

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Regents looking at stricter admission standards

By Mary Louise Knapp

A proposal to tighten NU admission standards, presented at Saturday's meeting of the NU Board of Regents, received mixed reactions from board members.

The proposal had been suggested to the regents in 1979, but was voted down.

Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff spoke in favor of stricter admission standards, suggesting that students applying for admission to the university maintain certain grade point averages and class standings.

Remedial education should be the responsibility of high schools, not the university, he said.

"It costs four times as much to educate a student in remedial classes as it does to educate someone else," that

is, a student who is fully prepared for college, he said.

Simmons said eliminating some remedial programs from the university and recommending stricter standards in high schools would improve the quality of education at the university.

John Payne of Kearney said he had not come to a conclusion on the admissions issue yet, but said students should not be penalized because they have not reached sufficient maturity to deal with the demands of college immediately upon entering.

Rick Mockler, student regent and ASUN president, said students should be adequately prepared for college in high school, however, remedial classes should be offered at the university level for those who weren't.

"It is unfair to arbitrarily exclude students on the basis

of grade point average, ACT or SAT scores," he said.

Mockler said there have been many instances in which students who performed poorly in high school became good students in college.

Mockler said that now is a poor time to propose tightened admission standards because NU will experience a decline in enrollment during the next few years. The rising age of the college student population and the small population of high school and elementary school students will cause that decline, he said.

A study presented at the Saturday meeting revealed that several universities of comparable size, including the university of Iowa, Oklahoma State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, have set minimum admission standards.

## Legislators introduce drunken driving bills with tougher penalties

By Alice Hrnicek

Lincolnite Pearl Floth thinks drunken driving laws should be more strict.

Floth, 63, remembers vividly the sight of her car burning when she lay on a stretcher after the car was struck by a 17-year-old drunk.

At the time, Floth was confined to a wheelchair because of poor circulation in her left side. The 1980 Oregon accident aggravated her condition, preventing her from performing the few household chores she could once do.

Floth is one of many who testified Tuesday before the Nebraska Legislature's judiciary committee on four proposed legislative bills that would increase drunken driving penalties.

The bills are:

LB568 — introduced by Sens. Rex Haberman of Imperial and Peter Hoagland of Omaha. It would require mandatory prison sentences for DWI offenders, and make them ineligible for pre-trial diversion, probation or parole until the minimum jail term is served and reduction of sentence for good time served.

LB733 — co-sponsored by Haberman and Hoagland. The bill would mandate a 30-day work release sentence for a drunken driver causing an accident resulting in injury or death.

LB618 — introduced by Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh. It would require anti-drinking treatment for six months unless the offender's health would be endangered by the treatment.

LB747 — co-sponsored by Sens. Tom Vickers of Farnam and Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale. It would require the revocation of an offender's driver's license.

Of LB568, Flock said, "This bill is not strict enough. Anyone who gets into a car and drives recklessly is wrong because that car is a lethal weapon."

Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha said he opposed mandatory sentences because already there is a shortage of space for jailing persons.

Hoagland said he didn't think jails would be overcrowded by enforcing 48-hour sentences.

"I would hate for that to be a reason not to pass a law like this," Hoagland said. "We're concerned with saving lives."

Sen. Karen Kilgarin of Omaha said 48 hours in jail would not be enough to tell someone he is an alcoholic.

"If alcoholism is a disease, why would we have a program that would require that they be caught three times before treatment?" Kilgarin said.

"It seems like you've got the bill backwards," she said. "Shouldn't we have the treatment before jail? It seems like the vision of a bat."

Jeff McGrath, a UNL junior political science major, said he favored current laws that allow probation. McGrath is on probation for a drunken driving offense.

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## Cliff's Notes meant to supplement class texts, says consulting editor



Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Jim Roberts

By Eric Peterson

Students who read Cliff's Notes instead of their required texts don't bother Jim Roberts, UNL English professor and a consulting editor for Cliff's Notes.

"If they read this instead, at least they've read something," Roberts said and grinned broadly. He said instructors should be able to tell if students are using

Roberts said his favorite case of plagiarism occurred when one of his students copied an essay word for word from the Cliff's Notes for Faulkner's *Light in August*. Roberts wrote the essay.

"I didn't blame the notes, I didn't blame myself, I certainly didn't blame Faulkner for writing *Light in August*. I did hesitate whether to give the paper an A or an A+, and finally decided on the A because I had changed my mind about something I'd written in the third paragraph. He did, in the end, flunk the course."

Roberts said he is pleased with the general quality of the notes.

"The notes, when properly used, increase one's understanding of a work," Roberts said. "It works like any criticism at enhancing or deepening the understanding. It's supposed to have some of the same effect as a lecture."

There are more than two hundred titles offered in the Cliff's Notes, Roberts said.

"I say over 200 because we're constantly doing away with old titles and adding new ones," he said. The big sellers include the notes for *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Divine Comedy* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, he said.

Writers from across the country, including several from UNL, work with various titles, Roberts said. He said he has written quite a few of the titles, including those for Faulkner, Robert's specialty, and some major European works.

Roberts said Cliff's Notes began in 1958 when Cliff Hillegass began selling 16 titles, mostly Shakespeare, out of his basement. Hillegass was wholesale manager at the Nebraska Wholesale Bookstore at the time, Roberts said.

Cliff's notes are printed at Boomer's Printing Company, 1212 O St., and are distributed directly from the main office at 1701 P St.

What is the ideal way to use Cliff's Notes?

"Read the book, read the notes, then read the book again," Roberts advised. "If it's something especially complex, like *Ulysses* by James Joyce, or the *Divine Comedy*, read a chapter or a canto at a time, then a section of the notes."

Gary Carey, editor of Cliff's Notes, said the notes are sold in bookstores all over the United States and in Puerto Rico.

## LTS group discount proposed

By Betsy Miller

A new approach to student transportation was presented to the ASUN Senate at its Wednesday night meeting.

Monica Frank, a member of the Senate's Student Life Commission, said the commission, along with the Lincoln Transportation System, is proposing a group discount for students who wish to ride LTS buses.

Frank said each UNL student would be charged an extra \$10 in Fund A student fees and would be entitled to ride regularly scheduled LTS buses during non-peak hours for free.

Non-peak hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after 6 p.m. on weekdays, as well as all day Saturday, Frank said.

During peak hours students could ride the buses for a 25 cent charge, she said.

The proposal, which must be approved by the LTS Advisory Board, the University of Nebraska and the City of Lincoln, received mixed reactions from the senators. Sen. Nancee Shannon said she thought many students

would not care for a \$10 increase in Fund A student fees and would ask for a refund.

Sen. Greg Abboud questioned the need for students to pay an additional 25 cents fee to ride the bus during peak hours in addition to the \$10 fee they will pay for service.

However, Sen. Amy Cox said she thought the bus service would save students a lot of money over the span of several years.

Mike Steele, an LTS accountant who attended the meeting, said the plan "is still very preliminary."

In other action, the senate approved \$100 to the Big Eight Conference Planning Committee of the Afrikan People's Union.

The APU is planning to attend the annual conference of the Big Eight Council on Black Student Government at Iowa State University Feb. 19 and 20.

Sen. David Bracht said if ASUN approved the APU money for this project, the senate should be expecting other groups unrelated to ASUN to request money.

President Rick Mockler said he felt the appropriation was justified.

He said APU should not feel that ASUN is not responsive to APU needs.

## Inside Thursday

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