Wednesday, November 28, 1984

Daily Nebraskan

Instructors battle cheating...

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grading standards because grad- problem, he wants to increase ers are required to know many enrollment by 20 percent and more versions. But, he said, "a third of the students still flunk and two-thirds still get A's or A-pluses."

type of cheating in his course was of engineering and technology pubthe use of crib notes, a collection lication, said he is aware of a of information on a small piece of reluctance on the part of some paper.

"Cheating is a desperation move by students who don't have good study skills and feel they need an of academic dishonesty to the unfair advantage over other students," he said.

A dramatic change has occured chology class since its reorgani- he could do. zation, Mehle said.

compared to other semesters," said Mehle, who claims about a 90 percent decrease in the number cheating, according to the syllaof cheating incidences.

been offered to teaching assis- instructor was hesitant and did tants several times this semester. not want to get involved. He quoted one student saying, "How much will it take, I'm serious, to get you to change my grade?". Students even threaten the lives of his teaching assistants. Mehle example of sources being impropsaid, all of which violates the university's Code of Conduct.

Mehle said people forge his Mehle, who claims he has never Of all the reasons for cheating, name to get into the course. He lost an appeal, said preparation the general consensus of those

thereby not turn down any students who wish to take the class.

cle on cheating in the Winter Mehle said the most common 1983 issue of Blue Print, a college professors to get involved.

"I have on several occasions," Sisson said, "reported incidences teacher and chairman, and have met with opposition from (them)."

Sisson said the chairman told in the number of cheating inci- him that if the teacher would not dences reported from the psy- do anything, there was nothing

On another occasion, two stu-"It has just about dried up dents collaborated on a lab rewrite which, Sisson said, was a "black and white" situation of bus. Sisson said when he con-However, he said, bribes have fronted the teacher with it, the

> Sisson said not all cheating is clearly defined; there exists a gray area as well. He gave an erly used, which constitutes pla- front cheaters, then they should giarism, but the intent is difficult to prove.

said he normally does not take for Judicial Board hearings are these cases before the Judicial time consuming and emotionally Mehle said this has lowered the Board. In order to alleviate this, draining. To provide proof of academic dishonesty, Mehle said, he brings in witnesses, statements and documents. He said the paper work and scheduling of witnesses Sisson, who published an arti- takes about 10 to 15 hours of preparation.

> "It is understandable to me why some professors would look the other way," Mehle said, "but I think I owe it to the honest students to detect cheaters."

Mehle also said he owes it to the cheaters to be fairly punitive. "I try to prosecute appropriately," he said. "Not too much, not too little."

Although he has met with obstinance from some faculty members, Sisson said he has received support from some instructors. His Blue Print article raised people's consciousness and produced positive effects in his classes, he said.

Sisson said one change instructors have made to prevent "gray area" academic dishonesty is to outline specific rules in their syllabi. One instructor changed policy in the middle of the semester because of student complaints on the potential for cheating, Sisson said.

If teachers do not want to conremove the potential and make it impossible to cheat, Sisson said.

interviewed was that people cheat because of pressures to get good grades and to maintain a high grade point average.

Harris said the emphasis on GPA only makes things worse.

Sisson said class priority in some colleges (for example business administration) is based on a student's GPA. Some forms of financial aid also are based upon merit, he said.

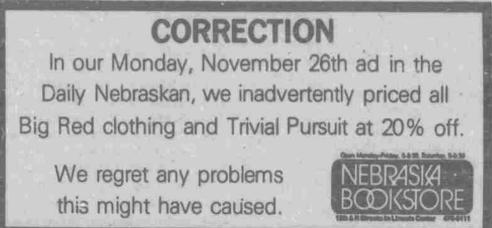
said.

with the effect cheating has on the institution.

"One or two cheaters in a small class can raise the grading curve immensely," he said. "If cheating is ignored it will tend to snowball and create incompetency in the field down the line.

Cheating lessens the quality of education and lessens the respect of the institution in the job market," Sisson said.

Sisson said this is why he advocates students, who have con-"These are the pressures which crete evidence, turning in cheatcreate the need to cheat," Sisson ers and contacting the Division of Student Life for guidance. He said Sisson said he is concerned records kept by the division will prevent repeat offenders from slipping by.





The Authors revealed Saturday, December 1. See Friday's Journal/Star and Daily Nebraskan for details.

'Hub' of UNL judicial process tries to instill academic integrity

By Kevin Dugan **Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter**

LuAnn Krager of the Division of Student Life, says that unless students have a sense of academic integrity, grades and pride three days to appeal, she said. are meaningless.

the record of events and sche- said. dules counseling if deemed necessary. Once the board makes a

All of this is done to get stu- said. Krager, the "hub" of UNL's judi- dents to face their actions, to

she is not part of the deliberation, friend or counsel, but the student she monitors the hearing, gives must speak for themselves, she

"We really work at being decision, participants are given protective of student information. That's first and foremost," Krager

The files are not completely

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cial process, works with students represent themselves and to deal confidential, however. sity's Code of Conduct.

Once evidence of code violanotice to the student citing the code number and giving an expla-nation. She tells the students their rights and has them come to her office to give their account of the the student wants to bring a released. situation.

Students are given the right of due process, Krager said. There is no anonymous activity; the accused get to face their accusors.

She then works with both parties and, depending on the severity of the complaint, works out a resolution or refers the case to the Judicial Board. Krager said she applies a developmental philosophy to her job. Actions which are quickly met with consequences become a better learning experience for the student, she said.

In an instance where, because of naivete, a freshman follows the bad advice of an upper-classman and forges an instructor's signature to get a class, Krager said, she would probably resort to pas-sive disciplinary action like a warning or perhaps academic probation.

In the case of repeated offenses or more serious and blatant ones, such as changing grades on a document, Krager said she would apply more active disciplinary action like academic or personal counseling, or else send the case before the Judicial Board.

The Judicial Board, which consists of five students and four faculty members, reserves the power of expulsion. However, Krager said, "it is more likely the student will be suspended than expelled. We are not a busting unit."

Krager said she arranges the Judicial Board hearings. Though

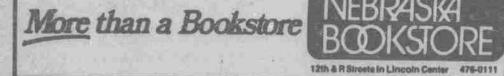
suspected of violating the univer- with the logical consequences of bad decisions, Krager said.

ElToro

UNL faculty have limited access to the files, Krager said. First, All meetings and hearings are they must explain their interest tion is obtained, Krager sends confidential, unless a student signs in a particular student's file and a release waiver for professional how it relates to their helping the school or a job application, Krager student. Then if the request is said. Sanctions are kept private deemed worthy, Krager said, some and hearings kept closed unless specific information may be

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