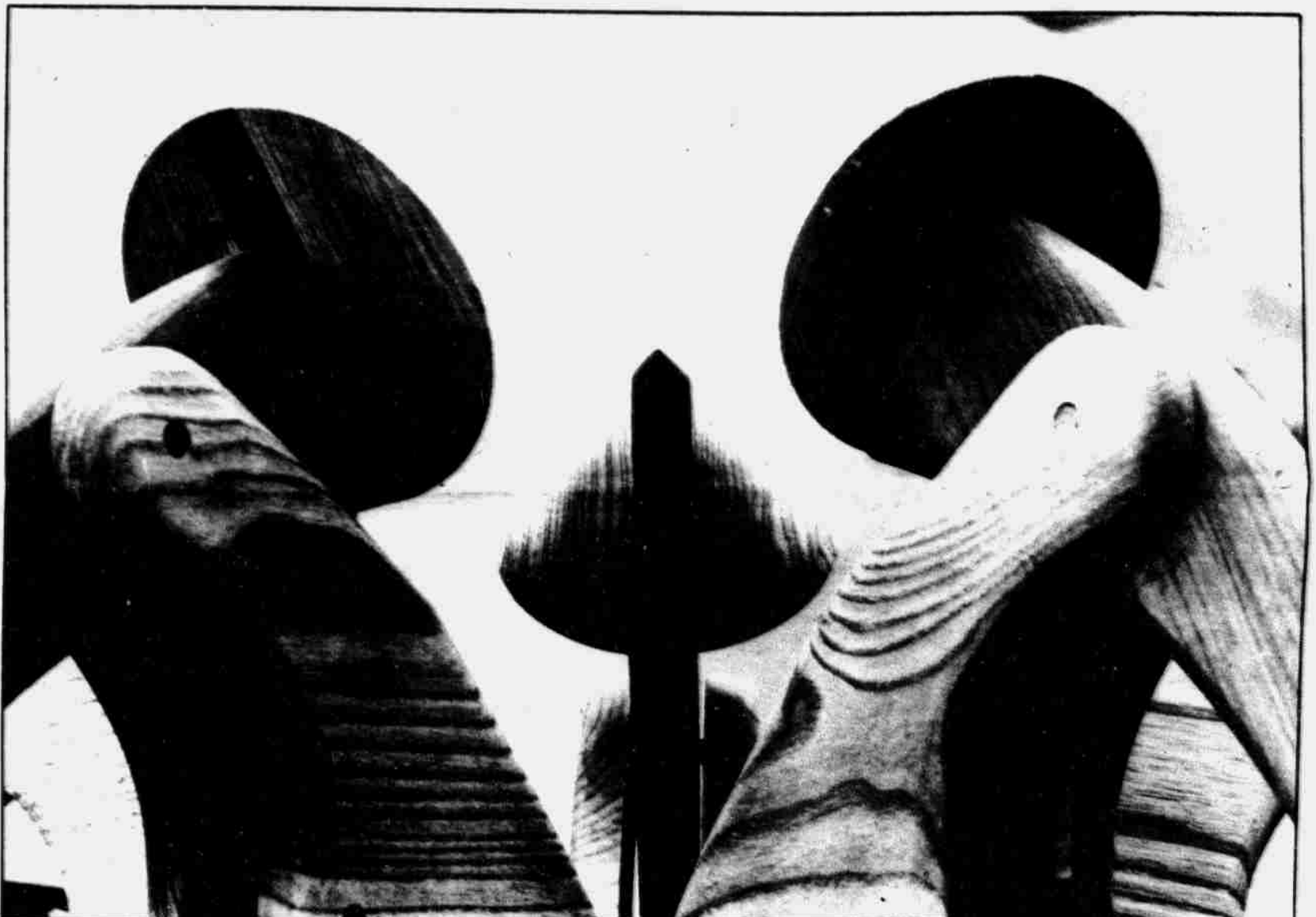


Photo by Mark Billingsley

A machine that does nothing of mechanical importance may seem useless to some, but to a UNL associate professor of architecture, it can be a work of art. For more on this beautiful and ingenious machine, see Page 6.

Professors: Competition still prevails even though antitrust policy is lenient

By Laura Garrison

A UNL assistant professor of law says President Reagan's antitrust policy can be predicted from statements he has made and from the support Big Business has given him.

Robert Heidt, who was a lawyer for the Department of Justice's antitrust division in San Francisco before coming to Lincoln, said Reagan is one of the most lenient presidents since the 1930s in his antitrust policies.

Antitrust policy describes a set of laws the federal and state governments use to ensure competition among businesses. Citing the recent merger of Conoco and Du Pont, Heidt said antitrust laws have relaxed enough to allow big companies to buy small businesses. Because of the relaxation, a merging trend is possible.

The easing of antitrust policy resulting from ideas supported by Reagan's advisors and a substantial number of economists and lawyers who do not care whether small businesses survive and believe large companies often operate more efficiently than small businesses.

Small companies who bought oil from Conoco feared Du Pont would be the preferred customer after the merger. The merger threatened to foreclose possible customers and suppliers of Conoco, he said.

"If there would be many mergers like Du Pont and Conoco, small businesses would find themselves competing more with Big Business and they would be at the disadvantage," Heidt said.

Heidt explained that big businesses can do better in a

wave of mergers than small ones because loans can be borrowed more easily and cheaply. Large businesses can advertise more cheaply, and are not as likely as small businesses to close during temporary recessions.

J. Clay Singleton, UNL assistant professor of finance, said that although Reagan is more favorable towards mergers than previous administrations, the antitrust laws still are strict and strong enough to prevent excessive merging.

Singleton said past administrations have theorized that bigness in business is bad. Reagan and his advisors are saying that's not necessarily so.

Both professors agreed that future mergers will not affect the consumer in prices he pays for goods, and said that despite business mergers, competition still prevails.

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