

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

CORRECTION: In Diana Johnson's column (DN April 10), the city of Lincoln was mistakenly said to have purchased a new landfill site.

WEATHER:
 Tuesday, high 50-55, NW winds 15-30 mph. Tuesday night, fair and cooler with lows in 30s. Wednesday, sunny with highs in mid to upper 50s. Thursday through Saturday, cooler with chance of rain or snow Thursday, a dry and slowly warming trend Friday and Saturday.

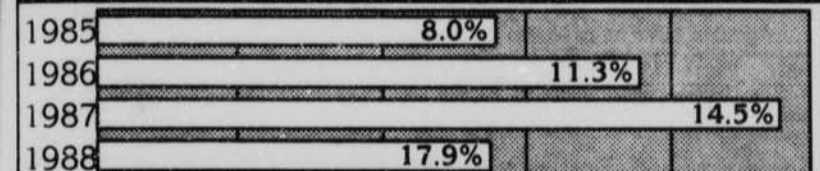
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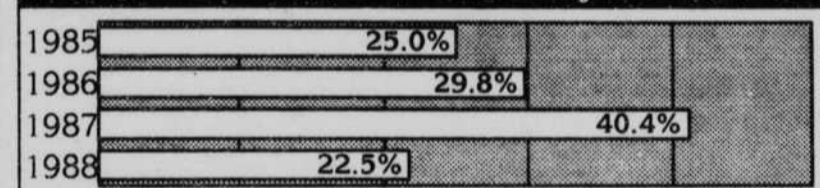
April 11, 1989 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Vol. 88 No. 135

UNL student alcohol consumption drops

Percentage of UNL students that drink three or more days a week.



Percentage of UNL students that have five or more drinks at least one day a week.



Source: Student Health Survey.
 John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

By Ryan Steeves
 Staff Reporter

According to a University of Nebraska-Lincoln official, UNL students are following a national trend by consuming less alcohol.

Greg Barth, information systems manager for the University Health Center, said statistics from the annual Student Health Survey show that fewer students are drinking. The survey also showed that students who do drink are drinking less, he said.

But at least one UNL professor contends that it is hard to tell whether students actually are consuming less. Wayne Osgood, assistant professor of sociology at UNL, said statistics from the survey are "pretty hard

to read."

According to the survey, written by the University Health Center and distributed by the sociology department, 25 percent of UNL students said they drank five or more drinks at least one day a week in 1985. In 1986, the figure rose to 29.8 percent. In 1987, it rose to 40.4 percent, and in 1988 it dropped to 22.5 percent.

In 1985, 8 percent of students said they went out drinking at least three days a week. That number rose in 1986 to 11.3 percent, rose again in 1987 to 14.5 percent, and dropped in 1988 to 7.9 percent.

Osgood said the .1-percent drop from 1985 to 1988 in the number of students drinking at least three days a week is not significant.

Considering the small number of

students surveyed, Osgood said, the 2.5-percent drop from 1985 to 1988 in the number of students drinking five drinks at least one night a week also is not significant. About 300 students are surveyed every year, he said.

Drops from year to year usually can't be used to measure trends, Osgood said. Analyzing longer periods of time is necessary to determine if there is a trend, he said.

Barth said, however, the statistics show that students are drinking less. He said he doesn't know any reasons for the decline.

If there is a decline at UNL, it would coincide with a national trend. Between 1980-1987, Americans'

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Admissions director Beacon named to financial aid post

By Lee Rood
 Senior Editor

John Beacon is two-timing University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

Beacon, originally hired as UNL director of admissions in February 1987, has officially combined that job with one he has been doing unofficially since last June -- directing the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

The NU Board of Regents voted in March to allow Beacon to be director of both offices, a challenge Beacon said he readily accepts and plans to live up to.

Beacon said he won't short-



Beacon

change UNL students with his dual responsibility because both offices have "extremely good staffs" and share similar policy-understanding responsibility.

Having knowledge of admissions and financial aid policies helps him do both jobs, he said.

To stay close to the two jobs and utilize staff in both areas, Beacon combined the offices' space in the basement of the Administration Building and linked the areas by a mutual waiting room.

Beacon said the new look, enhanced reception area and more inviting new glass doors says to students "come on in, we want to help you."

All the work moving offices, computers and personnel was done during spring break, he said. The office continued to operate through that time.

A new face is just one of many changes Beacon has initiated since taking over as OSFA interim director in June 1988.

Beacon took on the second office, which at the time was plagued with problems, promising Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen that he would spend 95 percent of his time bringing OSFA together and 5 percent of his time managing the admissions office.

Since that time, Beacon has:

- made major changes in the OSFA staff, making it one that is "focused on providing service to students and extremely capable."
- made deferments available to students whose aid already was late when he inherited the office.
- established a Financial Aid Advisory Board with representatives from eight university population segments to address grievances and initi-

ate changes.

- sent the OFSA staff to the Nebraska Union in January to help students with their financial aid applications and answer questions.
- moved the office around internally to make necessary information more accessible to staff.

Two other recent improvements Beacon said he initiated are changing UNL's financial aid processor from the College Scholarship Service to the American College Testing Program and getting student award notices out earlier than past years.

ACT will become UNL's "preferred processor" during the 1990-91 school year, he said. Changing processors will make the process of verifying students' financial aid forms more efficient than CSS, he said.

It also will be cheaper for the office and students, he said. CSS costs \$8.25 per "code" while ACT costs

\$7 per code. A code represents each school a student is considering and needs financial aid consideration for.

"ACT is at the cutting edge of technology," Beacon said.

"Also," he said, "Nebraska is the last Big Eight university to still use CSS -- that's not a reason (for change), but that probably says something."

Preliminary award letters detailing what financial aid students most likely will receive will be out this week, Beacon said. Official award notices are expected to be out the beginning of May -- about two months earlier than last year.

The changes Beacon has implemented in the OFSA have not come without sacrifice, he said. He has worked nearly every Saturday since becoming interim director and his

See **BEACON** on 3

Dissertation options considered

By Eric Pfanner
 Staff Reporter

Graduate Studies officials at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said they have received inquiries, but no specific proposals, to allow alternatives to traditional dissertations for students in doctoral programs.

But Merlin Lawson, acting dean and assistant vice chancellor for Graduate Studies, said he "anticipates changes are in order."

Lawson said that at UNL, students in science and engineering doctorate programs can use articles from academic journals as appendices to their dissertations, but not as replacements for the dissertations.

Roger Bruning, acting associate dean of Graduate Studies, said the traditional dissertation consists of an introduction, a literature review, a results section and a discussion of results. Dissertations in the sciences may also include a methods section, he said.

Bruning said UNL officials need to be open to looking at dissertation alternatives such as series of journal articles.

"It is a matter we would be willing to study," he said.

The faculty values traditional dissertations, he said, because they allow students to express themselves fully.

Typical journal articles, he said, are "telegraphic -- not expansive," and therefore, more abbreviated than the traditional dissertation.

But as more and more students in the basic sciences are involved in joint research and writing for publication, he said, alternatives may be considered.

In the social sciences and humanities, "single scholars are more the norm," Bruning said.

Lawson said graduate committees for individual departments put forth the requirements for dissertations. Any proposed alternatives would go through the graduate committees first, and then to the UNL Graduate Council.

Russell Hamilton, Vanderbilt University's graduate school dean, said several universities already allow alternatives to the traditional

See **DOCTORATE** on 3

Test not required for MIP cases

By Larry Peirce
 Senior Reporter

Susan Tast, an ASUN Student Legal Services attorney, wants students to know they can "just say no" to police officers who ask them to take breathalyzer tests, as long as the students aren't driving.

"Any minor that is not driving has no duty to submit" to breath tests to determine blood alcohol content, Tast said.

Student Legal Services Director Shelley Stall said one student, arrested for minor in possession of alcohol, contacted her to ask whether he would have had to take a breath test after police requested one.

The student said he asked the police officer whether he had to take the test and the officer answered, "I want you to," Stall said.

But, because the officer failed to answer the student directly, Tast said she thought the officer misled the student.

Stall and Tast said they are "concerned that police are coercing people to take a test" they don't have to take.

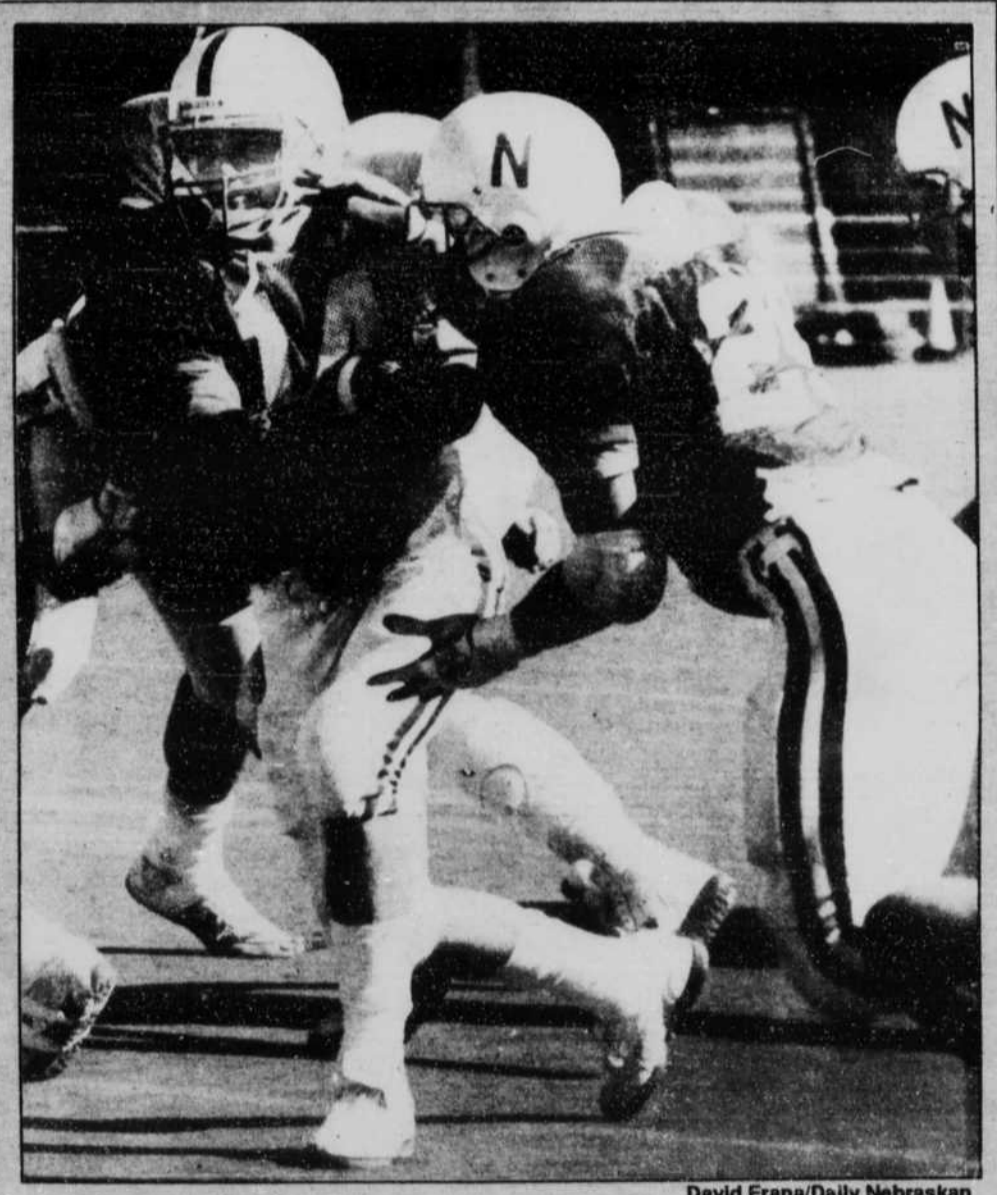
"Sometimes you don't have to obey a policeman when he has no authority to ask," Tast said.

Students may feel coerced to take breath tests, Tast said, because they are taught to obey police.

"We should respect police," she said. "Maybe police should respect us when we ask a question."

Tast said breathalyzer tests aren't necessary in an MIP case because they don't prove pos-

See **MIP** on 3



David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

Husker handoff
 Nebraska quarterback Gerry Gdowski hands off to fullback Sam Schmidt during Nebraska's practice Monday afternoon.