Young, old share NU experience

By Brandon Loomis Senior Reporter

Younger students are beginning to feel more comfortable sharing classrooms with students old enough to be their parents, the president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Adult Student Network said.

Andy Gucck, a 38-year-old premed student, said non-traditional students are finding comfort in numbers. He defined non-traditional students as undergraduates 25 and older.

We are a minority in this environment, but we're growing," Gueck

Although the Office of Institutional Research has no accurate count of non-traditional students on campus, Deanna Eversoll, director of evening programs, said non-traditional enrollment in night courses has increased.

Evening enrollment is at 1,097 this spring, up 9 percent from last spring, she said.

Gucck said the total current nontraditional enrollment is about 2,500.

In the past, younger students didn't like having older students in class, he said, because older students tend to ask all the questions.

Fran Thompson, a 39-year-old sophomore in sociology, said she shouldn't have to feel uncomfortable asking questions, because that is what

she pays tuition for.

"Someone actually told me... the
non-traditional students should keep
their mouths shut," Thompson said.
But, Gueck said, fewer members

After discontinuing its book

voucher service last fall, the Office of

Scholarships and Financial Aid has

loosened requirements for short-term

loans to students without cash for books at the beginning of each semes-

John Beacon, director of the of-fice, said the vouchers, which al-

lowed students to buy books on credit

until grant refunds arrived, took time

and effort away from the processing

meant dedicating staff to that func-

would be unable to afford books

without vouchers, Beacon said, the

office allowed students to take out

loans without the usual individual

repayment counseling. Instead, stu-

dents were given counseling in large

During spring 1988, the last se-mester of the service, 485 students

planned to get refunds to students earlier than in the past, so students

could use them to buy books within the first two weeks of classes. But in

the fall, the office was busy breaking

in a new computer system, he said,

ally waited eight weeks for refunds,

of Student Accounts, refunds also

Ojikuto said center

needs increase to

combat inflation

FUND B From Page 1

In the past, students have gener-

Because of illnesses in the Office

and refunds were delayed.

he said.

Beacon said the office also had

In September 1988, 495 students took short-term loans, up from 354 in September 1987, when book vouch-

'At the time of year when we're very busiest, it (the service)

Anticipating that some students

By Brandon Loomis

of financial aid.

tion," he said.

ers were available.

used book vouchers.

of his organization have heard statements like that lately, because younger students are learning that older students are adding to classes, not detracting from them.

Because they are too shy to ask questions for themselves, Geuck said he thinks a lot of the students "like to have us ask the questions for them.

The Adult Student Network is a support group helping students with both emotional and administrative problems, Gueck said.

'I'm looking forward to the day when I can take 12 credits.

"The younger undergraduate has a support group in the campus com-munity, but the older student goes home when class is done," he said.

Gueck said the organization changed its name from the Non-Traditional Student Association this year, "because 'non' is a negative

The group provides speakers, information about classes, and has weekly meetings.

"Ninety percent of what we do is social interaction," Gueck said.

Most non-traditional students need encouragement to stay in school, he said, because they have a hard time balancing jobs, family and

have been delayed from this semes-

ter's target date of Jan. 23, Beacon

accounts, said he was recently out

with the flu, which delayed approval

"If I was going to point my wicked finger at someone, I'd point it right at myself," he said.

dents at the end of last week.

The first refunds were sent to stu-

In future semesters, students

should have their refunds in time to

buy books, Clark said.
"If we don't have them out some-

time during the first week next se-

mester, I'm going to be very un-

needy students can use loans to buy

books. Short-term loans, although

they have an annual charge of 9 per-

cent, serve practically the same pur-

pose as book vouchers, he said.

In the meantime, Beacon said,

Bob Clark, director of student

Short-term loans more available

of the refunds.

"We have necessary jobs rather than jobs of convenience," he said. Rachel Loyd, a 54-year-old

sophomore in human development and family, said the support the group has given her in the last three years has given her the courage to continue her education.

"If it weren't for all this interac-tion, I would have quit," Loyd said.

Loyd, a beautician with a family, said she has taken as many as nine credits per semester in the past while working full time.

"I'm looking forward to the day when I can take 12 credits," she said, but outside responsibilities won't allow that yet.

Gueck said older students, who have had steady paying jobs for years, suddenly find themselves with little or no spending cash when they start paying tuition.

"I haven't been out to cat since before Christmas," he said.

The group lets those students know that others are in the same situation, he said, and that better jobs are waiting for experienced college

'Most of us are either going for a career for the first time or making a major career change," Gueck said. 'It's a little scary.

A survey sent to all non-traditional students found that although there is still some concern about the university's sensitivity to older students, things are getting better all the time, Gueck said.

'Now we just have to take care of the parking problem on campus.'

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Jebraskan 34 Nebraska Union

Class sizes back to normal

Staff Reponer

The cold weather did not impair attendance at University of Nebraska-Lincoln classes Monday as dramatically it did last Friday, according to some UNL profes-

With windchills plummeting to nearly 60 degrees below zero Fri-day, many UNL students decided to skip class.

Glenn Sowell, visiting assistant

professor in the physics depart-ment, said only 60 to 66 percent of his students were present Friday, but attendance was back to normal

The same trend held true in the chemistry department. James Carr, an associate chemistry pro-fessor, said that while attendance was low Friday, it was back up on

Martha Webb, assistant profes-sor of history, said twice as many students as normal missed her

History 100 exam Friday.
In the Keller Plan sections of Psychology 181, testing was down about 50 to 70 percent according to Mark Waller, a teaching assistant with the program.

Bob Miewald, a political sci-

ence professor, estimated that at

least 75 out of the 220 students in his Political Science 100 class were absent Friday. Miewald said he does not plan on doing anything to punish those that were absent because it was an "unreasonable weather situation."

Miewald said he received many calls from students whose cars wouldn't start Friday.

Beth Williams, office manager for the Cornhusker Motor Club, estimated that towing requests handled through her agency were up at least 50 percent Friday due to the cold.

The cold weather also had a negative effect on other aspects of university life.

Joe Selig, UNL ticket manager, said he felt that attendance at Sat-urday night's basketball game was "definitely impacted by the weather."

Selig said that 9,200 attended the game while season ticket sales numbered 11,000.

The National Weather Service predicted Monday afternoon that e cold weather would continue until Friday when it should warm up to the mid-to-upper 20s. Temperatures should remain in the teens and 20s throughout the weekend and following week.

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Ojikutu said. This year's printing request is for \$25,000, down from \$36,045 for 1988-89.

sary because of inflation. The budget does call for an almost

Ojikutu said the increase is neces-

31 percent reduction in the center's expenditure for printing costs,

Ojikutu said the printing reduction came because of a new copying machine that allows the center to do much of its own printing instead of relying on an outside printing shop.