

# Dance funds provide services for troops

By Wendy Mott  
Staff Reporter

UNL students will have the chance to tie one on Friday at a "Yellow Ribbon Dance" in The Reunion to show concern for American troops in the Persian Gulf, an organizer said.

Jeff Gorder, Residence Hall Association social chairman, said the dance will not be a political statement, but merely an expression of concern for American troops in the Persian Gulf.

"The campus needs to unite," he said. "We can't unite on whether the war is right or wrong, but we can agree on concern for Americans."

Gorder said his organization has done everything it can to emphasize the neutrality of the dance.

RHA has kept "support" out of dance advertisements, is donating the money raised to a neutral group and is trying to get a variety of students to attend, Gorder said.

"We want to make sure it doesn't become political," Gorder said. "The dance is a way to provide local service for soldiers overseas."

The dance is sponsored by RHA, Golden Key National Honor Society and the Red Cross. Proceeds from the dance will be donated to the Lancaster County chapter of the American Red Cross, Gorder said.

Dave Norris, director of public relations at the Lancaster County chapter of the American Red Cross, said the money will be used to provide a communication link between soldiers overseas and their families in Nebraska.

"It's kind of like Nebraskans for Nebraskans," Norris said.

The Red Cross serves many other functions as well, but the dance funds will help families transmit urgent messages to soldiers in the gulf, he said.

Gorder said most of The Reunion's food court will be open during the dance, and The Pub will have its weekly \$1 draw special.

KFRX-FM will be providing music for the dance, he said.

The dance will be at The Reunion from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Gorder said. Tickets are \$2 for students and \$4 for non-students if purchased in advance, or \$3 and \$5 at the door.

## Class

Continued from Page 1

24,000, has been able to avoid large classes, Griesen said.

The student-to-faculty ratio at UNL currently is 17.3:1, according to Institutional Research Planning and Fiscal Analysis.

Griesen said he has heard few complaints about class size.

Brian Oltmanns, an undeclared sophomore, said that, unlike in the past, he is not having problems with large classes. But, he said, if students are having problems, it's their responsibility to speak to their instructors about them.

Freshman theater arts major Amy Reiner said she doesn't mind large classes.

Reiner said she has not had any problems with her biology or art history classes, both of which are large lecture classes.

But Marcy Knorr, a senior economics major, said she doesn't like large classes. There are more distractions, she said.

Junior Marc Kappel agreed.

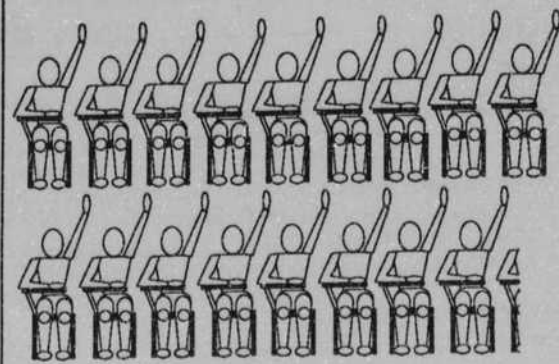
"I always do better in a smaller class," he said.

Kappel, a history and English secondary education major, said he finds the classes more interesting when they are smaller. He said he is able to learn and retain more of the information presented.

Philip Hugly, chairman of the UNL Department of Philosophy, said smaller classes provide a better learning environment.

"It's important to get students in

## Ratio of students to faculty at UNL



17.3 students: faculty member

Source: UNL Institutional Research Planning and Fiscal Analysis

Amie DeFrain/Daily Nebraskan

small classes," Hugly said.

According to the philosophy department's correction rosters, two sections of Philosophy 101 are offered. About 108 students may enroll in each course. This semester, 105 students are enrolled in section 150, while 104 students are enrolled in section 250. Quiz sections with a limit of 27 students are required for the introductory courses.

Hugly said he would like to see the introductory course drop to an average of 80 students, which would reduce quiz sections to 20 students.

Two teaching assistants instruct the quiz sections, he said. Each TA teaches four quiz sections, with 25 students enrolled in each class, putting the TA in charge of about 100 students.

Hugly said quiz sections give students the opportunity to interact with a teacher. Students also can write, discuss ideas and take frequent quizzes, which increase learning, he said.

Full professors teach the introductory class, he said, to make sure students grasp the content of the material.

It's important to allow the best people to communicate philosophical ideas, Hugly said, because at the introductory level it's the only exposure some students will get.

Ross Thompson, an associate professor of psychology, said students tend to learn more when they can get involved in classroom discussion.

Thompson, who teaches Psychology 181, said he has about 234 students enrolled in his class this semester. But students also sign up for a smaller recitation section to discuss the class material better.

The recitation sections, Thompson said, are designed to get students actively involved in learning. Two TAs instruct three recitations, which have about 40 students each.

Because Psychology 181 is the only introductory lecture class offered by the psychology department

in the spring, some students opted for the Keller Plan, Thompson said.

Keller Plan students read the book and take tests over the material at their own pace without having the scheduled structure of the classroom. Thompson said some students may prefer this style because it's flexible.

But most classes don't offer Keller Plan sections.

For those classes, Millard Beatty, chairman of the Department of Engineering Mechanics, said, "Early enrollment is the key to getting a class. It depends on the semester and the sections that can be offered."

Beatty said the engineering mechanics department has limits on the number of students who can enroll in its classes. For example, enrollment in the introductory class, which offers four sections, is limited to 25.

The engineering mechanics department has set limits to keep most classes below 40 students.

With smaller classes, Beatty said, "you get to know the students."

"You get to know each student by name. Breaking sections down accommodates students. In a smaller section, students are more inclined to ask questions."

Griesen said smaller recitation and lab sections are offered for some of the traditionally large classes such as psychology, biology, math and speech communications.

For example, Griesen said, Math 101A has an average class size of 33. English 150 and 118 average 23 students. Biology 101 offers three sections with an average of 200 students per class, but biology labs are no larger than 24 students.

"It's important for students to have a small environment, so they can relate to the instructor on a one-on-one basis," Griesen said.

Stephen Hilliard, English department chairman, said the ideal English class size is 20 students per class.

But classes that small aren't possible, he said. The English department tries to keep its 100-level class average at 25 and its upper-level average at 31.

"We are delivering good size classes," he said. "On the whole, smaller classes are better for students' learning."

Griesen said making students feel comfortable with the UNL educational environment begins when they are incoming freshman.

Griesen said five programs have been instituted to help incoming freshmen feel a sense of community:

- The New Student Enrollment packet containing information about UNL is mailed to potential students.
- The New Student Welcome Program, formerly Big Red Welcome, acquaints students with the campus.
- The New Student Enrollment Student Guide is a comprehensive undergraduate bulletin given to each incoming freshman.
- The University Honors Program accommodates students who would like to take advanced classes their first year.
- University Foundations helps expose students to campus life.

## POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday, Feb. 5

7:01 a.m. — Man slipped and broke ankle, 38th and Huntington streets.

8:05 a.m. — Non-injury auto accident, 14th and W streets, \$800.

9:58 a.m. — Man fainted at Hamilton Hall, transported to University Health Center.



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