

WEATHER: Wednesday, variable cloudiness and windy with a few flurries. High in the mid-30s. Wind becoming northwest and increasing to 20 to 30 miles per hour with higher gusts. Wednesday night, partly cloudy and colder with gradually decreasing winds and a few evening flurries. Low around 10 above.

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Tax law will be felt by those seeking aid

By Libby York
 Staff Reporter

There is no free lunch. With recent changes in tax laws and the availability of some financial aid, many students may discover this old saying to be true.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986, which took effect Jan. 1, has been called the most sweeping overhaul in the history of the income tax. The law reduces tax rates for most individuals, increases tax rates for corporations, repeals some deductions and broadens the tax base.

Many students will be significantly affected by the change in exemption status. The new tax law allows students who can claim themselves to be exempt from withholding of federal taxes from their paycheck, but exemption credit will no longer be allowed for taxpayers who can be claimed as dependents on their parents' returns. And C.G. Greenland, a tax accountant from H&R Block, said that the new rules disallow anyone earning over \$2,540 a year to claim exemption. Before tax reform, individuals earning under \$3,560 a year could claim exemption.

Greenland said that if students are going to work, they should claim no allowances, so that some money will be withheld, but they won't have to pay taxes at the end of the year.

The new laws also disallow graduate teaching assistants and research assistants to exclude payments from taxable wages. Scholarships, fellowships and other educational-assistance grants are also no longer excludable from taxable

income. If the student is employed and required to fill out a W-4 form, the amount of scholarship grants in excess of educational expenses must be considered part of the student's taxable income.

Awards credited to students' tuition accounts after Jan. 1 are subject to the new tax code. Deductions for consumer interest on education loans will be phased out over five years: 35 percent disallowed in 1987, 60 percent in 1988, 80 percent in 1989, 90 percent in 1990 and 100 percent in 1991.

An additional change cuts student aid significantly. Government statistics show that some \$3 billion in student loans go into default each year. As a result, according to a recent article in the Lincoln Star, up to 3,000 UNL students may have to do without Guaranteed Student Loans next year because of tougher eligibility guidelines passed last October. Under the new, stiffer regulations, students from middle-income families will have more difficulty qualifying for loans.

Doug Severs, assistant director of scholarships and financial aid at UNL, said that nearly 11,000 UNL students rely on student loans.

Students also will have more difficulty declaring themselves financially independent of their parents to qualify for aid. Under the new rules, students must be 24 years old to declare financial independence unless they are married, orphans, wards of the court or veterans, or have dependents of their own.

Panel of local educators criticizes 'Amerika' for perpetuating stereotypes

By Ryan Steeves
 Staff Reporter

While the ABC miniseries "Amerika" depicts American apathy toward politics, the film may also arouse American prejudice against the Soviets, said the chairwoman of the Lincoln chapter of Nebraskans for Peace.

Laurel Erickson, other members of Nebraskans for Peace and several Lincoln educators met Monday to address questions raised by the film that some said could hurt U.S.-Soviet relations.

"We're concerned that for some viewers, the movie may raise some sentiments that will have a harmful effect on our leaders' ability to decrease the tensions between the United States and the U.S.S.R.," Erickson said.

After viewing 35 minutes of excerpts from the upcoming miniseries depicting a Soviet takeover of the United States, a panel of four Lincoln educators discussed the movie and its possible effects on Americans.

One scene that bothered the educators shows Soviets burning a house because the owners refuse to give them the information they want.

Pat Khol, a Lincoln Southeast sociology teacher and panel participant, said such clips will increase anti-Soviet behavior.

"I think that you hear so much that is anti-Soviet," Khol said. "A film like this just adds a little fuel to the fire."

Khol said she tries to help her students differentiate between facts and fiction when discussing Soviet stereotypes so students can better understand the Soviet people. She said she tries to teach her students that all people have the same emotions and needs no matter what their culture.

Roger Reinhardt, a Battie School elementary teacher and member of the panel also tries to break negative-stereotypical views of the Soviets. Reinhardt said the media are to blame for a negative Soviet image. He said the media constantly portrays the Soviets as the "bad guys" and the Americans as the "good guys."

Reinhardt had his students exchange letters with children of the Soviet Union so they would learn about Soviet life. His students found that Soviet children enjoy French fries, dances and movies such as "Bambi" and "Mary Poppins" just like American children. The Soviet children also expressed a wish to be friends with Americans and to avoid war, he said. Reinhardt criticized "Amerika" for not including these and other similarities between the United States and the Soviet Union.

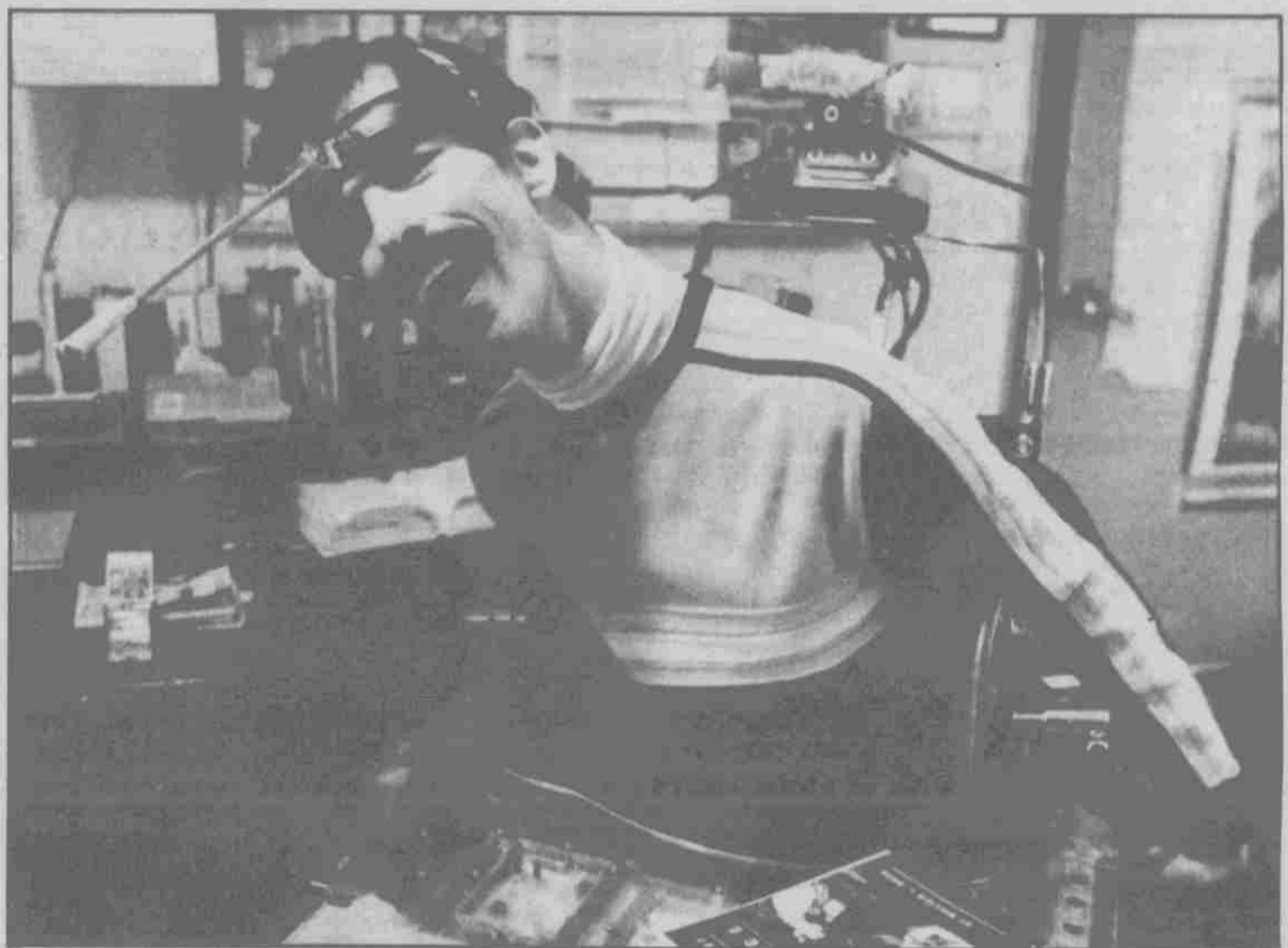
But although the panel criticized the portrayal of the Soviet people in "Amerika," they agreed with some of the apathy that was evident in the film excerpts.

Greg Nelson, a teacher at Pound Junior High School and another panel participant, said he thought the movie showed the balance because it showed that Americans do view politics with apathy. But, he added, apathy has been a problem throughout history, and no easy solution exists.

Khol said the movie might reduce apathy because Americans will see some of their basic rights taken away in "Amerika." She said they might realize that these rights should be cherished.

"As Americans," Khol said, "... it makes us say, 'This is something that I think is important, that I cherish, that

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Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Rush

UNL alum writes to free spirit

By Natalie Weinstein
 Staff Reporter

One afternoon when Bill Rush was still a child, he was stung by a bee on the playground.

He screamed in pain, but the teacher didn't understand and told him just to settle down.

One afternoon when Rush was in college he was told by a pair of "fanatic fundamentalists" that he was possessed by the devil and should let God cast out his demons.

On the first day of Rush's first journalism class, his professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln told him to drop the class and change his major.

Rush didn't listen to the professor. In 1983, he graduated from UNL's College of Journalism with honors.

These and other events from Rush's life are included in his first book and autobiography, "Journey Out of Silence."

"Journey Out of Silence," which was published last December, took Rush nine years to write. It describes Rush's life struggle to be accepted by other humans as just another person.

It describes his struggle to be understood.

Rush, 31, has cerebral palsy. He does not have the use of his arms, legs or voice. To write his 217-page book, Rush used a headstick strapped around his skull to punch the words, letter by letter, into his computer.

To "speak" Rush also uses the headstick to punch letters into the computer, which are then spelled aloud by a voice synthesizer.

Rush is scheduled to autograph books tonight from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

To sign the books, Rush uses his headstick to stamp on the slogan: "Disability Cool, Let the Spirit Set You Free! William L. Rush."

"Disability Cool," said Rush, is the slogan of the disability movement — a movement to knock down barriers like "curbs, stairs and unacceptance."

Electric doors, ramps and spiral bindings for books, Rush said, are "disability cool because they don't care if you have a disability."

The rest of the slogan, "Let the Spirit Set You Free!" means being free to look past disabilities, Rush said.

Some people have called Rush a "superhero." Others have called him a "victim." Rush dislikes both terms. Everyone, he said, has disabilities.

"My disability is more visible," he said, "but everybody lives with limitations. So I don't see why I should be excluded or granted sainthood because mine shows."

Waiting for a heart

UNMC transplant program first in Nebraska for children

By Colleen Kenney
 Staff Reporter

Sometime soon, a potassium-filled, frozen heart will be jettied to Omaha to be the first heart transplanted at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The heart will have been cut from an irreversibly brain-dead donor with the same heart size and blood type as the recipient.

A UNMC team, including heart-transplant specialist Dr. Anthony Moultron, will have retrieved the heart from within a 1,000-mile radius of Omaha, racing against a 4 1/2-hour deadline for the trip home by Lear jet.

"Most of us feel a little uncomfortable going much over four hours," Moultron said, "because the heart's receiving no blood supply."

At a complete standstill, the heart will rest in a sterile, ice-filled cooler beside the UNMC physicians.

And sometime soon, a 57-year-old man from a small Nebraska town will receive a call that the frozen heart is on its way. He is the first scheduled heart-transplant patient at UNMC.

The transplant could be in a few days or a few weeks, Moultron said. UNMC officials are now waiting for a suitable donor for the waiting patient, whose name could not be released.

In December UNMC officials received approval from the state's Certificate of Need Committee to begin a heart-transplant program. UNMC is Nebraska's third authorized heart-transplant center. Bryan Memorial Hospital and Omaha's Clarkson Hospital are the others.

But the UNMC center will be different: It will be the state's first pediatric heart-transplant center. Besides performing transplants on adult patients, no longer considered experimental, UNMC physicians will be part of the seventh center in the country that will specialize in heart transplants on newborns, babies, toddlers and older children, Moultron said.

But the UNMC team is not ready for that yet.

Before performing a pediatric heart transplant, the medical team needs practice on the adult patients, Moultron said.

As the team's primary surgeon, Moultron will perform about 25 to 30 heart transplants this year — about one every two weeks — and later about 50 hearts per year. About half of those operated on will be children, he said.

Moultron said he plans to work with pediatric heart-transplant experts at the Loma Linda Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif., in early February. Loma Linda doctors performed the "Baby Fae" and "Baby Jessie" heart-transplant operations.

No pediatric transplants will be performed at UNMC until enough adult transplants have been completed that the team feels prepared, Moultron said.

"We want to make sure first that we don't have any glitches in the system," he said, "and it'll be easier to spot where those problems are if we do adults."

About 900 heart-transplant operations were performed in the United States last year, Moultron said. And if the trend from the last three months continues, he said, the number for this year could be 1,200.

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