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CORRECTION

In a story about the Wednesday night ASUN meeting (DN, Sept. 22), the dates of Alcohol Awareness Week were listed incorrectly. Alcohol Awareness Week is Oct. 24 to 26. Also, 13 Nightmares will play at Duffy's Friday, Sept. 23 at 10 p.m., not Sept. 24 (Diversions, Sept. 22)

Friday, partly sunny and pleasant, high around 75 with NE winds at 5-15 mph. Friday night, fair and cool, low around 50. Saturday, partly cloudy, high around 75.

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UNL humanities enrollment on the up-and-up

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

Though a recent government report indicates that national enrollment in humanities courses has fallen drastically in the past 20 years, enrollment in humanities courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been on the upswing.

Stephen Hilliard, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and English professor, said a decline in the enrollment of humanities courses at UNL began in about 1972, but recently has turned around.

"In the last two years there's been a marked increase in the humanities enrollment," Hilliard said.

Hilliard said part of the reason for the increasing enrollment in humanities at UNL is because of a great deal of national and local publicity about the value of a traditional liberal education.

"Locally, the problem as I've experienced it, has been that students in Nebraska were having a very strong feeling that they had to major in things that were 'practical,'" Hilliard said. My guess is that there were always lots of students who would've kind of liked to major in

English or history or philosophy.

"But they thought they had better major in a professional area in terms of a future career." People are now realizing that a liberal education is also an effective way of pursuing career goals, he said.

"Students aren't quite as focused on being practical as they once were because they see that a liberal education is also practical," Hilliard said.

According to a government report by Lynne V. Cheney, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the number of English majors has fallen 33 percent over the last two decades, while the number of philosophy majors fell 35 percent and the number of history majors fell 43 percent over the same period.

Ben Rader, chairman of the history department, said history enrollments at UNL have gone up since the mid-1980s.

"Total student credit hours in history have increased from 8,513 in 1984 to 11,072 in 1988," Rader said. "These are the highest (enrollments) we've ever had historically."

Although the history requirements for students are still quite limited, Rader said one change has increased enrollment in history courses. About three years ago, a specific history requirement was made for students in the

College of Arts and Sciences.

Rader also said more UNL students are taking history classes because of "good instruction" and greater student interest in the subject. "I think there's a desire on the part of people to know more about their past and their heritage," Rader said. "And the kind of desire that the school systems promote, teach certain values. It at least makes students familiar with the values that people have had in the past."

Phil Hugly, chairman of the philosophy department, said the department keeps about the same number of students enrolled in classes. However, he said, his department has turned away increasing numbers of students every semester. Hugly said he doesn't know exactly how many students have been turned away.

"Our structure doesn't allow for increases in the number of students unless there is an increase in the number of teaching assistants or the number of faculty," Hugly said. "I've kind of bitten the bullet on this, but we've decided the quality of education is more important than the quantity of education."

As a result of the increased number of students being turned away from philosophy courses, Hugly said, the administration allocated two more temporary teaching assistant

positions. That allowed about 200 more students to take philosophy courses this semester.

Hugly said that over the past four or five years, he's noticed more serious and committed students.

"From my point of view it's getting easier and easier to be a teacher because students are caring more," Hilliard said. "I think there are a lot of students with moral and political concerns."

Frederick Link, chairman of the English department, said the enrollment pattern in English courses tends to be cyclical.

"Right now, our English majors are increasing in numbers," Link said, "but before that they were down, and some years ago they were up."

Link estimated that English majors have increased from about 250 in 1985 to 400 in 1988.

Link said taking humanities courses is important because all jobs entail a philosophy and a history as well as requiring communication skills.

"People in the humanities can bring to the work place an ability to analyze and manipulate complex language," Link said. "I also think they bring to any job the ability to understand people."

Full but not overflowing UNL resident halls still have room

By Rose Riccetti
Staff Reporter

Residence hall rooms at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are filled to the brim this fall, but their not overflowing as in past years, said Doug Zatechka, director of the UNL Housing Office.

"We are full, but there are places to live," Zatechka said. "Students aren't crammed like sardines in the residence halls like some people believe. But the halls aren't empty either."

"We are 50 or 60 contracts ahead of budget, but I don't think that we are having a housing crunch," he said.

The Lincoln Journal quoted Zatechka in a Sept. 12 article saying that housing was so scarce, three students were being crowded into residence hall rooms designed for two.

That is not true, he said.

"We would never do that," he said. "There are three people living in the triple rooms, but they're (one-third) larger than the regular rooms and they also have a full complement of furniture for the third person."

If students no longer want to live in a triple room, they will probably have the option to move into a double room by the end of September, he said.

About 250 single-room contracts are being used now, Zatechka said.

"So to say drastic measures are

being taken is simply not true," he said.

Zatechka said that about seven or eight years ago, there was a housing crunch.

"If two students would have walked onto campus looking for housing, we would have had no place to put them," he said. "At that time, students were living in the lounges. But we have gotten away from that kind of situation."

Off-campus housing also has been reported as being in short supply.

A survey of 3,000 apartments in Lincoln in early July indicated only a 3-percent vacancy rate, said Greg Gustafson, first vice-president of Valuation Consultants in Lincoln.

According to Gustafson, the survey was taken all over the Lincoln area. There was a 3.7-percent vacancy rate for two-bedroom apartments and a 2.4-percent vacancy rate for one-bedroom apartments.

"I don't know if there's a shortage of apartments for college students," Gustafson said. "But there is a lower vacancy rate, so maybe they have to be less picky about choosing an apartment."

Zatechka said the change in the number of off-campus vacancies must have been a quick one.

See HOUSING on 3

7 this month False alarms increase

By Brandon Loomis
Staff Reporter

The number of false fire alarms on University of Nebraska-Lincoln property this month is nearly twice what it was for September of a year ago.

Terry Biggerstaff, administrative officer with the Lincoln Fire Department, said fire squads have reported to seven false alarms on city and east campuses, compared to only four last September.

Of the seven alarms, Biggerstaff said, three were system malfunctions, two were tripped unintentionally and one was pulled with malicious intent. None of last September's alarms were pulled maliciously, he said.

Doug Zatechka, UNL housing director, said an alarm pulled at Neihardt Residence Hall Sept. 15 was

followed by a phone apology, but UNL Police never identified the caller.

Biggerstaff said each time an alarm is tripped, 14 firemen on two engines and two trucks proceed to the location. The fire department spends between \$500 and \$700 on fuel and wages for each alarm, he said. Lincoln has 75 firefighters, he said.

"When you pull an alarm, you take away from coverage in other parts of town," he said.

If the perpetrator is a repeat offender or does not realize the seriousness of the crime, he said, the city may ask for restitution to the fire department for the expenses. But he said the department usually leaves punishment up to the university.

Lt. Ken Cauble of the UNL Police

See ALARM on 3



Frank Lakere, Winnebago tribe member, speaks during a press conference at the capitol Thursday.

Commission gives state a 'D', says Indian conditions poor

By Lee Reed

A commission to the conditions of the state's Indian population has given Nebraska a 'D' grade, saying the conditions are poor.

The commission, which was formed last year, said it believes there is a serious lack of understanding of the Indian culture by the state's non-Indian citizens.

The commission's report, which was released Thursday, said the state's Indian population is one of the poorest in the nation.

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