

Tuesday

**Weather:**

Partly cloudy and humid today. Winds southwesterly 15-25 mph with a high of 80. Partly cloudy tonight with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms and a low of 62. Sunny and warmer on Wednesday with a high near 84.

Barb Branda/Daily Nebraskan

**P.O. Pears adds 'sandy' beer garden**

Arts and Entertainment, page 9



**Softball team wins Husker invitational**

Sports, page 11

# Daily Nebraskan

September 17, 1985

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 85 No. 16

## Knowledge, ability give TA's credibility

By Milli King  
and  
Jen Deselms  
Staff Reporters

Teachers' Assistants, both graduate and undergraduate, "pass the test" with faculty and students in terms of credibility, teaching ability and reliability, according to interviews with university officials.

"Graduate assistants very often get better teacher evaluations than professors," said Toni Santmire, educational psychology department chairman. In her department, she said, graduate teaching assistants as a group were more understanding of student concerns, devoted more time to students and were more accessible to students than some faculty members.

In the psychology department, teachers' assistants tend to get as favorable evaluations as faculty members, said Herbert Howe, department chairman.

Twenty-five undergraduates serve as TA's in Psych 181. Selection is based on their performance in class and a personal interview, Howe said.

Students who do well in the course and communicate well are encouraged to apply for TA positions, which involve

**'I think a TA helps. They're younger and can relate to me better.'**

answering questions over the reading material and grading multiple-choice and essay exams.

The course is popular enough to keep the TA program running, Howe said.

If a student disagrees with a TA's decision, appeals may be made; first, to an "on-call" TA then to a graduate assistant and finally to Howe.

"We work hard to keep reliability in the program, Howe said.

### Based on performance

The speech department has 15 graduate teaching assistants, who are reviewed on the basis of academic potential, teaching performance and professional involvement, said James Klumpp, speech communication department chairman.

"I think a lot is made about the teaching quality of GTA's," he said. "Our GTA's do an excellent job of teaching."

Excess enrollment has turned away between 500 and 600 students this

semester, he said. Without teachers' assistants, Klumpp said, the department would turn away another 1,500.

"I'm very comfortable about the quality of teaching going on," he said.

Students interviewed tend to agree.

"I think a TA helps," Jeff Benne, accounting major said. "They're younger and can relate to me better."

Benne said his Finance 361 TA "knows what he's talking about."

"He's really down to earth," Benne said. "He jokes with us in class."

For Jennifer Johnson, TA's provide more personal attention.

"He (her Bio Ethics 103 TA) could pinpoint where I was right or wrong" in answering test essay questions, graded by both the professor and the TA, said Johnson, an education major.

"He made comments on my test," Johnson said. "The professor just made general comments in class."

Some students, however, are skeptical about the knowledge of TA's.

"Sometimes you wonder if they know what they're talking about," said Lisa

Jobes, a social work major.

"You can tell when they're not experienced," she said.

Jobes said she didn't think it was fair having a TA grade her essay exams in philosophy class.

"It's just their opinion," she said.

At the same time, she said, "it's easier talking to him (her philosophy TA) because he's more able to accept what students say."

"He doesn't always have philosophical points to throw back," she said.

Language barriers also may produce ineffective teaching assistants.

"The Iranian students, I couldn't understand," said Doug Murphy, referring to GTA's in Math 107 and Economics 245 and 211.

"The grad students I had, that I could understand, did a god job," he said.

"I understand they couldn't afford to hire pros for every section," said Murphy, an accounting major.

Efforts were made to break the language barrier during the 1983-84 school year when a "Test of Spoken English" was instituted at UNL by former Graduate Studies Dean Henry Holtzclaw. The test, which is given world-wide, required students to orally complete sentences, describe objects and syn-

thesize information to present a class, said James Ford, an English professor who administers the test.

Ford said 78 percent of the students world-wide who take the test don't pass. At UNL, only 40 percent of the students are successful, Ford said. To be a teaching assistant at UNL, Ford said, foreign students must score at least 230 out of 300 on the test. The required score is hard to achieve.

"It's higher than at Princeton," he said, where students are only required to score 220.

### 262 GTA's and TA's

During the fall semester of 1984-85, UNL had a full-time equivalent of 1,202 faculty members and 262 GTA's and TA's. William Todd, data base manager of Institutional Research and Planning, said the number is not a head count but a measurement of faculty, GTA's and TA's calculated by the hours worked. Todd said the numbers have not changed in the last 3 or 4 years.

Teaching assistants are paid differently in each department. GTA's in the educational psychology department are paid \$4,400 a year, Santmire said. Speech Communications GTA's received between \$4,750 and \$5,500 a year, Klumpp said. Associate Dean of Engineering and Technology, Lyle Young said engineering GTA's earn starting pay of \$7,500 a year.

The use of GTA's is "part of our

Please see ASSISTANTS on 6

## Bell tower weathers 'Singing Silo' days

By Karen Shoemaker  
Staff Reporter

Classes are out and students rush along crowded sidewalks. Suddenly, chimes begin and strains of "Close to You" waft across campus. Some students smile. Others cringe. Most ignore.

The chimes come from Mueller Tower, the 84-foot limestone structure standing between Morrill and Bessey halls.

The tower's carillon plays one or two taped selections at 25 minutes past the hour on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., said Harley Schrader, director of the Physical Plant. The chimes also play on weekends.

Most of the musical selections are taped, but the carillon also can be played manually, Schrader said. It has a keyboard similar to that of a piano. On football Saturdays, a carillonneur plays the music, he said.

The taped songs are chosen by employees of the UNL Physical Plant. The department also is responsible for the tower's upkeep.

The selections include pop, classical, semi-classical, patriotic and non-denominational Christmas carols, Schrader said.

"We try to select songs that are acceptable to everyone," he said. "I'm not sure that's possible but that's what we try to do."

The "Singing Silo," a nickname for

the tower coined not altogether affectionately by the summer of 1949 Daily Nebraskan staff, was made possible by an endowment from Ralph Mueller, class of 1898.

The tower was designed by George Kuska Jr. while he was a UNL architecture undergraduate.

The tower was the subject of controversy during its construction.

Daily Nebraskan editorials questioned the desirability of a carillon tower and said the tower's \$85,000 construction fund could be used better elsewhere on campus.

But the Daily Nebraskan later changed its tune. On the eve of the tower's dedication at the 1949 Homecoming ceremonies, the Daily Nebraskan reversed its stand in a statement that lauded the beautiful landmark and thanked the benefactor who made it possible.

The tower was again the subject of controversy about five years ago, said Larry Andrews, assistant executive vice president and provost. Several faculty members complained that the tower's music interrupted classes. But others said they enjoyed the music and wanted it to continue.

A committee was set up to decide on a mutually acceptable schedule for the tower's music, Andrews said. After one meeting the committee decided on the present schedule, "which seems to satisfy everyone," he said.



Assistant professor Tom Rinkevich, center, picks up his lunch box after he collided with Scott Fleck, left, Monday morning on 14th Street in front of the Men's P.E. Building. Eastern Ambulance Paramedic Roger Green, right, assisted.

## Professor, student collide on bikes

From Staff Reports

A UNL professor was injured Monday morning when his bicycle and a bicycle ridden by a UNL student collided near the Men's Physical Education Building.

Police said Thomas Rinkevich, 44, collided in the intersection of north 14th and W streets with a

bicycle ridden by Scott Fleck, 18, who lives in Harper Hall. Rinkevich, an assistant classics professor, was treated and released at Bryan Memorial Hospital. Fleck was not injured.

Damage was estimated at \$25 to one bicycle and \$100 to the other.

Lt. Alan Soukup of the Lincoln Police Department said Rinkevich and Fleck apparently did not see

each other before colliding. The accident showed that traffic accidents do not always involve automobiles, he said.

"Just because you're riding a bicycle doesn't mean you shouldn't be observant of other traffic, whether a bicycle or a semitruck."

No charges have been filed regarding the accident, Soukup said.