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## Student gives information on health insurance

"A foot in the door" and a chance to think creatively are two aspects of his new job as student health insurance representative that Dave Ditman, a senior life sciences psychology major, said he enjoys.

Ditman, 22, became the first student insurance representative at UNL after the university's switch from Mutual of Omaha to Keystone Student Insurance Company this tall.

According to Stephen Blom, University Health Center administrator, Ditman was "an excellent candidate." Some of the reasons for selecting Ditman were his experience as a health aide, his familiarity with the health center and with student insurance, and his pleasant personality and good speaking skills, Blom said.

His job involves answering questions about the new Students' Group Health and Accident Insurance Plan and marketing the policy.

Information about the new policy was mailed out to pre-registered students, Ditman said. He personally has provided information to students by manning a booth during general registration, speaking at various student orientations and by talking with health aides.

"Really, I'm not selling it. The main thing I'm doing is providing information. I think the policy sells itself," he said. Officially, his job is 20 hours a week, he said, but the newness of the policy is making his workweek a little longer. He said he receives an average of 15 students a day in his office, room 103 in the health center, and most of them buy the policy.

Ditman said he likes learning and using new skills and working with new people.

"Its been real rewarding," he said, but he doesn't foresee a career in insurance. "My interests are applying to met school or graduate school."

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## By Linda Liekhus

The creation of McDonald's McRib sandwich is a prime example of how "fundamental research in the laboratory can eventually get out in to the real world," a professor of animal science at UNL said.

Robert W. Mandigo said although UNL didn't make the product known as the McRib, it "made the technology used by McDonald's" to make the sandwich.

UNL research developed the process of producing the pork patty by investigating a variety of factors, including the size of the pork flakes, fat content and salt level. McDonald's then used this technology, along with "suggestions and guidance from UNL," to create its McRib sandwich, Mandigo said. and on both the East and West coasts, and it is "exceeding sales projections."

The McRib won't become a feature of the regular menu for about two years until it has been thoroughly test marketed, Benzinger added.

The Nebraska Union has also made use of UNL technology by adding the Duke of Rib sandwich to its menu.

According to Ronald Pushcar, director of Nebraska Union foot services, the Duke of Rib "uses the same tech-



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The research at UNL began in 1970 to make "pork more available to the institutional food market," Mandigo said, but the research also was needed to make a pork product "to fit the needs of fast-food restaurants."

The military and some fast-food restaurants have been the biggest users of UNL's findings. The McDonald's product is the most visible, Mandigo said.

The McRib sandwich is being met with "good success with the introduction of the product in all markets," said McDonald's Senior Area Supervisor Mark Benzinger. He said the sandwich is being marketed in the Midwest

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nology (as McDonald's) although we don't buy it from the same company."

Pushcar estimated there are three companies marketing the pork product, which has become "5% percent of the whole total sandwich business" at UNL's Union Square.

The UNL pork research was funded originally by a \$85,000 grant from the National Pork Producers Council.

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