

DIAL-A-COMMENT

24-Hour Open Hour Line

Call 472-7431 and let the University Health Center Student Advisory Board hear your comments, concerns or complaints about your care and service at the University Health Center.

All calls will be kept confidential.



UNL is a non-discriminatory institution.



CRAZY 8s



HOT, FUNKY JAZZ REGGAE

8:00pm SATURDAY, NOV. 3

\$4 - student \$5 - others

city union ballroom



MOON LIGHT MADNESS

Halloween Thriller mini-concert in macabre setting

Wed., October 31-11:00pm

- "Spook-tacular" Music including:
- *Darth Vader Theme from "Star Wars"
- *Theme from "Alfred Hitchcock Presents"
- *Haunted house music: "Bach's Toccata in D" on organ with 4,000 pipes.

*Flying ghosts, spider webs, monsters, medieval turrets, and special effects

Featuring HECTOR OLIVERA and his computer generated orchestra

Presented by ABENDMUSIK : Lincoln

First-Plymouth Church

20th & "D"

TICKETS- Adults: \$6.75 advance (\$8.00, door)

Students/Seniors: \$4.75 advance (\$6.00, door)

Call 476-9933

Come in costume if you DARE

Tired of Tweezing
Waxing or Bleaching?

Remove Unwanted Hair
Permanently

ELECTROLYSIS

It is the only permanent solution

Gentle · Affordable · Private

Done by a professional Electrologist

Introductory Offer
50% off first treatment

467-4421 for appointment

Always a complementary consultation

BEN SIMON'S

Beauty Salon

The Atrium, Lincoln

University blackmails students, records holds jeopardize future

By Jim Hanna
Staff Reporter

This is the first sentence of the most pointless column I will ever write.

It's more pointless than asking Jesse Helms over to see the slides you took at the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit. It's more pointless than a commercial for Levi's cotton Dockers. Why, it's even more pointless than an ASUN resolution.

The point of this column is not even worth the free newspaper it's printed in. It transcends pointlessness to a level that makes it even more pointless than something that is totally without a point. Follow me?

And just to warn you, this will also be the most humorless column I've ever written. The topic I'm writing about is really very unfunny and I'm really very mad.

The point of this column is to ask the university to quit placing holds on student records. Since that is a more than unreasonable request, this column will be a waste of all of our time. Records holds will never die.

In case you haven't been victimized by this nasty form of reprehensible blackmail, let me fill you in.

Knowing full well that the students at UNL have no recourse, this university can, and at every opportunity will, place a hold on your records that makes it impossible to register for classes, mail out transcripts or receive your diploma.

A hold on your records is always prompted by money. From personal experience, I can tell you the offenses that will get you a hold include failing to repay every cent of a short-term loan on time, delinquent charge accounts at the University Bookstore, unpaid parking violations and the unforgivable crime of having more than \$10 in library fines. This list is not exhaustive.

For these egregious violations, you may be forced to drop out of school, lose your degree or forego advanced degree work at another university.

I think it's significant that all of these sins involve money owed to UNL. For a student to receive an academic dismissal or to be suspended for cheating, there are scads of hearings and conferences and committee meetings to make a huge, very significant decision regarding a student's future.

But to be barred from school by a record hold, one only need lose a library book or fail to plug a parking

meter.

Records holds are swift and non-negotiable. The student has no input, and personal circumstances never are considered. Apparently a student who owes the university money is a bigger criminal than a student who cheats and is thus less deserving of a hearing.

And if you're wondering if my disgust with the holds system is inspired by sour grapes, please be assured that it is. The venomous demons, who gleefully dole out holds to get their grubby little hands on every cent they can, have hit me with several holds during my university career.

I am especially bitter now because I plan to graduate in the spring. The same day I picked up my packet to



Jim Hanna

register for my last semester of study at UNL, I found that a hold was going onto my records for a delinquent short-term loan.

The loan was originally taken to help cover expenses last spring, one of which was paying the library for a lost book so that they would remove another hold. It's a vicious cycle.

I didn't have the money to pay back my loan, so I went in to refinance it. I was unable to do that because I was three weeks late on repaying the loan. The analysis here is that, since I was apparently too poor to pay on time, they're going to punish me by not letting me refinance and pay when I do have the money. Either way, I don't have the money right now.

No doubt, I'm a fool for getting myself into this mess, but it would be nice if the university would be a little more cooperative about helping me get out. Something tells me the university could swallow the money I owe more easily than I can come up with it.

I'm on a monthly payment plan for the loan now, but the university won't lift the hold. I can't register for classes until I pay UNL back in full, which I can't do until February when it will be too late to register.

But methinks the columnist doth whine too much. Part of the twisted nature of the holds system is that the

university knows most students will somehow come up with the money so that they can pay back their debt. This is what I'll have to do. I may complain, but soon I'll pawn something or I'll borrow more money someplace else and my little pity party will be over.

Still, it is disturbing to me that the university so willingly employs this brutal incentive program. They know the system works and that seems to be the best justification the university has for the system. One way or another, regardless of the hardship, the university gets its money.

But effectiveness should not be the only consideration. It would probably also be effective if the university held public executions on the Union Plaza to punish those who owe them dough, but I like to think officials won't turn to that. My guess is that the only thing stopping the university from killing us deadbeats is that it couldn't get its money from a corpse.

So do I have a better plan? Not really, but then that's not my job. I may not know what would be a fair system, but I know the current system isn't even close.

One suggestion I would make is that the holds system be more flexible. Allow students who are making an honest effort to pay the chance to escape the prison of a hold.

Maybe we could make it so the hold takes effect at the end of the following semester, assuming the debtors are making the attempt to repay. As it is now, a student could go over the \$10 fine limit at the library during the last week of the semester and find themselves without a class schedule at the start of the next semester.

But to change the system would mean extra effort, and as long as the current system is effectively extorting money for UNL, there's no reason for it to change.

Yeah, I'm angry, I'm irrational, I'm a blubbering little baby, but the latest hold I've received could seriously screw up my graduation and my post-graduate studies.

Callous university officials can sit back in their cushy leather chairs, smoke their big pipes and giggle as I scramble to get them the money. They will read my pointless little column, smile that their holds system works so well and toss my piffle into the trash. And me? I'll see you all next fall.

Hanna is a senior theater major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter and columnist.



Mill foreman Warwick (Stephen Macht), left, and workers Danson (Andrew Divoff), center, and Carmichael (Jimmy Woodward) in "Graveyard Shift."

Grave

Continued from Page 12

fact that he's trying to escape his past.

Hall works the "picker" machine, an old-fashioned device used to comb and separate wool before it is made into yarn. He works somewhat alone in a secluded part of Bachman Mills. That is, he's the only human down there — thus the horror and premise behind "Graveyard Shift." Something is lurking in the depths of the basement, as the cleanup crew soon will discover.

However, before the crew can go into the basement, Warrick has hired "The Exterminator" (Brad Dourif) to

eliminate the teaming rat problem of the mill.

This character is one of the most annoying aspects of the film. Dourif is a gifted actor who was nominated for an Academy Award for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," but his character in this movie is pathetic. He plays a Vietnam veteran obsessed with killing rats. He's border-line psychotic, while claiming to have not been affected by what he saw in Vietnam, as he raves about his war experiences and relates them to his line of work. He never does much about the rat problem, but he does run around acting foolish.

And so Hall and his crew, including a group of red-necks who once harassed and cajoled him in the town's

diner, go into the basement and start the cleanup. They soon discover that there is more to the basement than junk. However, this doesn't take place until the movie is two-thirds finished. Until this point, there has been little horror and little to keep the viewer interested. After this, it doesn't get much better.

"Graveyard Shift" is not simply a bad horror movie, it's just a bad movie, period. There is little in it to classify it as a horror movie. A few minutes into this movie, the audience becomes bored, not afraid. At the end, after learning what has been lurking in the dark and sprawling basement of Bachman Mills, it all seems like a bad nightmare just because we actually sat through the entire show.