

WEATHER: Mostly cloudy, breezy and cooler Friday. A 20 percent chance of showers. High near 55. Northwest wind 15 to 25 mph. A 20 percent chance of early evening showers Friday night. Then decreasing clouds and wind. Cooler with the low near 34. Mostly sunny and warmer Saturday. High around 60.

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In the shadow of the ax Nursing College goes on while waiting for the blow to fall

By Jen Deselms
Senior Reporter

Things go on as usual in the Lincoln division of the UNMC College of Nursing. The professors teach, students learn, and the threat of elimination has returned.

Posters line the hallways of Benton and Fairfield halls on City Campus, reminding students to write the NU Board of Regents. Some scattered stickers say, "When you need care, will a nurse be there?" A sign above the entrance to Fairfield Hall says, "Save our college/support nursing." The sign has been used before.

In 1985 the College of Nursing took a \$300,000 cut, and in January, NU President Ronald Roskens proposed that the Lincoln division be eliminated to help make up a \$3.1 million budget cut mandated by the Nebraska Legislature.

But the college still hasn't seen the complete effects of the last cut. Eight of 12 positions slated for elimination in 1985 have yet to be eliminated, said Dean Rosalee Yeaworth.

A vote Saturday by the Board of Regents will determine the future of the Lincoln division.

Yeaworth said that when the cuts were being discussed in 1985, the UNMC administrators believed the division was important and spread the cuts around to keep the program. Nursing students also must pay 25 percent more for tuition, which is now \$56.50 per nursing credit hour.

Yeaworth said she did not anticipate the latest elimination proposal, which would save \$518,000 in state funds. But the cut will cost UNMC, \$234,927 in lost tuition from Lincoln students, she said.

Past cuts and threats of elimination have lowered morale and the enrollment has decreased, Yeaworth said. Enrollment at the Lincoln division dropped from 220 in the 1984-85 school year to 179 in 1986-87.

A few students who were admitted to the Lincoln program decided to go elsewhere because of the uncertain future of the college and the threat of elimination, said Beverly Cunningham, student affairs adviser at the Lincoln division.

Yeaworth said she has tried to show students and professors that the division has a future by improving a student

lounge and a practice lab and moving faculty members into private offices. But Rosken's proposal to eliminate the division after the 1983 cuts aggravated morale problems, she said.

While the drop in students is easy to document, the effects of the tight budgets and threats of elimination on faculty members are more difficult to determine.

Faculty members at UNL are not separated from those at UNMC, and some of the professors in the division are based in Omaha.

No faculty members have left the

ideas on how health care should be given, they said.

Sophomore Geni Budd said she doesn't have any idea what she would do if the Lincoln program was closed. Budd said she spent a year at UNL without declaring a major and then decided on nursing.

"I never thought of any other program," Budd said.

Students recognize the seriousness of the cuts, but haven't lost hope or their sense of humor.

Blazek and Fritz said there's a running joke in the college that all the students could change their majors to something in politics because of the experience they've gotten while lobbying to save the program.

The elimination of the division is not just the concern of its students, Fritz said, but of the entire university. As long as the process of vertical cuts continues, different programs will be targeted for elimination in the future, she said.

Yeaworth said she is optimistic that the regents will make the "right decision" and retain the program. The importance of the program has been proven through community testimony on the need for nurses and statistics that show a national nursing shortage, she said.

Statistics provided by the College of Nursing say that the vacancy rate for registered nurses in U.S. hospitals doubled last year. There are presently 400 vacancies in Nebraska's acute-care hospitals.

For Cunningham, the proposal to eliminate the division after cutting \$300,000 in 1985-86 did not come as a surprise. At Christmas time she ran across her red "save our college" button and got it out, anticipating that the division would be targeted for cuts, Cunningham said.

"Isn't that a terrible thing to say?" she said.

Because of the plan for vertical cuts, Cunningham said she won't throw away her Nursing College button even if the division is saved. With a policy of vertical cuts to eliminate entire programs, the Lincoln division will be targeted each time until the economy improves, Cunningham predicted.

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division this year, Yeaworth said. Those that left in previous years didn't specifically give budget uncertainties as a reason for leaving, she said. However, people are leaving support-staff positions, like secretaries. Many of the faculty members have families and are not as likely to leave because of this tie, Yeaworth said.

If the division were closed, juniors could finish the program in Lincoln if they choose. But many of the division's students are non-traditional and juggling work, school and families. A longer commuting distance could cause some to drop out of school.

Some students say the atmosphere of the school in Lincoln can't be obtained at any other school in the state.

Junior Mary Blazek grew up in Omaha, but she said she chose the Lincoln campus because of extracurricular activities that are not available at commuter campuses like the medical center.

Senior Lori Fritz said she attended UNL for a year, and when she switched her major to nursing she didn't want to leave.

Both women stressed the importance of meeting students in areas other than health care. The broad range of students at UNL exposes them to different

going to build our own trenches," Boldt said.

Second vice-president John Bergmeyer said the new senate "can really take off" with its new people and new ideas.

In the last meeting of the 86-87 senate, the senate passed a bylaw granting student religious groups an exemption from the creed criteria in ASUN's non-discrimination clause.

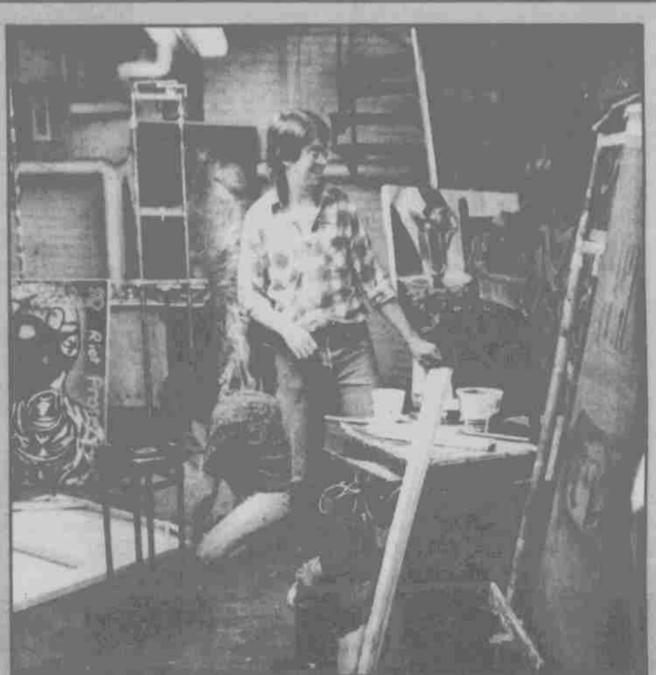
The bylaw granted an exemption for the Great Commission Students and the University Lutheran Chapel. Other UNL student religious groups may request an exemption from the senate in writing.

A new laboratory for the development of learning materials that combine the advantages of video-discs and computers will be dedicated today at 9:45 a.m.

The Interactive Video Information System (IVIS) Laboratory is in Ferguson Hall 21. It was made possible through a \$280,000 equipment

grant by Digital Equipment Corp. in 1985.

"IVIS combines video from a videodisc player with computer text and graphics," said Paul Menter, who has headed the IVIS project since its inception. Menter is a computer specialist with the UNL Computer Resource Center.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Kevin and Dave McManaman find the cluttered basement of Richards Hall a good place to spread out and be creative.

Richards not normal; art adds mystery

Graffiti drives inhabitants to create

By Joeth Zucco
Staff Reporter

visiting artists, students and faculty members.

The brown giant seems to slumber peacefully behind the ripped blinds of its windows. The "mechanical engineering" label engraved above its wide doorways no longer describes the contents.

In all its grandeur, Richards Hall is not a normal building, classwise or decorwise. Sounds of history,



education and art classes echo through the halls. Graffiti, art and wit grace the halls. And students, professors and space fill the halls.

"I think it's rather unique as compared to the other buildings," said Mike Mahnke, a junior art major. "It has a unique quality because of the people who study in the building."

Built in 1917 as the mechanical engineering building, an aura of another era still surrounds Richards Hall. Susan Puelz, assistant professor of art, said that it was obviously built for men since it has one bathroom with one toilet and one sink. The water-stained bricks on the outside, the arched windows and monogrammed tiled porch that leads into the building foretell little of the interior. A wide, empty hallway greets the visitor, then a bench, a water fountain, an art-league schedule, fire extinguisher and high-arched doorways. Student artwork is everywhere; on the wall of the halls, in the galleries and on the lawn surrounding the building.

"Everything to look at is so interesting," said Danny Cornett, a undeclared freshman. "Art is everywhere, even down to the bathrooms."

For two or three years, students have set up displays of their work in the art-league gallery on the second floor. Downstairs, the Richards Hall Gallery houses displays of work by

Adding to the mystery of the building is a little room off the downstairs gallery that hold ties to the past. Drawings, prints and photographs fill file cabinets, and paintings stand against each other on a floor above them.

Douglas Ross, art professor, said the collection is generated from the schools' right to retain one piece of art from each student. The earliest piece on file is a 1953 painting by Rita Jarins.

"We try to be understanding and sympathetic," Ross said. "We tell them to leave one so we don't take away their best work or something they may want to display. We want something that represents their work well."

A list of the permanent collection is found in graduate and undergraduate bulletins, and pieces are used as examples in classrooms. Pieces are scattered in halls and lawns across campus.

Graffiti is almost as popular in Richards as more traditional art. A little staircase to the left of the art-league gallery leads to Room 301 and a terrace. On either side of the door, in pencil, artists express their feelings. Close to the top, "WE NEED NEW QUOTES" trickles down to another's fixation with 6-6-6, as poems, expressions or mere scribbles preach the vices of it.

The eye of the shallow sea come to the beast's eye and die with me behold the numeral beseech and twisted it's a human number six hundred and sixty six.

— anonymous

Some say graffiti somehow enhances the atmosphere of the building; the spiral staircases white tiled walls, high ceilings and arched windows. The place seems to reek with the purpose that drives its inhabitants: a desire to create.

"It's pretty good for trying to get motivated to work," said Larry Apel, a junior fashion-design major.

Computer and videodisc lab to be dedicated