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Weather: Sunny today with bitterly cold temperatures continuing with a high of 0 (-18C). Clear tonight with diminishing winds and a low of -12 (-24C). No relief in sight for the weekend with highs climbing only into the single digits (-18C).

Barb Brande/Daily Nebraskan

Cyclones take wind out of Huskers...Page 14

A trip through Magic Kingdom...Page 6

What Do Your Profs Want?

By Ann Lowe
Staff Reporter

You scribble some notes as the professor drones on about vertebrate zoology. It was a late night, and you're not up to much intellectual activity. You stare into space and let your mind wander.

The professor sees you. He knows you're bored. He knows you're not listening.

Does he care? What does he really want?

It depends on the teacher and the class, said Herbert Howe, UNL professor and chairman of the psychology department.

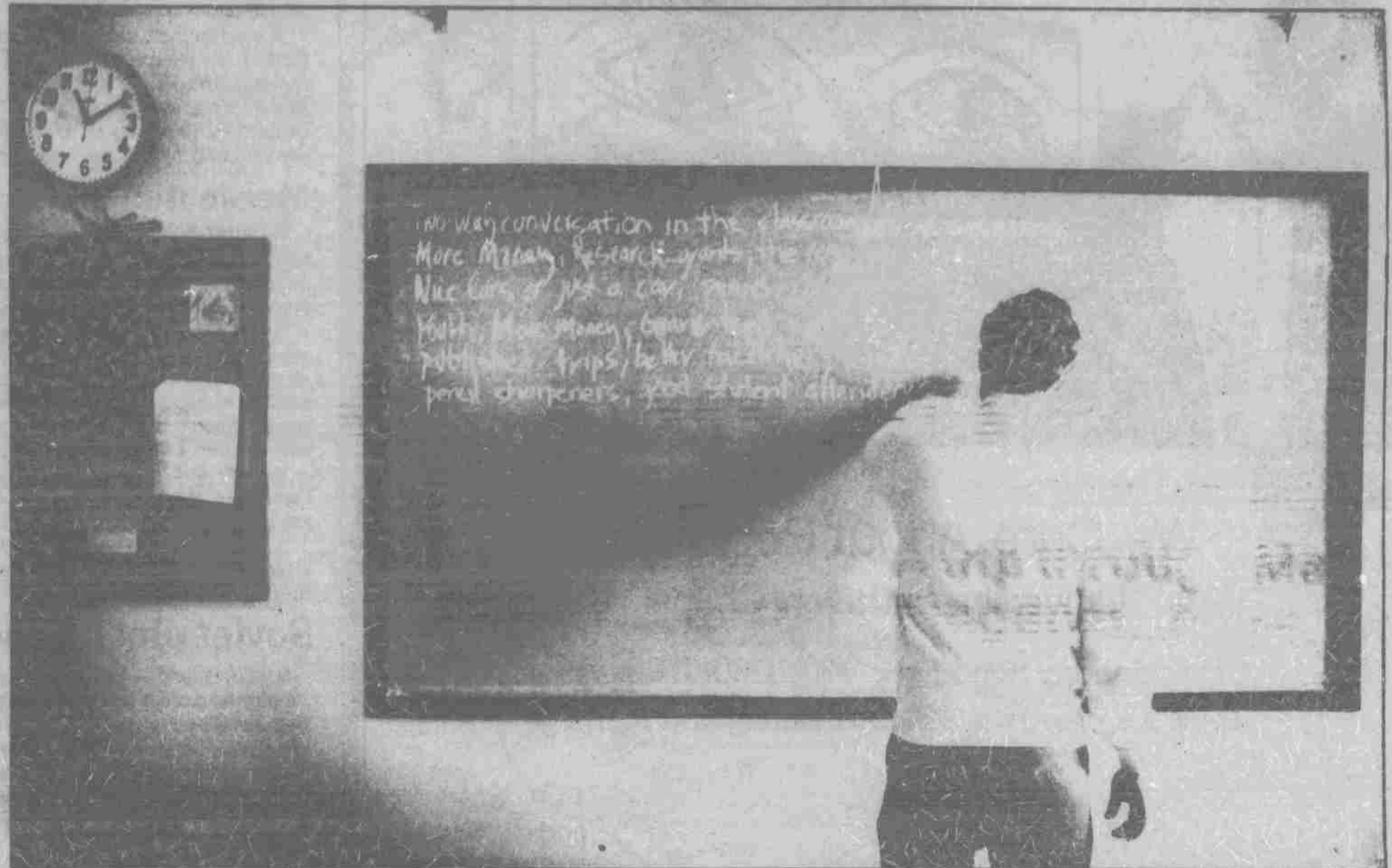
"Some faculty give fewer opportunities for students to participate. Their idea of how a class should run is 50 minutes of non-stop lecture," Howe said.

But most professors prefer two-way talk in the classroom, Howe said. They're bothered when students sleep, and even hurt when they leave half-way through class, he said.

Student participation often tells a professor how well he's teaching, Howe said.

"Almost without exception, it's the only way you can find out if students know what's going on," he said. A bunch of blank looks are a hint to plan more effective lectures, he said.

Students and professors agree that class size and level make a difference in student participation.



Merk Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Jay S. Hobgood, assistant professor of geography, has 14 students in one upper-division class and about 120 in his 100-level class.

"Obviously, there's a lot more interaction in the smaller class," he said.

Sophomore Randy Koehlmoos said most of his engineering classes meet in large lecture groups. Unless a question is very important, Koehlmoos said, he usually saves it for the recitation meeting.

Even in large lectures, some professors get a lot of student input, Koehlmoos said. Others try and fail, he said.

"Sometimes they'll just lecture and ask questions at the end... Everybody just sits there," he said. A good large-group discussion includes a planned — but flexible — lecture that allows students to break in with questions, Koehlmoos said.

Most small classes are in upper-division courses and include mostly majors, Hobgood said. Majors usually are more interested — and willing to participate — than non-majors who take large introductory courses to fill requirements, he said.

Sophomore Julie Brower, an elementary education major, said she speaks up more in her smaller

classes than she did in large freshman sections. Class size is one factor. Better knowledge of the subject is another, she said.

"You're more assured with what you're talking about," she said. "You feel like your input is more meaningful."

In any class, Brower said, her willingness to speak up depends on how comfortable the professor makes her feel. In one introductory class last semester, the professor recognized and called on only a few "smart ones," she said.

"I was like nobody in there," she said.

Some professors try to learn

students' names. Hobgood usually gives several quizzes instead of hour exams, so he can learn names as he passes back papers.

Other professors wait for students to introduce themselves.

Brower said she appreciates a teacher's effort to get to know her. But she rarely tries to meet her professors outside of class — even when she needs help.

Koehlmoos doesn't seek out his professors, either — "unless I have a discrepancy over a grade," he said. He has argued a grade only once. It wasn't changed, but Koehlmoos said, he found out why it was lower than expected.

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Misuse of technology could turn Orwell's '1984' into reality

By Jim Rasmussen
Staff Reporter

"Big Brother is watching you." In George Orwell's "1984," Big Brother meant the government, which kept constant watch over its citizens by using sophisticated electronic technology. No one could escape Big Brother's watchful eye, and unapproved statements could cost people their lives.

Although 1984 passed without Big Brother, some observers warn that technology, if misused, could produce a situation similar to the one described

in "1984."

Stanley Liberty, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at UNL, said he thinks technology can be a tool of improvement or destruction, depending on how people use it.

Liberty said the responsibility for technology's use rests with the consumers, not the inventors. Technological advances must continue, he said, regardless of possible detrimental uses of that technology.

Liberty used fire as an example. When cavemen first discovered fire, they probably knew it could be used to burn people and houses, he said. Fire

has been used for those purposes over the centuries, but that doesn't mean people shouldn't use it, he said.

Liberty, who supports the creation of a high-tech research center in Nebraska, said American universities need to teach students to use technology responsibly. Liberty said he would like to see courses dealing with the ethical questions of technology included in the liberal arts curriculum.

Today's students will be tomorrow's technology users, and they should be aware of the ethical questions involved, Liberty said.

Continued on Page 2

Depositors offered \$20.5 million

The Legislature on Wednesday approved 29-17 a resolution of intent that would partially repay Commonwealth Savings Co. depositors if it clears two more hurdles.

The resolution, designed and requested by Gov. Bob Kerrey, will offer depositors \$20.5 million to revive the defunct institution and will return 50 percent of their money.

Kerrey and Commonwealth Consul-

tant Morris Miller's reorganization plan, currently being drafted, must be approved by Lancaster District Court then approved by 80 percent of depositors before it can be implemented. If either body rejects it, the appropriation will go directly to depositors instead of to Commonwealth.

Kerrey and State Banking Director Roger Beverage will head a depositors' meeting tonight at the Devaney Sports

Center to present the package.

Senators adopted an amendment to the resolution which states that the Legislature intends to work on farm problems as well as Commonwealth.

Another part of the overall restructuring plan, which asks Lincoln and Lancaster County to forgive about \$5.5 million in back Commonwealth taxes, is yet to be settled.

Kerrey plans to raise bank's corporate taxes

By Brad Gifford
Senior Reporter

Gov. Bob Kerrey said Wednesday he plans to request a bill that would raise corporate income taxes on Nebraska banks and financial institutions to recover money the state lost in a tax loophole.

The institutions received about \$24 to 30 million in tax refunds after a January 1983 U.S. Supreme Court decision that prohibited taxation of federal investments by banks. Kerrey called the refunds a "windfall" that will be "hard to get back."

Kerrey's proposal calls for banks to pay higher taxes for five or six years until the balance is retrieved. He said he had wanted the banks to repay the money voluntarily. But since he has seen no indication that they will, Kerrey's last option was to raise taxes, he said.

If banks had repaid voluntarily, Kerrey said, the money would have been pledged to a corporation that would extend credit to farmers who needed help financing loans.

Money recovered via the tax in-

crease will not automatically go to such a corporation, he said. He would like the state to do something about the credit crunch confronting farmers, he said, but no program has been conceived to alleviate that problem.

In other matters:

Kerrey said he has asked all state agencies to design a policy requiring all employees to wear safety belts. But, he said, that doesn't mean he favors the mandatory seat-belt bill sponsored by several senators.

The seatbelt bill "might be premature," Kerrey said.

Kerrey said he doesn't know whether he will sign the bill if it gets to his desk. He will allow the director of the state Department of Motor Vehicles to testify in favor of the bill, he said.

The governor said he will leave the selection of a new Democratic state chairman up to the Nebraska Democratic Party. Kerrey said he neither will endorse nor interview any of the candidates.