

Finals Week  
Edition

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Photo by Mark Ebel

## Over the hill

It's been a long, arduous trek, but at last . . . the summit is reached. For many UNL students graduation is near — the peak is conquered. For the rest — it's the end of a long climb and the beginning of another. This UNL student reached the peak last summer in the Grand Tetons in Wyoming as part of a rock climbing course sponsored by campus recreation. Climbing and other summer recreation possibilities are detailed on page 12.

## Mail order research papers: Buying more than just a grade

By DONNA SISSON

"Save time and improve your grades," say the advertisements for term-paper assistance corporations, which give students a chance to buy term papers if they don't have the time, knowledge or energy to do the paper themselves.

Research Assistance Inc., a term-paper house in Los Angeles, offers "15,279 quality research papers to choose from." In order to determine exactly what the paper will include, the companies offer a catalog for \$2 that lists and describes each paper. The entries read like this:

•6702 — Marx and Durkheim. Examines the comparative and contrasting elements of Marx's concept of alienation and Durkheim's theory of anomie. 9 footnotes, 8 bibliographies, 11 pages.

•7434 — Air Pollution. Worldwide impact. Health hazards; causes, threat to animals and plants; melting of polar ice caps; ozone layer danger; need for international solutions. 13 footnotes, 9 bibliographies, 8 pages.

Each paper costs \$5 per page, plus postage, said an operator at the Research Assistance information number.

Ordering a term paper may be one way to avoid the anxiety of wrapping up the semester. But is this ethical? Can students get away with it?

The university administration doesn't condone buying term papers because it is illegal and unethical, said Delores Simpson-Kirkland, assistant to the dean of students. However, in her four years at UNL, Simpson-Kirkland said, she hasn't heard of any problems with papers that were bought from a term-paper supply house.

David Forsythe, a UNL professor of political science, said he knew of one case where a paper appeared to have been purchased and the student received an automatic F. If students knew how easy it is to spot these papers, he said, they wouldn't buy them.

Usually, purchased term papers are handed in by a student who is having difficulty, Forsythe said. When a paper with perfect grammar and style and excellent documentation is turned in, he said, it stands out like a red flag. Often, the papers use sources unavailable at UNL's libraries, he said.

One way to recognize professionally done papers is by the topic, said Virginia Book, associate professor of agricultural communication. Some topics are used over and over. Sometimes the papers don't fit into the style formats required by the course.

Book, who teaches a course in written communication, said the major problem comes from students who use papers from people who have taken the class before. In order to combat this, she said, she works closely with students through the rough-draft process and she tries to change the topics each year.

Often, even if a student doesn't get caught buying a paper, it doesn't help him much because the papers seldom are worth an A and they are thrown together by people who have never been in the course, said James Klumpp, chairman and associate professor of speech communication. Also, the places selling the term papers don't care about students' grades, he said.

Students are supposed to do their own work, and buying a term paper would be a case of academic dishonesty, Simpson-Kirkland said.

## Finals Week

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