

Students find happiness at UNL

Story by Diana Johnson

A

sk some student scholars at UNL what they think of their education and you're likely to get some positive answers.

In fact, of the merit scholars interviewed, their answers are so positive, it might lead one to wonder if these students are telling the whole truth.

The fact that all of these students applied and were accepted at institution of greater prestige, such as Harvard, Yale, Northwestern and Stanford universities, make one wonder even more.

But of the merit scholars interviewed, most say they have no regrets of bypassing those Ivy League or near-Ivy League schools for UNL.

"A reputation doesn't mean a hill of beans," says Jeffrey Talbott, a senior theater major from Kimball.

"I could not have a better education had I gone to a more reputable school," he said.

There is irony in Talbott's statement, he says.

During his junior and senior year in high school, as he visited out-of-state colleges with his parents, Talbott became dead-set against going to UNL.

The excitement of attending theater classes at a more well-known, out-of-state college pulled Talbott toward the University of Northern Colorado.

But for financial reasons, Talbott ended up rehearsing lines for UNL's theater professors.

Colorado's universities do not provide financial support for out-of-state students, Talbott said, so he came to UNL backed by a corporate sponsored merit scholarship and a Regents award.

Talbott's rationale to attend UNL for financial reasons is not unlike the situation other merit scholars found themselves in near high school graduation.

Mary Beth Trouba, whose choices for higher education included Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Chicago and Northwestern University, said she decided it was in her best interests to put off any debts until graduate school.

Trouba's scholarship, sponsored by the State Farm Companies Foundation, also was supplemented by with a Regents award.

Trouba said the "vast cost of tuition" at those schools discouraged her from taking undergraduate-level courses there.

Trouba said she also found the university more helpful and more willing when she was faced with last-minute registration problems.

Part of that may simply stem from the fact that she carries clout with administration as a merit scholar, Trouba said.

"I wouldn't say with faculty that's true, but with administration it's a different story," she said. "Let them know you're a merit scholar and presto."

Michael Roe, a senior account-

ing major, said he experienced the same ease after filing his registration at the last minute when he suddenly decided not to attend the University of Iowa.

But the special attention encouraged Roe's decision to come to UNL.

Roe said that as he prepared to attend Iowa, he felt he was treated more and more as a number.

Roe said an earlier promise from Iowa to provide financial aid went by unheeded.

Then he said he was told there would be no problem with housing. A notice later was mailed informing him that he would receive only temporary housing. That's when he made his decision to come to Nebraska.

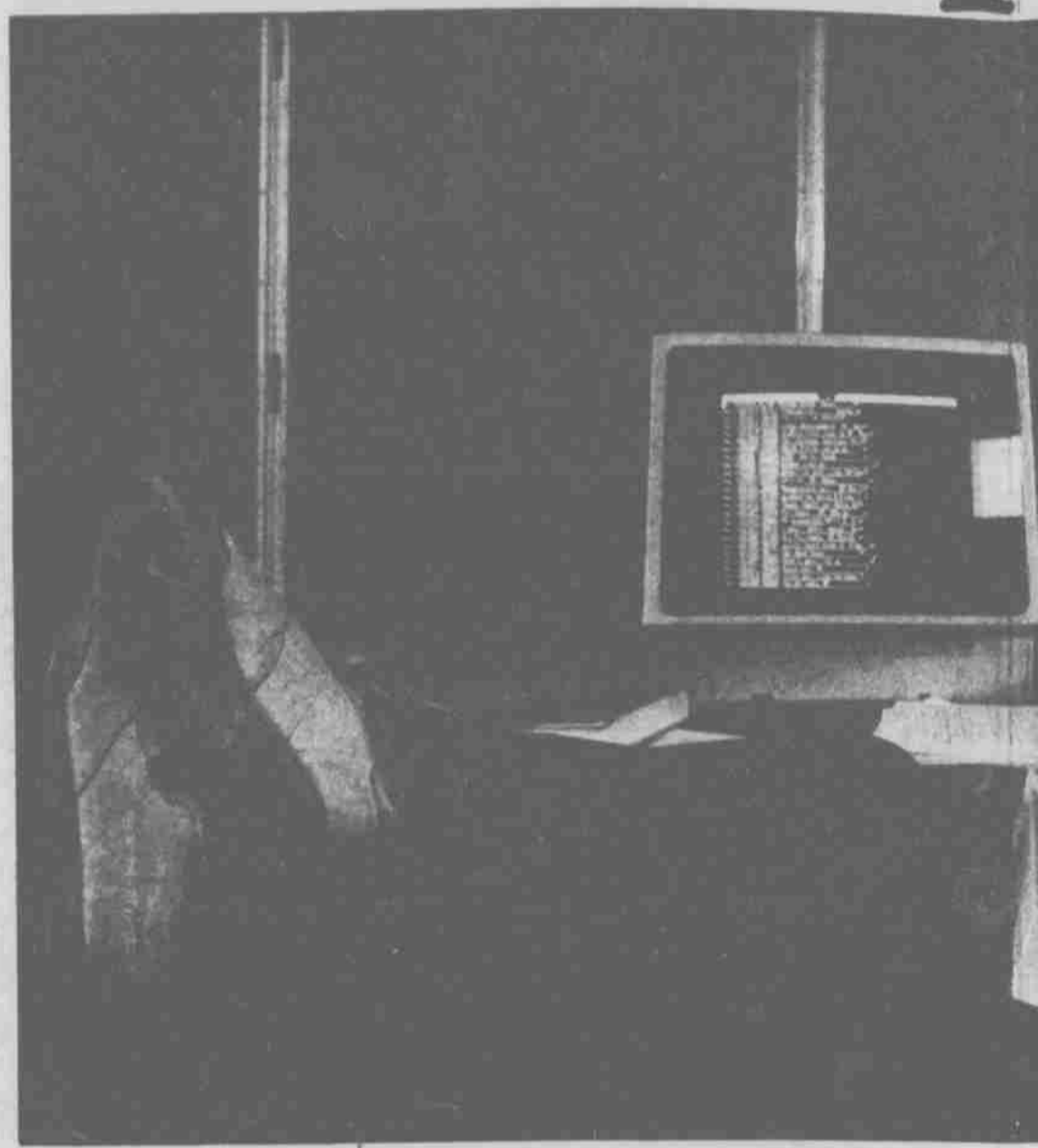
Roe said he is pleased with his decision.

Roe said ironing out problems for registration for his freshman classes took only 2 1/2 hours and one adviser.

Beth Kolb, a senior anthropology major, said her merit scholarship from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Funds, would have allowed her to attend Stanford or Princeton universities or Reed College in Oregon, which is well known for its excellent anthropology department.

Like other merit scholars, Kolb said money also was a factor in her decision to attend UNL.

But Kolb said she also was influenced by the university's involve-



Benn



Roe