

Finals increase sickness

By Jane Hirt
Staff Reporter

During the last two weeks of the semester University of Nebraska-Lincoln students battle not only tests, but also stress and sickness.

Dr. Gerald Fleischli, medical director of the University Health Center, said students get sick more often during Dead Week and Finals Week. The major cause of these illnesses is stress, he said.

Fleischli said there are two kinds of stress-related illnesses. There are illnesses directly caused by stress, like ulcers, headaches, back and neck aches, and illnesses that occur because the body has been weakened by stress, like colds.

He said these types of illnesses occur in cycles that usually hit their high points during midterms and at the end of November and early December.

"Everyone wants us to fix them up for finals," he said. But many of the illnesses can't be cured that quickly.

He said a good way to combat these types of illnesses is by conserving one's energy and time for studying and eating well. These also are good preventive measures, he said.

Scott McKelvey, a junior indus-

trial engineering student, said during finals and Dead Week he is under a lot of stress.

"I suffer from a 24-hour headache," he said.

He said he buys certain things during Dead Week to help him study.

"I drink gallons of coffee," McKelvey said. "I hardly ever drink coffee except for during Finals and Dead Week."

"I also eat sunflower seeds when I study," he said. "It helps me concentrate."

Students use many things to help them study during Finals Week, resulting in increased sales of pizza, No Doz and Mountain Dew.

Darlene Knudson, co-owner and manager of Pontillo's Pizzeria, 1246 Q St., said the restaurant gets good business during the last two weeks of the semester.

"It gets busier as the week progresses and then drops off when the students leave," she said.

During Dead Week, Pontillo's extends its hours to 1:30 a.m. to accommodate the late-night students.

Brian Newsham, manager at Domino's Pizza, 611 N. 27th St., said 60 to 70 percent of the store's business is from students. During

Dead Week, business goes up about 10 to 15 percent late at night.

"It starts around 10:30 p.m. and lasts until 1:30 a.m.," he said.

Vivarin, No Doz and other forms of caffeine are also popular items during dead and finals weeks.

Debbie Way, sales clerk at the University Bookstore, said in the three years she has worked there, she sees sales of Vivarin and No Doz almost double during the last two weeks of the semester.

Dorothy Roberts, a cashier at the Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 Q St., said she sees an increase in sales of pop, popcorn and cigarettes.

Shery Vouc, buyer of snacks, health and beauty aids at the Nebraska Bookstore, said the bookstore also sells a lot of cold medicine.

"I don't know if this is due to finals or to the season," she said.

Residence hall snack bars are convenient places for study breaks.

Matt Young, manager of the snack bar at Selleck Quadrangle, said students buy a lot more food during the beginning of Dead Week and sales taper off during finals.

"We sell a lot of cigarettes and Mountain Dew," he said. "Everybody is trying to get caffeine."



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

Firm to decide waste dump site

By Micki Haller
Staff Reporter

Choosing a host state for low-level radioactive waste has become a "less politically based decision," said Jim Neal, public information officer with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control.

The Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact deleted Tuesday the entire set of criteria it was going to use to choose a host state at a meeting in Kansas City, Mo., Neal said.

The five-state compact, including Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, was supposed to weigh five criteria for determining a host state for the waste. Instead, it asked U.S. Ecology to recommend a host according to its geological suitability, waste generation and transportation, he said.

Having U.S. Ecology make a recommendation may reduce the politics surrounding the decision-making process, Neal said.

U.S. Ecology, the company contracted to build a radioactive waste site for the compact, will make a recommendation for the host state on Dec. 15, and explain its decision, Neal said. The compact will then choose a host state on that date.

In other compact business, Neal said the compact was very close to signing a contract with U.S. Ecology.

He said the only concern was with \$10 million that U.S. Ecology needs up front. The money is supposed to come from the utilities in the compact, but many states are unsure of the utilities' commitment, Neal said.

Also, the compact has been paying attention to Nebraska Gov. Kay Orr.

"The compact unanimously approved and adopted Gov. Orr's conditions so that they would apply to any state," Neal said.

Gov. Orr's conditions, laid down last week, included:

- the complete reimbursement of state costs for regulating, licensing and planning the waste site.
- a guarantee that property values in the area chosen will not fall and that property owners will be compensated if values do fall.
- state control over the design of the site, location of the compact offices and veto ability over the import or export of low-level waste into or out of the region.
- assurances that the developer will not locate the site in a community without the community's consent.

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