

Advisors play key roles in students lives

Guidance position to be taken seriously, deserves time, full attention

I've found in my five years here that too many advisers are not taking their advising seriously enough.

Most of them add advising to their teaching responsibilities. They have so many responsibilities that many times advising is not one of their priorities.

As students, we depend on our advisers to keep us informed as to what courses we need in order to graduate. Of course, we need to

take the responsibility of talking with our advisers and asking them questions.

As advisers, though, they need to familiarize themselves with what is required for our majors and minors and make sure we know this.

I've had about every kind of adviser since my first year. I've had student advisers, professors, heads of the department and deans of the college. And only one of them was

organized and well-informed. She kept me informed and up-to-date on what courses I needed and any changes.

The adviser I have now is completely unorganized. I've met with him many times to make sure my classes were all in order to graduate. Each time he said everything was right on. But when I got my senior check back, I noticed a problem. As it turned out, my adviser had me taking the wrong plan for

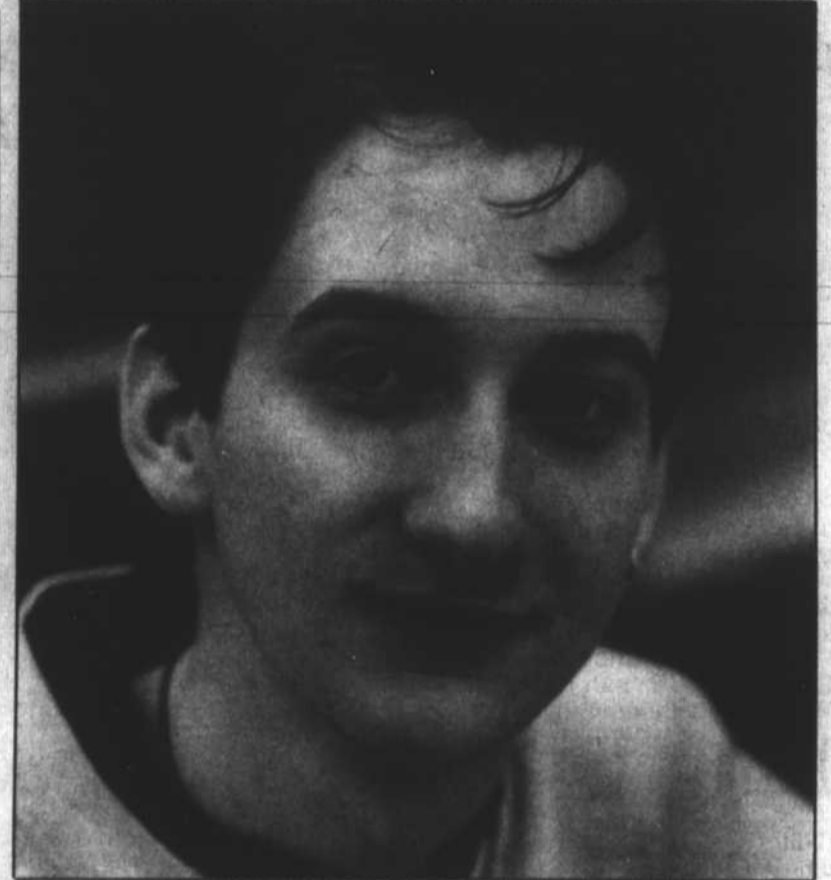
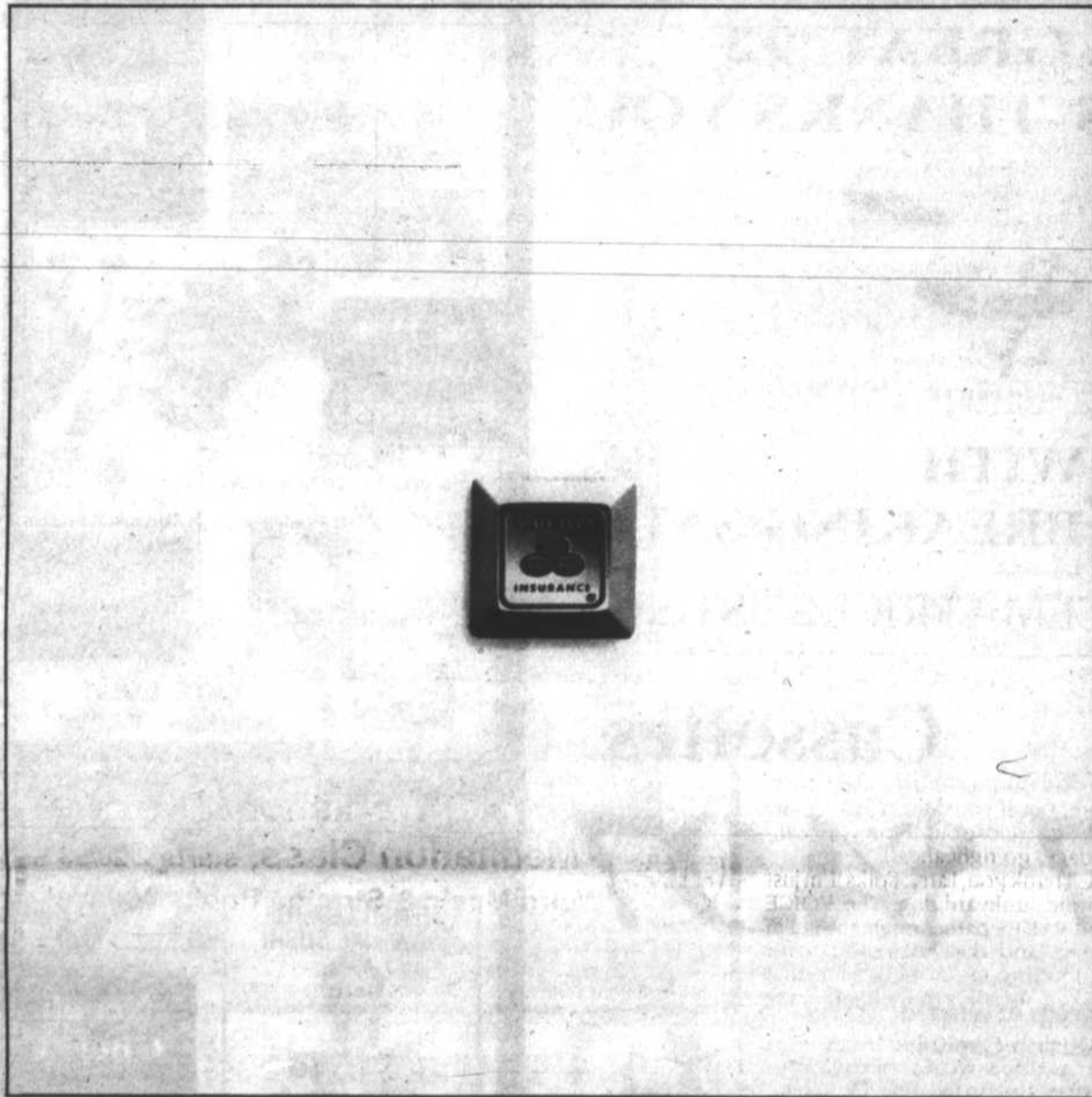
my minor.

Many other people I've talked with have had problems with their advisers, also. A friend of mine had to drop all his classes three weeks into the semester and add all new ones because of a mistake by his adviser. He's the one that let me know about another class mistake my adviser misinformed me about. That mistake could've prevented me from graduating on time.

Advisers need to realize that

they're dealing with people's lives. If they don't know an answer to someone's questions, they should look into it — not just try to save face by making up an answer. If they don't take advising seriously, they shouldn't be advisers. We need advisers who will help us, not hurt us.

Jean Weikel is a senior sociology major and a Diversions contributor.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Andy Morrison gives advice to students about senior checks.

Clear up confusion

Senior checks help end schedule woes

As much as I sympathize with Jean, I can't say I totally understand. Possibly it is more of a bureaucracy problem.

I am a criminal justice major and as such, my college, public administration and community service, comes from the Omaha campus. This possibly might be why I feel they are more efficient than the UNL administration department.

I don't know if you are all aware of your right to have senior checks done, but my senior check has become my adviser for the past two years. At UNL, a senior check takes more than six weeks. At Love Hall (north of Neihardt), where I go for my administrative needs, it took no more than six minutes.

The checks clearly list what you have taken section by section, and let you know how many hours you need to fill each requirement. If you don't know what classes qualify for each section of your major, then you should check with the Undergraduate Bulletin the university gave you at New Student Enrollment.

I'm lucky enough to have par-

ents that are college graduates — one with a master's and one with a doctorate. They sat me down from the beginning and helped me understand how it works.

In the Undergraduate Bulletin, you will find all majors at UNL and some transfer majors. Under the major it will tell you what classes are required and what electives you can pick from.

After you have analyzed your needs by looking at your senior check, you look at the bulletin and pick your options for classes. Next, take your senior check and your bulletin and show it to your adviser — just so he or she sees that you are not making bad selections for your future.

That helps the adviser lessen the possibility of error, and gives you a little more freedom and makes you feel a little less helpless.

When it comes to my future, I don't like to depend on others to get things done for me. I like to do it myself.

Andy Morrison is a senior criminal justice major and a Diversions contributor.

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