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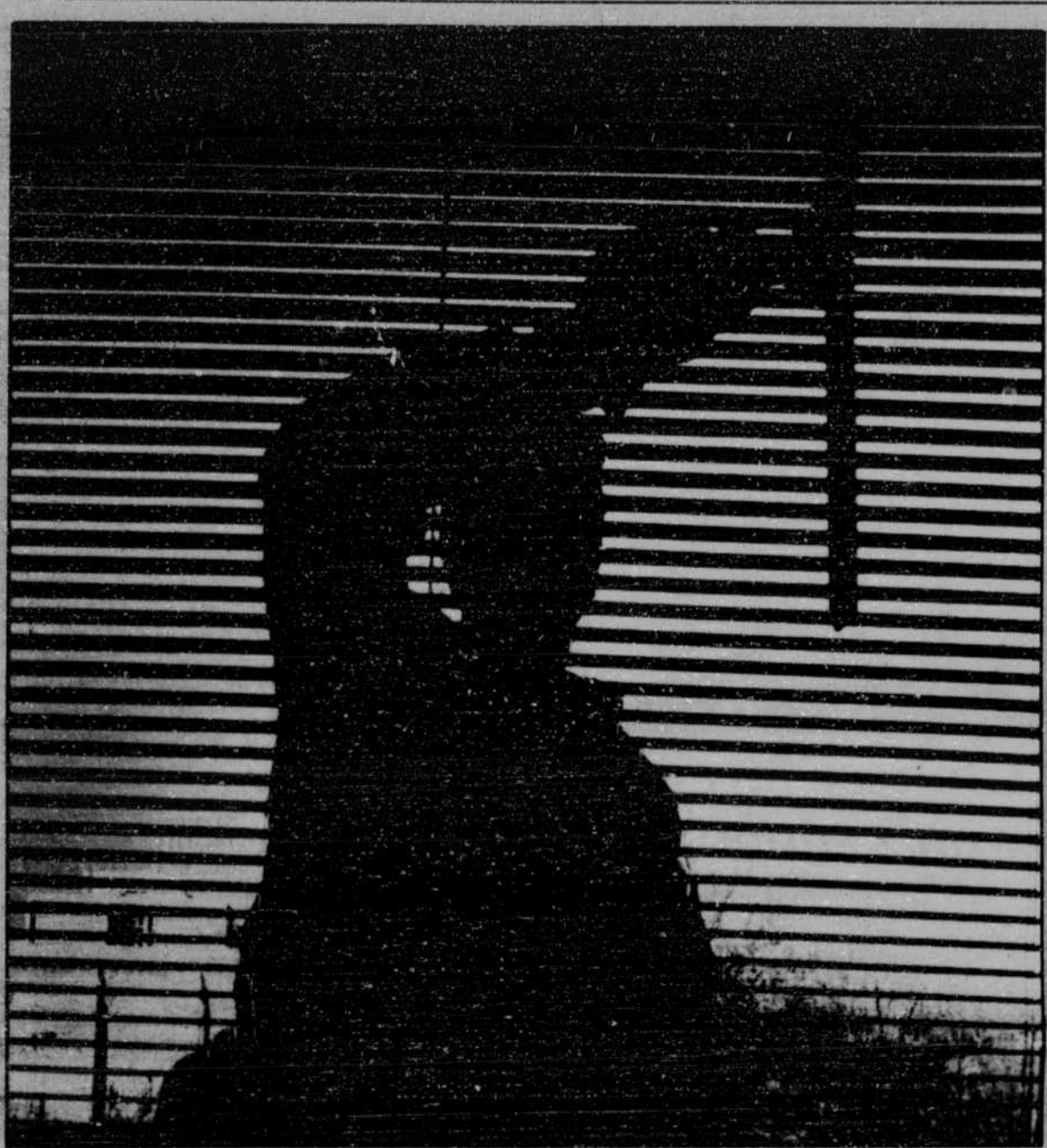
Thursday

WEATHER

Today, sunny and warmer, southwest wind 10-20 miles per hour, high near 50. Tonight, mostly clear and not as cold, low near 30. Friday, mostly sunny and mild, high in the mid to upper 50s.

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A clean Lied
 Mike Visger of Roy's Window Service washes windows on the ground floor of the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Wednesday afternoon.
 Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Official criticizes UNL's low ranking

By Angie Anderson
 Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's rating of "non-competitive" in a recent publication deserves no apology, a UNL official said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said UNL is not sorry for its non-selective liberal admissions policies, which were cited as the reason for the non-competitive ranking in the 1990 Barron's Educational Series.

"UNL is a land-grant institution committed to being open and accessible to all students who we feel have a good chance of completing our curriculum," Griesen said. "We'll always be dedicated to serving the typical students who graduate from our high schools."

Griesen said UNL's "non-competitive" admissions policy allows any student to attend who has completed the core requirements in the policy.

UNL's admissions policy requires high school graduates to complete at least three years of English; one year of composition; one year of speech, journalism, literature or foreign language; two years of math, including one year of algebra; two years of sciences; and two years of social sciences.

And although UNL has a liberal admissions policy, Griesen said, the university did not admit 100 percent of all applicants, as stated in the Barron's rankings. About 200 of 8,000 applications this year were denied, he said.

This shows the rankings were not carefully researched and are "nonsense on the surface," Griesen said.

The Barron's rankings are based

on admissions standards, not academic quality.

Griesen said competitiveness should be measured by how easy it is to earn a degree, as well as by how easy it is to be admitted to a college.

UNL is consistent with Big Eight schools in degree-earning difficulty, he said.

About 44 percent of UNL students graduate within five years, he said, which is about the same as at other Big Eight schools.

Another indication that the rating was invalid, Griesen said, is that Barron's rated Kearney State College and the University of Nebraska at Omaha higher than UNL.

Barron's rated KSC as competitive and UNO as less competitive.

UNL attracts more talented students than KSC or UNO, Griesen said, as average American College Test scores show. Last year's average ACT scores, before the enhanced test was instituted, were 19 at KSC, 19 at UNO and 22 at UNL, he said.

Because the Barron's series is not prevalent, Griesen said, the low ranking will not affect enrollment.

Most students never see the rankings, he said, and most students do not choose a college by its ranking in a publication.

John Beacon, director of admissions at UNL, said students use factors like academic program availability, location, and size more than information in the Barron's series and similar guides when they are choosing a college.

Despite his belief that UNL should serve typical Nebraska students, Griesen said he thinks UNL should study the possibility of mildly increasing admissions standards.

Dorm-to-dorm not done

Campus mail all business, holiday greetings returned

By Todd Neeley
 Staff Reporter

Students trying to send Christmas cards and personal letters from dorm to dorm will find that their mail won't be reaching its destination, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus mail official said.

Richard Schenaman, manager of campus postal services, said that any Christmas cards or personal letters that are sent from dorm to dorm are collected in the campus mail room and sent to campus housing.

Students can use campus mail services only for business mail, such as class schedules, sent between students and faculty members, according to UNL policy.

And campus postal services stopped handling personal letters from faculty members about 12 years ago, Schenaman said.

"We don't handle personal mail for anyone, not even faculty," he said.

Doug Zatechka, director of university housing, said dorm mail that has a return address is sent back to the sender, and mail that doesn't is

thrown away.

"Students may not know where their mail is going," Schenaman said.

"If there is no return address, then there is nothing we can do," Zatechka said.

He said he didn't know the amount of mail thrown away.

Schenaman said that each year, about 200 Christmas cards are sent through campus postal services, and the number of personal letters triples during Christmas to between six and nine a day.

This puts a strain on campus postal services, he said.

It takes a lot of time to process mail, Schenaman said, and personal mail "takes space that is not available."

If students are trying to send mail between dorms, they should deliver it themselves, he said.

Students can put postage on their Christmas cards, Schenaman said, and have them delivered by the U.S. postal service, which picks up mail from the residence halls.

NU, S. Africa cooperation urged

By Tabitha Hiner
 Staff Reporter

The President's Special Committee on South Africa issued a report recommending creation of cooperative teaching, research and service programs between the University of Nebraska and a South African institution.

Vista University and the University of the Western Cape were mentioned as potential institutions for the cooperative programs.

The commission, in its report to NU Interim President Martin Masengale released this week, also recommended that awareness of faculty and students at NU about conditions in South Africa be increased and that the African studies program at NU be expanded and strengthened.

NU is lacking in faculty members, library resources, courses and programs that deal with African issues, and enhancements should be made in

these areas, the report said.

While the University of Nebraska at Omaha has an African studies emphasis, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has only a minor in the field, it said.

Two proponents of the recommendations said their fulfillment would benefit South Africans and Nebraskans.

Peter Levitov, director of International Educational Services, said that in addition to educating South Africans, the recommendations would enhance Nebraskans' awareness of South African issues. Although not a member, Levitov was invited to sit in on the committee.

"No matter which way the exchange takes place, there will be a ripple effect," he said.

People in classes with exchange professors and students in an exchange would talk to friends and relatives who then would be informed on South African issues, Levitov said.

Phil Gosch, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and a member of the committee, said the university's African studies program is insufficient.

The report also calls for scholarships to be created for South African exchange students.

Gosch supported the scholarship recommendation and said that it was a reflection on student government. An ASUN resolution passed last May called for scholarships for South African students.

Levitov said the committee's recommendations were important, but that Masengale, also UNL chancellor, could establish another committee that would make more concrete suggestions.

The report lists guiding principles that should be followed if a committee to develop definite plans is created.

See SOUTH AFRICA on 3

Recommendations by the President's Special Committee on South Africa

1. Develop linkages between the University of Nebraska and South African universities which would include:

Faculty exchanges.	Student exchanges.	Joint research projects.	Scholarships for South African students.
			Potential lecturers and speakers.

2. Strengthen NU's African studies program by:

Developing more African courses.	Enhancing library holdings on African topics.	Adding faculty members to teach African courses.	Adding to the existing African programs at the university.

Source: The President's Special Committee on South Africa.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan