

Books

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Bookstores' average margin on the sale of a textbook has risen from 20 to 25 percent, he said.

New editions must be issued more often in certain disciplines to keep up with technology and world developments, decreasing the useful life of an edition from three to five years down to two in some cases, Williams said.

Faculty aren't stressing the importance of the text like they used to, Mastrovich said, now that handouts can be produced with relative ease and less expense. Students are choosing not to buy the book.

"A lot of people like to pin it directly on us, but we're all (publishers, retailers, users) party to the increase in prices."

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Winning wood a walk away

State champion trees call East Campus home

By Julie Skar
Staff Reporter

Champion is a word often used to describe an Olympic athlete or a great sports team, but according to champion tree coordinator Mike Kuhns, it also is used to classify great trees.

Champion trees are documented in the Nebraska Champion Tree Register as the largest of their species.

East Campus is the home to all six of UNL's champion trees. Construction on City Campus makes it difficult for trees to grow large enough to be considered champions, said Kuhns, an assistant professor and extension forester for the forestry, fisheries and wildlife department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The bald cypress, which is the largest tree on East Campus, sits on a mound across from C. Y. Thompson Library near the east parking lot, he said.

To earn the distinction of champion tree, the plant must be a tree, not a shrub. It usually has a single upright stem and must be at least 13 feet tall, Kuhns said.

As soon as a tree is believed to be a state champion, measurements are made of its stem circumference, its height and its crown spread, the dis-

tance between the edge of leaves on one side of the tree to the edge of the leaves on the other, Kuhns said.

Points are given for the measurements; the trees with the highest totals qualify as champions.

“**To earn the distinction of champion tree, the plant must be a tree, not a shrub.**”

UNL's five other champion trees include a Chinese lilac, a black jack oak, a scarlet oak, a lace bark pine and a blue ash.

However, the blue ash champion is dying, Kuhns said. When a tree grows that large, its condition can deteriorate, he said.

Nebraska's best specimen of a champion tree is in Gosper County, located in central Nebraska.

The eastern cottonwood, which is Nebraska's state tree, is both the state and national champion. It is 35 feet around, 96 feet tall and 121 feet across the top.



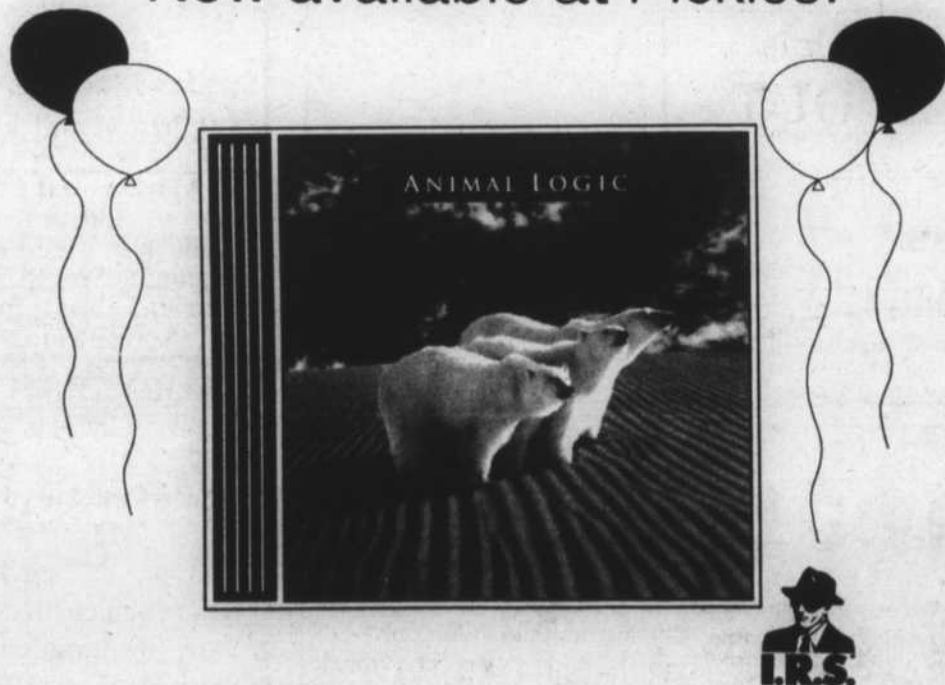
Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

The bald cypress tree on East Campus is one of the six state champion trees on campus.

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Transfer

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cultural or natural science programs.

The program, which lets students transfer a block of courses, offers more options than transferring on a course-by-course basis, said Steve Waller, assistant dean of the agricultural college.

The 2 Plus 2 plan would specify which course requirements would need to be fulfilled before moving to UNL. The students would then enter the university as juniors instead of freshmen with 30 hours of agricultural classes that might not count toward their degree, he said.

"It takes the risk out," he said.

Many students prefer to attend a community college because of lower costs and more hands-on training and practical experience that they might not get during the first two years at UNL, Waller said.

There are no enrollment figures available yet for the program, which began last April.

Cindy Cammack, assistant to the dean of the agriculture college, said there are 66 transfer students so far this year, up from 55 last year.

Cammack expected the numbers to rise and said she has been getting more transfer folders every day.

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