

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Friday

## WEATHER

Friday, mostly sunny and mild, high around 45, southwest wind 10-15 miles per hour. Friday night, becoming mostly cloudy, chance of late-night snow flurries, low around 20. Saturday, a few morning flurries becoming sunny and colder, high around 30.

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# Abnormal Pap smears increasing at UNL

By C.J. Schepers  
 Staff Reporter

Following a national trend, college campuses are reporting an alarming growth in the number of abnormal Pap smears, and the UNL campus is no exception, according to Dr. Charles Curtiss of the University Health Center.

The incidence of abnormal Pap smear results at the University Health Center has risen from 1 or 2 percent in 1984-87, to 5.7 percent in 1988 and to 7 percent in 1989.

A Pap smear is a screening test for cervical cancer that involves collecting a cellular sample from the woman's cervix. Experts try to determine under microscopic examination if any type of histological -- or tissue -- abnormalities exist.

According to Curtiss, varying degrees of tissue abnormalities can be found. Problems such as inflammation and yeast infections are excluded from the study's number of abnormal Pap tests because they usually are not significant to the development of future cancer.

Abnormalities that can be considered precancerous include inflammatory atypia, the first clue that tissue is "not quite normal," and genital warts of the cervix, along with several other stages of premalignancy, he said.

Because of the rise in abnormal tests and the continued increase in sexually transmitted diseases, UHC officials conducted a random campuswide survey of 200 women in October to determine how many

women were actually receiving Pap smears annually.

According to the survey, 58 percent said they had received a Pap test within 12 months, according to Greg Barth, information systems manager for the health center.

Twenty-one percent of respondents said they went to the University Health Center for their exams, about 67 percent said they went to private clinics, either in Lincoln or their hometown, and the rest said they went to Planned Parenthood of Lincoln.

But the survey also showed that 42

percent had not received a test in the past year. Seventy-one percent of those said they never had a Pap smear.

That means about 3,200 of 10,600 female students at University of Nebraska-Lincoln never have had a Pap smear, according to the survey. A large majority of those women are between the ages of 18 and 20.

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Curtiss said.

Medical experts are linking the rise in abnormal Pap smears to the increase in sexually transmitted diseases -- particularly condyloma, also known as genital warts of the cervix, Curtiss said.

"Genital warts generally are increasing a great deal, and that includes both the warts of the genitalia, as well as the warts we find on the Pap smears," he said.

In the last five years, the percentage of Pap tests indicating condyloma has increased more than 12-fold from .219 percent in 1984 to 2.82 percent in 1989, according to the health center's statistics.

"The implications of this is that we may be seeing more and more cancer of the cervix again because of the rising number of abnormal Paps, which basically are a reflection of the rising number of sexually transmitted infections," he said.

The number of women dying from uterus cancer has declined from about 27,000 in 1945 to 7,000 deaths in 1988, according to American Cancer Society statistics.

During the last 45 years, the decline in uterine cancers has been attributed to the development of the Pap smear procedure. Developed by Dr. George Papanicolaou in 1943, the Pap smear often detects tissue abnormalities of the woman's cervix that can lead to cancer.

"The good news is the marvelous decline in cancer deaths over the years as a result of the value of the Pap smear.

**We would say that all women over the age of 18 should have a pap smear.**

Curtiss  
 University Health Center  
 doctor

## Results of UNL PAP Procedure Survey

200 surveys completed by randomly selected females enrolled for the fall semester.

**Q:** Have you received a pap test within the past twelve months?

**A:** Yes **57.7**

BREAKDOWN		
Univ. Health Ctr.	private clinic	Planned Parenthood
20.9	66.9	11.3

**A:** No **42.3**

BREAKDOWN	
"I never thought about having one."	48.8
"I felt no need to have one."	19.9
"I didn't know I had to have it."	15.5
"I don't have the time."	4.8
"I'm not sexually active."	11.9
other reason	

Source: University Health Center figures in percentages

By Michelle Paulman and Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

"The bad news is it might be going back up again," Curtiss said.

Fearing revivals of what was once a No. 1 cancer killer of women, doctors are worried about women who don't receive annual Pap tests that help detect early stages of cervical cancer, he said.

The survey also reported that of the women who had not received a

Pap smear within the last 12 months, close to half said that they had never thought about it or felt they did not need it. About 20 percent said they did not know why they had to have it. And lack of time was given as a reason by close to 16 percent.

About 5 percent said they did not

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Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

## Shadow play

Long shadows follow women softball players as they run through agility drills Thursday afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

# Delaying tactics hurt image, Labeledz says Debate on abortion bill continues

By Jerry Guenther  
 Staff Reporter

State Sen. Bernice Labeledz of Omaha said Thursday she is worried that the image of the legislative session is "going down the drain" because of continued delaying tactics on the parental notification bill she introduced Monday.



Several senators expressed similar concerns that LB769 is keeping lawmakers from discussing other important issues. Senators, as they have all week, continued debating the bill, which would require parental notification for minors seeking abortions.

The bill survived several attempts by opponents to postpone debate, but senators adjourned Thursday with another motion to delay pending.

Labeledz urged senators to advance the bill, saying she was concerned by the image legislators were projecting.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said Labeledz should not worry about

the Legislature's image, because senators who introduce controversial issues like abortion know what they are getting into.

But Chambers said he did agree with Labeledz that the bill is dividing senators.

"Brothers and sisters of the Legislature are behaving like Cain and Abel," he said.

Chambers suggested that if Labeledz really is concerned about the Legislature's image, she should withdraw LB769.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge

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# UNL officials predict changes for college students in 1990s

By Jennifer O'Ciika  
 Staff Reporter

More students in the 1990s will be nontraditional, in the lower or middle class and more concerned about how to finance their higher education, say some UNL officials.

Some officials say students will congregate in higher-paying professions to pay for the increased cost of education and have no time to devote to social issues.

Others say they will be concerned about social issues, especially those dealing with the environment, racism and poverty.

The price of education is expected to skyrocket in the '90s, leaving many students and parents scrambling to finance their education, said John Beacon, director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Because the price of education will continue to rise in the '90s, many students and parents will be concerned with ways to finance their educations, Beacon said.

"In the '80s, college costs generally increased at twice the rate of inflation and faster than increases in the rate of pay," Beacon said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said tuition and fees obviously will continue to increase, but the Nebraska Legislature and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will feel a lot of pressure to keep costs down or provide more financial aid.

Beacon pointed to what he called the "vanishing middle class" as a reason why paying for college will become more difficult.

He said the United States will see more families with high incomes and low incomes. That will mean more financial aid will go to low-income families, he said.

"So, middle-class families will have to come up with some creative ways

to finance their child's education," Beacon said.

Beacon suggested parents of young children should start saving now. He recommended putting money into tax-free college savings bonds and prepayment programs.

Thirteen states already sell the tax-free bonds, and 18 state legislatures, including Nebraska's, have discussed the idea, Beacon said.

He said it is possible the federal government will introduce a tax-free federal college savings bond similar to U.S. Savings Bonds.

Griesen said he thinks the public and the U.S. Congress will continue to call for an end to abuse of financial aid.

High loan default rates and general abuse of the system in the '80s caused public outcry for change, Griesen said. Unless the problems are corrected soon, the outcry will intensify in the '90s, he said.

Chris Kimball, assistant professor of history, said that as the price of education increases, students will be most interested in getting value for their money. That means they will demand better programs and teachers, more diverse courses, more sections of certain courses and demand that professors teachers spend more time on teaching rather than conducting research.

Beacon said universities will continue to see more nontraditional students as costs increase and students have to work to pay for school. Those students will take fewer credits and stay in school longer, raising the median age of college students.

Also, the average age of the U.S. population continues to rise as the large population of the "baby boom" grows older, he said.

Griesen agreed that more people will return to school for graduate

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