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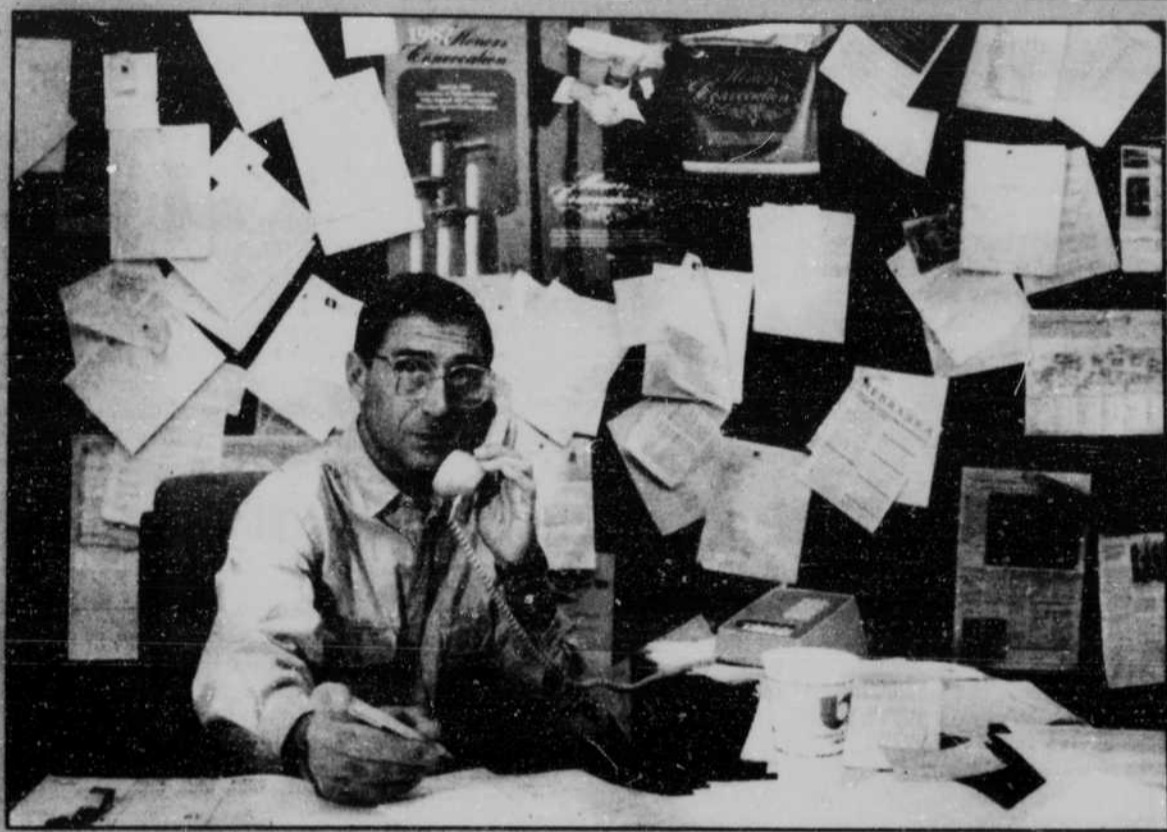
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Thursday

WEATHER:
Thursday, sunny and not as warm, high 75 to 80, winds northwest 5 to 15 miles per hour, shifting to southeast later in the day. Thursday night, partly cloudy, low of 45 to 50. Friday, sunny, high 80 to 85.

INDEX
News Digest 2
Editorial 4
Diversion 5
Sports 13
Classifieds 13



Patrice Berger answers a student's question in his honors program office, located in the Nebraska Union.

Melissa McReynolds/Daily Nebraskan

Professor creates interest in past

By Emily Rosenbaum
Staff Reporter

"Trust your instincts. You know this." Whether it's a French history course with 50 students or western civilization with 200, Patrice Berger expects his students to ask and answer questions.

"That's fantastic. That's great. You're right on target."

And when they do, he is always encouraging.

Berger, associate professor of history and director of the University Honors Program, says interaction with students is important for a history course.

"I expect them to listen aggressively and to act as judges of the theories I propose," he says.

Berger is constantly in motion as he teaches. He circles the desk, wildly motioning with his hands, raising his voice to an excited pitch and then dropping it to an intense hush.

"I try to communicate my interest in history to the students," he says. "If that doesn't happen, I

think a great opportunity to learn has been lost."

He says students often are disinterested in history because they associate it with dull memorization of dates and consider history irrelevant to their lives.

Berger argues that by studying and gaining an understanding of the past, members of society can understand their actions better.

"We can build on past experience and we can get a better assessment of ourselves."

In order to get the interest of the students, Berger says he not only provides the information of the past, but also tries to explain it.

"You can't simply come into a class and rattle off a chronology. It seems to me it is senseless to provide dates without making any effort to describe what those dates mean."

He says he feels part of his responsibility as a teacher is to encourage students to question their pasts so they will challenge events and the actions of people in history.

His exams are one way he ensures students are doing that. Berger says he uses only essay questions on his tests.

"I want students to formulate an argument about the past and present it."

Students can take those communication skills with them and apply them to everything they do, he says.

Berger's knowledge of French history comes from more than just textbooks.

He was born in Paris at the end of World War II and moved to New York City with his parents in 1949.

To have been a part of France provided him with insight into its history, he says.

"It is also convenient to learn French history when you know the language," he says.

He graduated from Columbia University in New York in 1965 and received a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. He has been teaching at UNL since 1970.

"From a very tender age I've had an interest in reading about history and cultivating a knowledge of the past."

Transferring that enthusiasm for history to his students is one of the objectives Berger hopes to gain in each of his classes.

He also says he wants every student to "learn some history." Each student should get a general grasp of the sequence of events and the historical framework of the subject, he says.

See BERGER on 3

Shirts considered offensive

Phi Kappa Psi booth closed after complaint

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

UNL officials asked members of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity to stop selling T-shirts in the Nebraska Union Wednesday because of a complaint about the shirts' racially and sexually offensive nature.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said a faculty member filed a complaint with his office and the Affirmative Action Office. The faculty member said the shirts could be considered racially or sexually offensive, Griesen said.

The back of the shirt depicts a cartoon of a brown female figure who has a bone through her nose and is riding a tricycle out of a jungle.

Griesen said that after the complaint, Brad Munn, Affirmative Action officer; Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Union; and Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs asked Phi Psi members to stop selling the shirts.

The fraternity was selling the shirts in a union booth to raise money for a philanthropy project.

Phi Psi members voluntarily agreed to suspend sales pending a final decision by Munn as to the of-

fensive nature of the shirts, Griesen said.

Anderson said the members of Phi Kappa Psi were "most cooperative and behaved admirably" in response to the complaints when they were asked to leave the union.

Griesen said Munn decided Wednesday afternoon that the shirts were offensive and that they were inappropriate to be sold on campus.

No other action will be taken against the fraternity because the shirts were not deliberately offensive, Griesen said.

"We're convinced that there was no intentional offense intended," Griesen said. "It was merely a matter of insensitivity."

Mike Harshman, president of Phi Kappa Psi, said, "We had no intention of upsetting anyone."

Harshman said the shirt was designed by the Greek Shop, 1120 P St., to go along with the "jungle fever" theme for Phi Psi's annual philanthropy.

The philanthropy, called the Phi Psi 500, is a tricycle race to raise money for Cedars Home for Children, Harshman said.

The tricycle race is scheduled for Sunday.

Wood: COLAGE suit possible over funding

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

The Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events could sue ASUN if it refuses to sponsor COLAGE speeches, said Dick Wood, general counsel for the University of Nebraska.

Wood spoke at Wednesday's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska senate meeting to give senators information on the legal aspects of fee allocation. He said ASUN could be sued if it denies funds to any student organization based solely on the content of speeches.

Last spring, ASUN voted to deny funds to COLAGE.

Because ASUN is recognized under the Nebraska Board of Regents bylaws, Wood told senators, "with respect to the University of Nebraska, this body would be considered to be a state actor."

When ASUN acts on behalf of Nebraska, he said, its decisions are

subject to review under federal civil rights laws, including the First Amendment, which guarantees the right of free speech.

That means ASUN can't deny funding to any student organization simply because senators don't agree with the content of its speeches, Wood said, unless they deny funding for all student organizations seeking speech money.

"The university doesn't have to choose to fund," he said. "But if you do, you must do it evenly."

Wood said his advice was based on an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision from last year that ruled in favor of the Gay and Lesbian Student Association at the University of Arkansas, which was denied funding by student government.

Because Nebraska is in the 8th Circuit, he said, last year's decision would be law in Nebraska.

See ASUN on 3

Faculty senators suggest change before hiring

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

Although a University of Nebraska Board of Regents report on the results of NU self-evaluations said the university only needs "minor corrections," some University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty senators have other ideas.

In a letter to Regent Don Blank of McCook, UNL Faculty Senate President James McShane named "the nature of the System Office" as the first major issue that needs to be settled before a new NU president is named or other changes to the university system are considered.

The letter contained the Faculty Senate's answers to self-evaluation questions that were discussed at a Sept. 23 retreat for senators, all senate ex-presidents and all UNL vice-chancellors.

"If the faculty assembled at the retreat last weekend were representative, and I believe they were representative of our more conserva-

tive ranks, there is virtually no one here desirous of continuing the system structure as we know it," McShane wrote.

McShane named such issues as computer acquisition, financial aid and budget difficulties, the addition of Kearney State College to the NU system, debate over closing the pharmacy college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, funding for the engineering college and libraries, support of regents' positions and coordination of common institutional data among other issues as areas in which "the centralized administrative system just has not worked effectively."

"... it has seemed to those of us not close to it that the central structure was growing ever more expensive even as it failed to provide the leadership needed," he wrote.

Because central administration has no direct academic ties to each campus, McShane wrote, it adds to inefficient bureaucracy within the system.

Having a central administration also is unfair to UNL, he wrote.

Although statistically, based on research grants and expenditures, UNL is a separate institution from the other branches of the NU system, the current NU structure prevents the UNL chancellor from certain opportunities that come with a chief executive officer position at other universities of UNL's size.

"We at UNL are discomfited that our chancellor can represent us at the most prestigious athletic meetings," McShane wrote. "... but not at the prestigious academic councils."

Another problem with the system is a lack of a single vision of leadership, he wrote.

The NU president lacks direct connection with individual campuses, McShane wrote, and can't put "substantial body" behind his positions, while the UNL chancellor lacks an independent voice in governance.

That lack of distinctive leadership results in confusion over "who is or who isn't a player in the higher education game," he wrote.

The recurring debate over the structure of NU government is a sign that there are significant problems with it, McShane wrote.

See FACULTY on 3