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OPINION



A&E



TUESDAY



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Today, rainy, windy and cool. For Wednesday, colder with rain continuing.



Staci McKee/DN

Walter Centuori, a UNL Italian professor, said that he understood the difficulty students have learning a different language, because he had to learn English when he immigrated with his family to the United States at age 10.

Coming to America

Italian professor says he expected cowboys, Indians

By Nicole Sheets
Staff Reporter

In 1950, the Centuori family boarded the boat in Naples, Italy, that would take them to their new life and home in America.

Excitement, amazement and confusion abounded as the family sailed into New York — its first time in the United States.

This experience became a memorable and life changing event for Walter Centuori, associate professor of Italian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

At age 11, Centuori and his older brother, mother and father moved away from Italy because of economic problems. Upon arrival, Centuori spoke no English, but he said he was able to adapt to American life.

"I was excited and baffled to come to America, and I loved it here right away," Centuori said. "I had envisioned America as being all cowboys and Indians from the movies I had seen and couldn't wait to get here."

Centuori remembered being confused by the furor over baseball and football because soccer and biking were the main

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My pockets were always filled with candy. I couldn't help but love America.
— Centuori
Italian professor

sports in Italy. But he said he enjoyed the abundance of candy and ice cream, both rare delicacies in Italy.

"My pockets were always filled with candy," Centuori said. "I couldn't help but love America."

From New York, Centuori and his family moved to Brooklyn, then to Long Island and finally settled in Philadelphia where he attended his remaining years of grammar school and high school.

By growing up in an Italian ghetto in Philadelphia, Centuori said he learned quickly about the American way of life.

"Being the youngest in my family, I learned English the fastest and became the translator and interpreter for the rest of my family," he said.

After high school, Centuori moved to Philadelphia City, Pa., where he attended

college at St. Joseph University. Centuori received his bachelors degree in philosophy and French with a minor in English literature.

One year after his college graduation, Centuori returned to Italy. He attended the University of Naples, and five years later, he received his doctorate in Italian literature and graduated cum laude.

Centuori said he first was inspired to become a teacher by one of his professors in Italy.

After graduation Centuori returned to America. He was offered a position as a professor of Italian at several different schools. He chose UNL in 1967 and has remained ever since.

"I had a limited knowledge of Nebraska and still envisioned the cowboy and Indian scene," Centuori said. "I found this scene alluring, though, and the mystique of the Midwest brought me here."

More than 25 years later, Centuori is UNL's sole professor of Italian. He teaches the basic classes of Italian 101 through 302 as well as an independent study program.

Centuori said he did not mind being the only Italian professor, and there were several benefits to it.

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UNL parking permit fees to increase \$4

Funds generated to be used to repair, pave lot surfaces on City and East campuses

By Mark Harms
Staff Reporter

The fee for basic parking permits at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will increase 8.7 percent for the 1993-94 school year and another 8.7 percent for the 1994-95 school year.



During a March 11 meeting, the Parking Advisory Committee, following the guidelines of an ASUN resolution, recommended the increase in parking fees to the office of the vice chancellor for business and finance, said Tom Johnson, chairman of the committee.

The original ASUN resolution called for the fee to go up no more than \$5, which was calculated to be an increase about 7.5 percent, Johnson said.

He said the committee stayed within ASUN's recommendation, but the \$4 fee hike approved by the committee was accurately calculated to be an 8.7 percent increase.

None of the three student representatives appointed by ASUN attended the March 11 committee meeting, Johnson said.

John Goebel, vice chancellor of business and finance, has approved the recommendation, said Paul Carlson, interim business manager for the office of business and finance.

Next year's fee for a basic permit will go up from \$54 to \$58. The increase is expected to generate about \$79,000 worth of extra revenue for UNL's Parking Services during the next year and \$158,000 the year after that, Johnson said.

Much of the extra money generated will be used to expand parking at both City and East campuses, he said.

A proposal for City Campus, which would have to be approved by the NU Board of Regents, would call for the building of a new, 225-space lot southeast of the Beadle Center near 19th and R streets at a cost of about \$200,000, he said.

A proposal for East Campus, he said, would add 195 spaces to an existing lot near the Law College, and would cost about \$160,000. This proposal also would need the regents' approval.

Johnson said some of the money raised by the rate increase would go toward repairing deteriorating surfaces and paving gravel lots.

The committee intends to let UNL's Parking Services have a free hand in deciding where work needs to be done, he said.

"We want to allow the parking office the freedom to work where the most concern is being expressed," Johnson said. "If they had to follow rigid priorities, their hands would be tied."

He said the Parking Advisory Committee would meet again on April 8 at East Campus to review the parking problems that need to be addressed, and to elect a new chairman.

Credit card abuse problem for students, officials say

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

Leslie Douglas, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior, came to Lincoln two years ago with almost \$5,000 worth of credit card debt.

Douglas, a sociology major, said when she started using credit cards, she had a job. The income helped pay off her four local department store cards, a Spiegel's catalog card and a Visa card.

Douglas said she would buy gifts for others, along with clothes and other odds and ends.

Bank accounts good alternatives for building credit history

"Whenever I got into trouble or felt sad, I would charge things," Douglas said. "I'd buy a couple of outfits and then I'd feel real happy."

It took Douglas about two years to charge her credit cards to their limits, she said.

"Now I can't afford to pay them off," she said.

So Douglas turned to her mother for financial assistance. Now she isn't allowed to use the cards.

"(My mother) told me that I can't charge another single dollar," she said.

Douglas's problem is not unique. Counselors, professors and financial aid officers said the practice of credit card abuse by college students was a growing trend.

John Breckenridge, a counselor at UNL's Counseling and Psychological Services, said that although his office had not received many visits from students seeking counseling for credit card abuse, the problem was rising.

"There is no doubt in my mind that students are abusing credit cards,"

Breckenridge said.

"Many students do misuse their cards, but it isn't a problem students present to us," he said.

Breckenridge said credit card troubles were usually an auxiliary problem to some serious psychological problem, such as alcoholism or gambling.

"Credit cards make it easier to get money for these types of compulsive behaviors for a while," he said. "But the card limit does eventually get reached."

Kim Benning, a junior international affairs major, said it took her only five months to accumulate a credit card debt of \$2,500.

"I got the cards when I was a freshman and I went crazy," she said. Benning has two Visa cards and two department store credit cards. She said she bought clothes and often used her cards for cash advances to pay her telephone bill.

"College students are poor and they always need cash advances," she said. "But the interest kills you."

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