

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

WEATHER

Today, colder, partly sunny in the afternoon, northwest winds 15-20 miles per hour, high in the low to mid 40s. Tonight, partly cloudy and colder, low in low 20s. Friday, flurries possible in the afternoon, high 40-45.

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December 12, 1990

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 90 No. 73

Official: UNL catching up in graduate programs

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles examining UNL's peer institutions. Future articles will analyze UNL's position among its peers in faculty salaries and undergraduate teaching.

By Michael Ho
 Staff Reporter

Some graduate programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln still lag behind those of its peer institutions, but UNL is catching up, the graduate dean said.



In some areas, UNL already is a national leader, said Bill Splinter, interim vice chancellor of research and dean of graduate studies.

"IANR (the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources) is one of the top ag programs in the country," he said.

The institute coordinates operations for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division and the Cooperative Extension Service.

The Tractor Testing Lab on East Campus serves as the proving ground for farm machinery from across the United States and from many foreign countries.

Splinter said his objective is to

bring UNL's other programs up to IANR's standards.

"We are making efforts to get ourselves more competitive," he said, "but we still are not where we should be."

In the 1970s, UNL ranked about 90th in the nation in total research spending, Splinter said. But in 1989, he said, it moved up to 74th in the face of tough competition.

"Our job is to get ourselves up in the upper 50," he said.

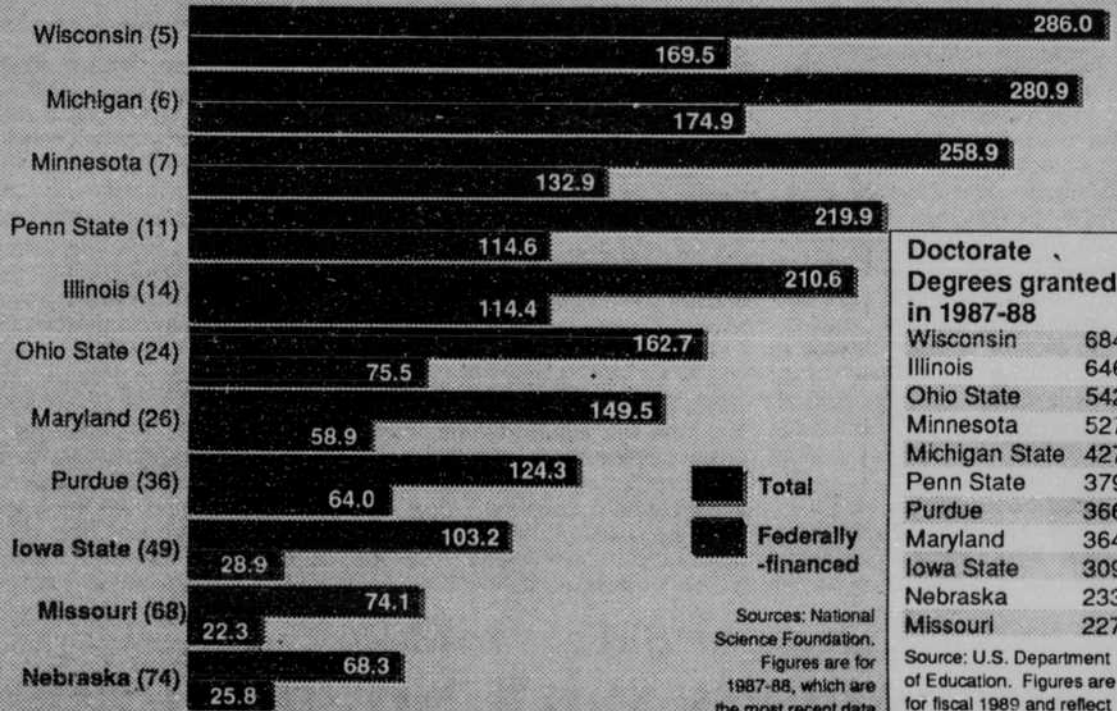
All of UNL's peer institutions — the 11 universities it compares itself to — are in the top 50 except for the University of Missouri, which is 68th. The National Science Foundation compiles the research totals each year.

Even though UNL's research spending ranked last in the peer group last year, Splinter said, UNL shares a bond with each university on the list — Illinois, Iowa State, Maryland, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue and Wisconsin.

"If you'll look at every one of those," Splinter said, "the schools that are there are the agricultural universities in the state — and that's what we are."

To gauge the competitiveness of research schools, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has developed a ranking system that classifies each institution as a Research I or Research II university.

Research spending by peer group universities



Doctorate Degrees granted in 1987-88

Wisconsin	684
Illinois	646
Ohio State	542
Minnesota	527
Michigan State	427
Penn State	379
Purdue	366
Maryland	364
Iowa State	309
Nebraska	233
Missouri	227

*Figures in millions. National rank in (). Big Eight schools in bold.

Sources: National Science Foundation. Figures are for 1987-88, which are the most recent data available.

Source: U.S. Department of Education. Figures are for fiscal 1989 and reflect main campuses only.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

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Computer virus found, restrained

By Alan Phelps
 Staff Reporter

A computer virus loose in the law college infected some files on a student's personal computer Monday, but swift action was taken to isolate and eliminate the vermin, an official said.

"It's an ongoing problem for which we have an ongoing program," said Gerald Kutish, associate director of the Computing Resource Center.

Kutish said a computer virus is a program designed to "infect" computers. It moves from a diskette to the computer's memory and usually remains there undetected until it is triggered, he said.

A virus can do anything from flashing a message on the screen to wiping out files, he said.

"It depends on the intentions of the virus' creator — was he malicious or did he just want to say 'Hi! I'm in your computer!'" Kutish said.

Allan Hull, a microcomputer technical support specialist with CRC, said the virus found in the computer at the College of Law was "a non-destructive prank virus" called "Stoned."

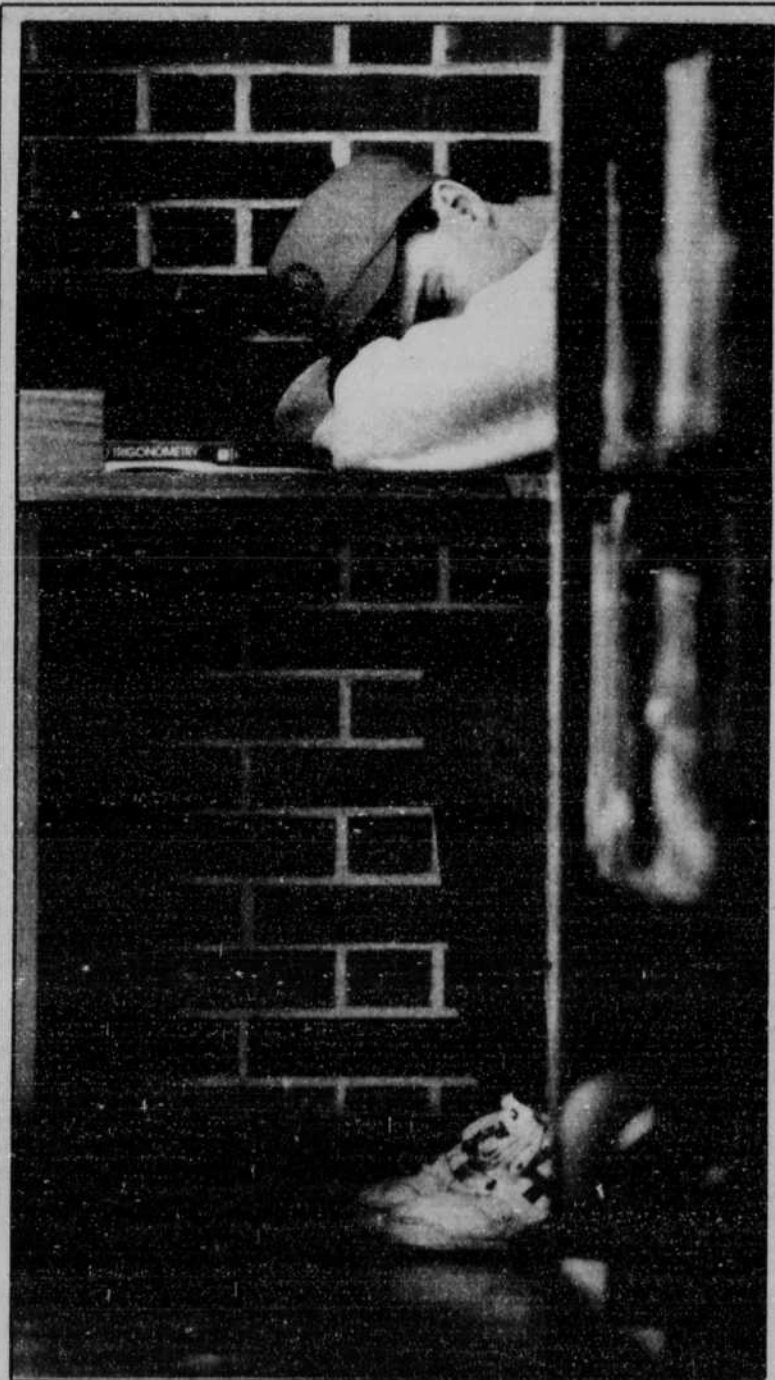
The Computing Resource Center sent virus detection and eradication software to the law college after the virus was reported Monday, Hull said. The problem appears to have been cleared up, he said.

Kutish said the CRC receives a report of a virus on campus "every other week or so. Once in a while there's an epidemic. We're kind of like the Health Center."

"We (UNL) haven't had a major problem, but the potential is out there," he said.

Because most of the viruses caught at UNL originate from the outside, Kutish said, the best way to avoid

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David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

"Dead Week"

Korey Klover, a sophomore construction management major, naps in Love Library Tuesday, taking a break from studying for his trigonometry final.

Students rarely use Lied, survey shows

By Pat Dinslage
 Staff Reporter

More than three-fourths of 250 University of Nebraska-Lincoln undergraduate students surveyed have not used the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

But Lied officials aren't complaining about the figure.

The survey, conducted as a group project for the Principles of Management class this semester, found that 78 percent of students have not attended a performance or been inside the Lied Center.

Cheryl Clark, Lied marketing director, said that means 22 percent have used the Lied Center.

"That's a very good percentage" if it is applied to the total UNL student population, she said. "We would be happy with that."

Clark said she has talked with marketing directors at other college performing arts centers, and they are having similar challenges getting student participation.

Ron Beebe, associate director of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, said that he "can't imagine exceeding 10 percent" of the 36,000 student population. However, about 50 percent of the audiences are students, he said.

The center differs from the Lied Center, however, because it offers a lot of student performances, as well as a professionally acted series of performances, Beebe said.

Robert Chumbley, Lied Center director, said the Krannert does more academic programming than the Lied, but Lied is closer, as far as academic relationships, to the Krannert than it is to the University of Iowa's Hanscher Auditorium.

Judith Hurtig, Hanscher marketing director, said the center has a range of programming, but does not present student productions. Hanscher does rent the facility to Iowa's theatre

and dance departments for their annual major productions, she said.

Hurtig said audiences include about 26 percent to 27 percent students on average.

Chumbley said that the Lied's figures on student ticket sales "are in line with sister institutions with similar types of facilities."

The 22 percent attendance generally would fit with the numbers on student ticket sales that the Lied has developed, he said.

A report recently completed by the Lied Center showed that during the current season, an average of 17 percent to 23 percent of ticket-buyers were students.

"If we're pulling in 20 percent to 22 percent of the students," Chumbley said, "I think that's a tremendous beginning . . . considering the newness of the Lied Center. . . . We hope the average percentage gets up to 30 percent. We're more than halfway there now."

The class's non-scientific survey asked students from each UNL college about their attendance at the Lied Center and their reasons for attending or not attending the events.

A lack of interest, time and money were the main reasons students gave for not attending performances.

Of the surveyed students who indicated that they had not attended a performance, 42 percent said they were not interested in the events offered at the Lied. A lack of time or event times compatible with their schedules was reported by 38 percent of the students as a reason for not attending events, the survey showed.

The third most common reason, given by 30 percent of the students who had not seen an event or performance at the Lied, was that tickets were too expensive or that they had no money.

The students surveyed were about evenly split on their plans to attend a

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