

RHA plans price hike for residents in August

New students will be affected most, director says

By Matthew Grant
Staff Reporter

Students who move into UNL residence halls in August may have to pay \$80 more in fees than students this year. A 2.7 percent increase in the cost of living in residence halls will



be necessary to meet expenses next year, Doug Zatechka, director of housing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said at a Residence Hall Association meeting Sunday.

The increase in fees is 0.75 percent below inflation, Zatechka said.

Students returning to residence halls would not have to pay the increase under the plan. Those who have lived in residence halls for a full year would have the \$80 increase

rebated from their final bill, Zatechka said.

"Here's a discount for a good customer, that's basically what we're saying," he said, adding that the housing board had discussed the issue at length.

The rebate for returning students would continue in future years. A student who lives in the halls for four years could save up to \$400, Zatechka said.

In other business, a proposal was introduced to ban smoking in all residence hall cafeterias. A vote will be taken on the proposal at the RHA meeting Feb. 21.

Zatechka also spoke of proposals to form an upperclass community in Cather Hall. All students except freshmen will be eligible to move into the upperclass hall, he said.

The upperclass hall would be all single rooms with a computer room on each floor, 24-hour visitation and a vacation-housing option.

The move to forming an upperclass hall is a result of student demands for increased privacy, Zatechka said.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Stephen Buhler, assistant English professor, uses his musical abilities and puts Shakespeare's words to music. Buhler said he taught with a lighthearted approach to show students the fun side of Shakespeare.

Modern methods Professor gives Shakespeare a '90s twist

By Kara Morrison
Senior Editor

The first day of English 230 with Stephen Buhler will tell you it's not your average Shakespeare class.

In fact, nothing about Buhler's teaching is average.

Buhler, who was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Southern California, says his most infamous teaching method is his popular music renditions of the Shakespearean sonnets.

After unpacking a well-worn guitar, he performs for his students a country version of Sonnet 18, "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day." He follows this with blues and rock renditions of other sonnets; then, pulling out his electric guitar, he ends the performance with a Nirvana-type version of Sonnet 129, "The Expense of Spirit."

"It gives my students a sense that Shakespeare's material is not a china figure," Buhler said of his musical interpretations. "It won't break if you play with it."

Friday, Buhler took his musical talents outside the classroom for a performance with UCLA colleague Christopher Gross, a harmonica player and leading Milton scholar.

Dubbing themselves Sweet Will and the Miltones, the two English scholars performed blues versions of Shakespearean and Miltonian works.

Playing with Shakespeare is Buhler's way of making an often

intimidating subject conquerable.

He often begins the class by asking students to discuss the prologue from Henry V, which entreats the audience to be an active and attentive part of the play.

"This passage lets students know Shakespeare needs them," he said. "It's saying, 'It won't work unless you join in.'"

He also lets his students know the secret about Shakespeare that drew him to the subject in college: "You don't have to get it all at once," he explained. "Shakespeare is a lifelong conversation."

Buhler says he still discovers something new in Shakespeare every time he teaches it.

"So much is going on... Philosophical, intellectual, ideological and religious principles are all there," he said. "Shakespeare is incredibly intellectual and incredibly emotional — a wonderful balance."

Once a sense of community is established in the class and students put their intimidations aside, Buhler says his students can look at the intellectual side of Shakespeare "without forgetting the fun."

Buhler, who has been teaching at UNL since 1989, was recently selected as one of 17 professors across the nation to participate in the Folger's Institute Shakespeare Library project. He now spends one weekend a month in Washington, D.C. discussing different teaching methods and other aspects of Shakespeare.

Last month, Buhler and his colleagues studied the Royal Shakespeare Company's original directors' notebooks and prompt books for the play "Measure for Measure," and restaged the production.

Acting is another teaching method that distinguishes Buhler's classes. Students are required to act out various scenes in the plays.

Staging the plays gives students a "much better visual and emotional sense" of what's going on in Shakespeare, he said, because it was written to be performed.

"Through characterization we discover things we might not have discovered otherwise," he said.

Buhler said the English department has been very supportive of methods that he describes as "off the beaten track in teaching." He said he has never been discouraged by trying new and different approaches to the subject.

Buhler also has done several research projects and scholarly journals on topics involving Milton, Spencer and Shakespeare. He expects the first draft of a book on Spencer and Epicurean philosophy to be completed this summer, he said.

Originally hired for teaching and research focused on Spencer and Milton, Buhler said his interest in teaching Shakespeare came as somewhat of a pleasant surprise.

"Shakespeare just isn't going to let me get away," he said. "And I'm delighted about that."

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Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, Room 222, City Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union; or the Office For Student Involvement, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Office should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 (phone 472-5667) before February 5, 1993 to make arrangements.

Students who have completed a refund application and returned it on or before February 12, 1993 will be mailed a check for the amount of the refund claimed. Refund checks will be mailed the week of February 15th.

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