

Letters to home enlighten more than family

Talk of football games, racial climate on campus fills student's writings

By Rebecca S. Kruse
Staff Reporter

A student's letters home may be shared over the family supper table, but one University of Nebraska-Lincoln student's letters go beyond her family's table and onto the newsstands.

Kathleen Hartman, a 21-year-old senior from Gering, writes Letters Home, a bi-weekly column in the Scotsbluff Star-Herald.



Her letters are like many students' letters: telling the folks at home about the Saturday football game, talking about the latest celebrity to visit the campus or explaining a classroom run-in with a professor.

"Teachers and professors nationwide must revel in their ability to discern who is prepared and who is not," Hartman writes. "I read every assignment I'm given. Honestly, I do. It just so happens that once in a while it is impossible to have everything under control for class meetings."

Her professor has caught her off-guard, she explains, and she dubs the event "Advanced Classroom Embarrassment."

But Hartman uses her training in the Teachers College to add an educational twist to her letters. She has written about the racial climate on campus, explaining the importance of events, such as the Native American Healing the Hoop celebration, that try to ease racial tensions.

"Because of all the strife Native Americans have undergone in the past, Healing the Hoop is an effort to educate others about Native American perspectives," she writes.

Even though she aims to educate through Letters Home, Hartman, a secondary education French and English major, said her main goal was to have fun.

"I write because I think the Panhandle residents have no idea what goes on here at the university," Hartman said. "I write hoping to ensnare prospective students."

"But mostly, I write for the fun of it. Writing is my passion."

Hartman said she started with the idea of writing book reviews for children. She discussed the idea with a professor she had for a children's literature class.

That professor is Larry Andrews, English,



Travis Heying/DN

Kathleen Hartman, a secondary education French and English major, writes a biweekly column for the Scotsbluff Star-Herald. Hartman, a senior, is a native of Gering.

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—Hartman Columnist

Curriculum and Instruction professor of the Teachers College.

"She took a course with me, and as that class was coming to a close, she said she needed some kind of project," Andrews said.

"I knew from the things she had written in class that she would be really outstanding," he said. "She's an excellent writer."

Andrews offered Hartman two ideas. "I said, 'Why don't you talk to the

newspaper about writing a column about quality reading for children,'" Andrews said.

"If they don't like that idea, volunteer to write a column. Call it Letters Home."

Armed with her proposals, Hartman approached the Scotsbluff Star-Herald editor.

"I just walked into the Star-Herald and said, 'I've got this cockamamie idea,'" Hartman said.

The editor liked Hartman's second idea. She started writing her column in September 1992, and her Letters Home appear in the Scotsbluff newspaper's Sunday edition every other week.

Hartman said she had received positive reactions to her column. People write letters to the newspaper and call her with story ideas, and she has even been quoted.

"The dean of the Teachers College quoted something that I said in a column," Hartman said. "That was the biggest compliment of all."

Hartman, a Teachers College advisory board member and an ASUN senator, said she hoped to continue writing after college.

"I want to write more than anything," she said.

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DN gets CFA support for funding increase

Spanier must OK boost in budget

By Sarah Scalet
Staff Reporter

The UNL Committee for Fees Allocation voted Thursday night to recommend to ASUN a funding increase for the Daily Nebraskan, despite a subcommittee recommendation that the funding remain the same.

Daily Nebraskan Editor Chris Hopfensperger said the increase, from \$39,200 to \$41,153, was necessary to offset increasing printing costs and declining advertising revenue.

If the increase is approved by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and then Chancellor Graham Spanier, student fees for the Daily Nebraskan will go from 84 cents to 88 cents per semester.

A subcommittee report, submitted by Mark Byars and Shawntell Hurtgen, recommended the Daily Nebraskan alleviate rising printing costs by printing the "Divisions" section biweekly, instead of every Thursday.

The report also recommended that the Daily Nebraskan employ new or different methods of advertising and

develop new markets, in addition to expanding previous markets.

However, Hopfensperger said many advertisers published ads in Thursday papers only because of the "Divisions" pullout.

If the section were only published biweekly, he said, many of those advertisers would only buy ads every other week.

Shane Tucker, chairman of the Committee for Fees Allocation, said keeping student fees down was a high priority.

However, he said, because the Daily Nebraskan is "greatly used" by students at a low price, the increase was justified.

In other business, the committee discussed the University Program Council's 1993-94 budget request, a decrease of 2 percent from this year.

UPC President Gary Doyle said that as the largest student-fee user, UPC wanted to take a lead role in reducing student fees.

A subcommittee of the Committee of Fee Allocations will meet with members of UPC and submit a recommendation to the committee next Tuesday.

Also, the committee voted to recommend that ASUN receive \$143,891, \$20 less than its original request.

The change, a result of a typo, reduces funding for the Postage and Quick Copy line in Student Legal services.

