

# Daily Nebraskan

Monday

**Weather** — Monday, becoming cloudy, not as mild, highs in the upper 30s. Monday night, cloudy, becoming windy, 70 percent chance of snow. Tuesday, cloudy, windy 80 percent of snow, blowing and drifting likely.

**Sports:** Old Red 'magic' shoots to victory — Page 6.

**A&E:** Godzilla vs. the TV monster — Page 9

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Ex-UNL employee allegedly altered refunds

By Mary Nell Westbrook  
Senior Reporter

A former employee of the Office of Registration and Records at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was charged Friday in Lancaster County Court with felony theft by computer.

Pankaj Shah, 35, allegedly altered about 20 students' records, giving them full-tuition refunds on classes they had dropped after the full-refund deadline.

Ted Pfeifer, director of the Office

of Registration and Records, said he learned of Shah's alleged activity from reports within the office. Shah was fired before Christmas. He worked at the office for five years, Pfeifer said.

Between Aug. 1 and Nov. 23, more than \$1,000 in fraudulent refunds were made to students, according to the Lincoln Journal. Shah could have made as many as \$10,000 in refunds, the article stated.

Pfeifer wouldn't comment on the exact amount of money involved

because the office is still trying to determine how the money was disseminated to the students.

Shah may have lowered the students' tuition before a refund was made, Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer said he had no knowledge of any previous computer fraud at the university. But, he said, it is difficult to stop computer-literate people who commit computer fraud.

Pfeifer said the office will reassess the students' records. He said the students' grades were not altered, "just

the business end of their records were affected," he said.

Shah, originally from India, allegedly gave most of the refunds to foreign students, the Journal reported. The Lincoln White Collar Crime Unit is still investigating whether Shah himself profited from the computer alterations.

Shah is not a UNL student, but his wife is enrolled full-time. Students whose records were changed will not face criminal charges, the Journal reported.

Last semester, if a student dropped a class by Aug. 31, they would receive a full tuition refund. If the class was dropped by Sept. 4, 75 percent of tuition would be refunded, 50 percent by Sept. 11 and 25 percent by Sept. 18. After these dates, no refund was given.

Non-resident tuition is \$121.50 a credit hour, compared with about \$44.75 for resident tuition. Graduate non-resident tuition is \$144.50, and graduate resident tuition is \$59.50 a credit hour.

## Massengale glad vice chancellor decided to stay

By Amy Edwards  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale said he is delighted at Vice Chancellor of Research John K. Yost's decision to remain at UNL.

Yost, 52, was scheduled to leave UNL Nov. 1 to become vice president for academic affairs at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash.

Yost, also dean of graduate studies at UNL, decided at that time to remain in Lincoln.

On Nov. 5, Western Washington's President G. Robert Ross, its vice president for university advancement, its vice president for business and their pilot were killed when their plane crashed near Bellingham.

If Yost had taken the promotion when Western Washington wanted him, he would have been on that plane.

Because of the near miss, Yost has decided to remain at UNL, where he has worked for 20 years, Massengale said.

Yost could not be reached for comment Sunday.

Massengale said the circumstances surrounding Yost's decision were

See **YOST** on 5

## Libertarian to announce platform today

By Anne Mohri  
Senior Reporter

Ron Paul, the Libertarian Party's fifth presidential candidate, will campaign at 10 a.m. today in the Centennial Ballroom.

Four main points make up the Houston Libertarian's platform:

- to abolish the Federal Reserve and reinstate the gold standard.
- take U.S. troops out of foreign countries and cut military defense spending in other countries.
- abolish the income tax.
- return to the preserving of civil liberties.

Kevin Southwick, Paul's Houston office manager, said the Libertarian Party believes in preserving both economic and personal civil liberties. He said the Democrats want to preserve personal liberties, but not economic liberties. The Republicans want to preserve economic liberties, but not personal liberties, he said.

"We bring you the best of both worlds," Southwick said.

Mark Shepard, state executive di-

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Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

### 'Parts is parts'

Dr. Michael Voorhies, professor of vertebrate paleontology, describes how parts of bison bones fit together during the Morrill Hall fossil exploration day Sunday. The program was the third of a six-part series allowing students and the public to explore science with university scientists.

## Enrollment drops in seven UNL colleges

By Ryan Steeves  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has broken a national trend as seven of 11 UNL-based colleges and divisions suffered declining enrollment during the fall semester.

The declines caused about a 2 percent drop in overall enrollment compared to the 1986 fall semester. In fall 1987, 23,469 students were enrolled at UNL, compared to 23,899 in fall 1986.

UNL's enrollment decline contradicts a national 1 percent increase reported recently by the U.S. Education Department's Center for Education Statistics. The center reported a 100,000-student increase in two- and four-year colleges as 12.5 million students reported to classes in September.

UNL officials gave several reasons for enrollment declines in the various colleges.

Harvey Perlman, dean of the College of Law, said bad publicity directed at UNL is partially to blame for the college's 2.7 percent enrollment decline. Perlman said departing faculty members and reports of instability at UNL cause potential students to enroll elsewhere.

He said the decrease doesn't surprise him. Law schools around the country have experienced declining enrollments, he added.

"It tracks what's been happening nationwide in law schools," he said.

Morris Schneider, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said he also is not surprised by decreasing enrollments. Demographics show fewer students graduating from high school, Schnei-

der said, so fewer are going to college.

Last fall, the Engineering College enrollment dipped 6.8 percent to 2,491 students.

Schneider said he hoped the recently adopted surcharge on engineering students' tuition would not curtail enrollment in the future. The surcharge won't have an effect, he said, if students "look at . . . what they're going to get out of this college compared to others."

The College of Agriculture had the largest enrollment decline last fall, losing 11 percent of the 1,317 students enrolled in the fall of 1986.

T.E. Hartung, dean of the college, said enrollment has dropped in recent years because of the agriculture crisis. However, Hartung expressed optimism since new statistics show the number of freshmen in the college remained about the same.

"I believe that's an indication we're making a change — making a turn-around," Hartung said.

A large graduating class caused the student decrease in the College of Agriculture, he said, but enrollment should stabilize.

"There's a good demand for graduates right now," Hartung said.

Other colleges showing declines in 1987, according to the UNL Institutional Research and Planning Office are:

—Arts and Sciences College, from 4,224 students to 4,195.

—College of Business Administration, from 3,356 to 3,257.

—College of Home Economics, from 1,033 to 1,007.

—Graduate Studies, from 3,771 to 3,763.

Four colleges had enrollment in-  
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Jones announces candidacy —Page 3