

Weather:

Mostly sunny and not as windy today. Northwest winds 10-15 mph diminishing to less than 10 mph later in the day. Partly cloudy tonight, low of -2. Slightly warmer on Tuesday with a chance of snow flurries. High of 17.

Musicians' whims met for sake of concerts

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Basketball team continues dominance of Cowboys

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Watchdog group could be inhibitive, professors say

By Suzanne Teten
Senior Editor

Although there is no evidence that members of Accuracy in Academia, Inc. are active on this campus, several UNL professors say such a group could be detrimental to academic freedom in the United States.

Accuracy in Academia, a Washington-based watchdog group, encourages students to monitor professors' lectures for liberal biases and report them to the organization. AIA then asks professors to acknowledge that they made the reported statements and publishes them.

Philip Dyer, UNL political science professor, said he thinks the group's intentions may be acceptable, but it "inhibits the free running of the classroom."

"I think there's always a possibility of spies in a classroom inhibiting professors," Dyer said.

He said much of what professors teach is subjective. As long as a particular viewpoint doesn't become the focus of the class, he said, professors should be free to speak their views.

"I study a field and make a judgment about it," Dyer said. "Most of what we deal with is subjective. You spend 20 years studying a field — it's your wisdom about a field that you're paying for."

Dyer teaches a course in nuclear weapons. He said he tells the class that he is against nuclear weapons. But he

said he doesn't make that opinion the focus of the class.

"There's very little that's objectively true that's interesting," Dyer said.

Dyer said he deliberately takes "pretty extreme positions" on controversial issues to "stimulate a little mental turbulence."

"The alternative is sleeping," he said.

Fred Luebke, professor of history and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies, said he thinks a professor should have the freedom to "teach the truth as he or she sees it."

Luebke said AIA will create a problem because it identifies professors who teach things the group disagrees with.

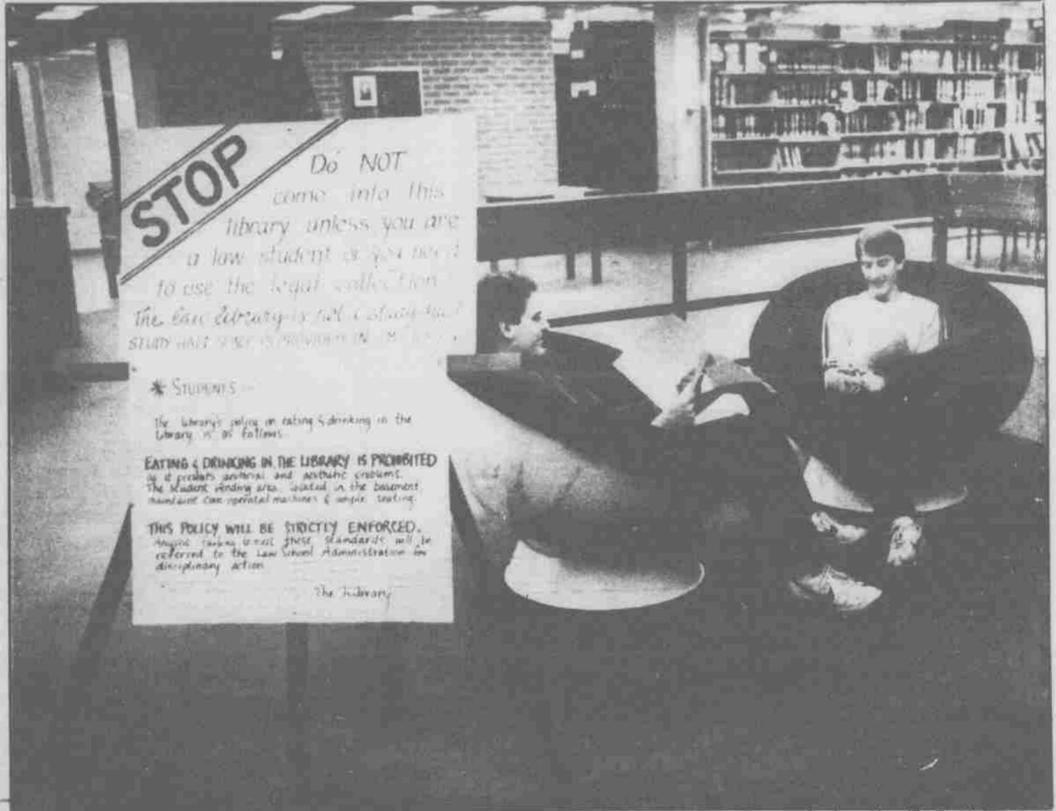
"That's not democracy; that's fascism," he said.

He said students shouldn't cooperate with the group because it would end academic freedom and freedom of speech. Students who cooperate with the group "are being duped," Luebke said.

Nels Forde, professor of history, said AIA is "subversive."

He said a group outside the university could not make a fair assessment of a professor's performance based on reports from a few students.

Forde said he is very conservative so he is "more accurately aware of liberal biases" in some classrooms. But he said AIA should be impartial and not focus only against liberal viewpoints.



Andreas Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Brian Howard, left, and Steve Grasz, both freshman law students, use materials in Law Library.

Non-law students are urged not to study at Law Library

By Janis Lovitt
Staff Reporter

A sign at the entrance to the Law Library on East Campus greets students in the following way:

"STOP. Do NOT come into this library unless you are a law student or need to use the legal collection. The law library is not a study hall. Study hall space is provided in Rms. 125/126."

With finals week fast approaching, UNL students probably will be spending a lot of hours in the campus libraries. The Law Library, however, only can be used by law students or those using the law materials, said Ruth Witherspoon, assistant dean of the College of Law.

Witherspoon said the Law Library must provide adequate study space in ratio to the number of UNL law students. This rule, a factor considered for accreditation in the American Bar Association, is enforced by the ABA.

Most law colleges are members of the ABA, Witherspoon said. As a result, their libraries also must have proper study space, she said.

Because of this rule, Witherspoon said the Law Library posts signs asking that only people using law materials study at the library.

Although the rule has been in effect a long time, the sign in the entrance of the library recently was installed to help enforce it, said Allen Ericson, Student Bar Association president.

Sally Wise, law librarian and associate professor of law, said the librarians usually do not enforce the rule.

"We prefer to think that it is self-enforcing," she said. "We don't have a bouncer at the door."

Wise said the Law Library has not had many problems enforcing the rule in the past. If more problems occur, other tactics will have to be used, she said.

Wise said she realizes many students set law books at their desks and pretend to be using them in order to study in the library. She said the librarians usually can recognize these students by the way they use the books.

'We prefer to think that it is self-enforcing. We don't have a bouncer at the door.'

— Sally Wise, law librarian and associate professor of law

"Law students will usually use the law materials a lot," she said. "They will often have many law textbooks with them. If someone is using a calculator, that is a pretty good indication that the person is not a law student."

One way librarians avoid these problems is to provide separate study areas for the students who are not using the law materials.

Ericson said the policy is not meant to discriminate against undergraduate students, but to ensure that law students have priority to use the legal materials. The undergraduates, he said, "have their own study rooms in 125 and 126 or they can study downstairs in the lounge."

There are signs indicating the location of these areas on the front doors and on the main floor, Wise said. The library has many classrooms that are

available for study areas, she said.

Wise said the Law Library is appealing to many students because it is quiet.

Wise said other students may need to use the law materials. These students often don't know how to use the library, she said.

The Law Library has reference librarians and offers tours to help familiarize students with the library, Wise said.

Wise said the library might become crowded in the next few weeks because of finals. She said she does not anticipate any problems with other students, but said the librarians will have to make sure there is proper space for the law students.

"We're not into kicking people out," she said. "We just want them to use the other study areas."

Sieg Brauer, a third year law student said the policy is needed because of the law library's limited space. He said the library was crowded last fall but cramped conditions have slacked off more recently.

Undergraduates tend to study in the law school lounge and library during the beginning of the week, said Susan Spahn, a junior law student. This crowds out the law students who have no other quiet place to work, she said.

Also, non-law students leave garbage lying around the library and generally don't treat the place like the law students, Spahn said.

Wise said the Law Library will be open for the next few weeks of the semester from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Sundays. The Law Library will close at 10 p.m. on Dec. 19, she said.

Student group helps Colombian relief effort

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

Claudia and Guillermo Andrade visited a volcano at Armero, Columbia, on vacation several years ago.

On Nov. 13 that volcano erupted burying Armero in mudslides. The town's population of 25,000 was nearly wiped out.

Most of the 25,000 townspeople were *campesinos* who farmed cotton and coffee.

Today, the town is destroyed and the Columbia government plans not to rebuild it for fear of further eruptions.

An estimated 23,000 people are dead and 21,000 injured. About 30,000 were left homeless and 200 to 300 children were orphaned, according to U.S. News and World Report.

The Andrades, both UNL students, have monitored newscasts and newspaper accounts of the tragedy. They've also talked to their relatives who live in Cali, Columbia.

The whole country is "in shock," Claudia Andrade said.

The Andrades shared their concern with the Latin American Student Association. The group decided to sponsor a fundraising drive to aid

the International Red Cross's relief efforts in Columbia.

"There's an easy way to say I'm sorry for what happened," Guillermo Andrade said. "There's a hard way to do something."

Tuesday and Wednesday members of the student association will sponsor booths at the Nebraska Union from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

They will accept cash donations only because they lack the means to transport food and clothing, Guillermo Andrade said.

UNL's 48 Latin American students call their campaign "Columbia in Agony."

They borrowed the slogan from news clippings Claudia and Guillermo Andrade cut from U.S., England and Colombian newspapers. The Andrades assembled the newspaper photos on three story boards to attempt to educate students about how the tragedy has affected people.

"Only a number (statistics) is not enough to explain the real situation over there — the destruction, the pain, the suffering," Guillermo Andrade said.

The Andrades encourage UNL students to donate any amount.