



Jeff Haller/DN

Making the first cut

Thursday rain showers didn't keep Jeff Stout, an employee for UNL Landscape Services, from mowing the grass outside the Nebraska Union.

Pagel

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He stuck with the program, eventually graduating with what he now describes as a mediocre journalism education.

"By the time you finish this course," he tells beginning journalism students, "you will have written more stories than I did while I was in college."

Because of the inadequacy of his training, employment was a shock for Pagel. His first editor helped him make the transition from pupil to reporter.

"He was a very highly skilled and patient man. He taught me to survive."

Pagel did survive, and he continued to take risks.

"Life is an adventure. If you don't take any risks, you don't get in on the adventure. I quit one of the best jobs of my life to go spend a year in Ireland. I quit a job at the Omaha World-Herald to come here."

Now Pagel teaches others to survive in journalism.

"There are certain things that make good reporters: an insatiable curiosity, an interest in people.

"You have to be dogged and think, 'I'm going to get this information no matter what.'"

Good reporters are good writers, Pagel says. Good writing is understandable and accurate, as well as risky.

"You anger people whenever you write because people read with their own biases.

"I got marched on. I was a medical reporter at the World-Herald when the arts critic got sick, so I was sent out to review a ballet."

A professional company from Des Moines gave a presentation that was interspersed with dancing by a local company. To Pagel, it was a

shame to have professionals and amateurs performing together because it made the local dancers look lousy.

"Every mother with a child in that ballet called me to tell me what a crud I was."

A story about a bingo concessions owner who was cheating sponsors and taxpayers brought the man to Pagel's office.

"He came to me the next day, in tears, and said that he hoped that I

says.

Despite the competition among journalists, the chairman is adamant about his department's ability to prepare students.

"If you graduate from this department, we guarantee that we can find you a job."

That guarantee has plenty to do with a student's academic contribution. Students must have a 2.5 grade point average to be accepted into the journalism college, and they must maintain it until graduation.

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Don't let bitterness creep into your heart. It just might find a home there.

—Pagel
news-editorial department chairman

wouldn't do the story because it would ruin him and his family."

The story was published.

"Many of his friends called to tell me what a slob I was."

But Pagel is accurate as well as antagonistic.

"One of my biggest sources of pride: I have never had to make a retraction. I didn't misinform."

He leaves the impression that he has loved his work.

"This business throws you into every aspect of life. You don't have a choice. You go out with the movers and shakers and you come back after you've learned something. People call you and give you warm fuzzies. You work with the best people in the world.

"To be a reporter, you can't be disinterested in anything. We're the last of the great generalists. We know a little about everything."

Today's reporters may be the last of the last. The major newspapers want people who are more specialized. In 1963, when he first worked for the World-Herald, almost half of the staff hadn't gone to college. Now, many have Ph.D.s, Pagel

"It's harder to find a job for a C student," Pagel says, although he doesn't find it easy to exclude anyone.

"The thing I don't like is that it's pretty elitist. Sometimes when we recognize that people don't belong in this field, we have to pull them aside and tell them. Some don't listen to us. I counseled one young woman twice. She told me to stick it in my ear."

That woman went on to have a fine career, adding to Pagel's list of errors in judgment.

"I kicked a guy out of the Miami Herald office with a story he took to Life magazine.

"He won a Pulitzer for it."

Making judgments can be risky, but the chairman in the fisherman's hat can handle it. There are trade-offs in life, he says.

"If you take some risks, there will be some sort of price, but you will have savored a lot more of life than if you set all curled up in your apartment in front of the TV."

One last bit of advice from Pagel:

"Don't let bitterness creep into your heart," he says as he saunters outside to have a cigarette. "It just might find a home there."

Clinton

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she said. "We'll organize a special detail with the Secret Service just to assist them."

LPD has worked with the Secret Service many times before, she said, and this job won't be too difficult. Compared to other national politicians who have been to Lincoln, Heermann said, this assignment is easy.

"I don't think she requires a lot of security," she said.

Ken Cauble, chief of UNL police, agreed that Clinton's visit wasn't a big problem.

"We've done several of these," he

said. "The Secret Service is unbelievably good to work with."

This is the first time a national political figure has been at the Lied Center, Cauble said, which is making the job different. In the past, presidential speakers have appeared at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Because of the physical structure, it has a few areas of concern that Devaney doesn't have," he said.

UNL Police appreciate it when they get an opportunity to work with the Secret Service, Cauble said.

"I think (the officers) always enjoy it," he said. "Police work is one of those things if you were in Washington, D.C. this wouldn't be a big deal, but in Lincoln, Nebraska, it is."

Conference

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dwindling of health insurance coverage, the growing number of elderly people in rural areas and the high costs of health care.

"Our economy cannot continue to afford the health care system we have now if it continues to rise like it has been doing in the last few years," Prochaska-Cue said. "We're going to have to see some reforms."

Both Allen and Prochaska-Cue said they hoped these reforms would be addressed in President Bill Clinton's national health care proposal.

"The national health care package that is being proposed by Clinton has some real merit and possibility, but I want to make sure that the rural com-

munities are not forgotten," Prochaska-Cue said.

Frederick said Clinton's plan proposed that every American would carry a "health security card," which would guarantee each person the same basic set of medical benefits.

Some of the package's benefits include coverage for mental health care and prescription drugs, he said.

"It's probably more expensive than we can afford," Frederick said, "but it's fairly rich in benefits."

"If they can find a way to keep the costs down, it will be a wonderful system because the system we have now cannot continue," he said.

If Clinton's plan is approved by Congress, Frederick said, it will take three to four years for the plan to be implemented.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday

1:49 a.m. — Attempted theft of banner, Nebraska Union, four persons arrested.

3:00 a.m. — Fence lit on fire, Farmhouse Fraternity, 3601 Apple St.

10:24 a.m. — Accident, parking lot at Abel Hall, \$600.

11:52 a.m. — Accident, parking lot at South Stadium, \$700.

4:29 p.m. — Ring stolen, Oldfather Hall, \$30.

4:47 p.m. — Bike stolen, Nebraska Hall, \$370.

8:35 p.m. — Bike seat stolen, Richards Hall, \$20.

8:47 p.m. — Keys lost, Dental College.

Beginning midnight Tuesday

3:09 a.m. — Man assaulted, person arrested and released, Neihardt Hall.

9:50 a.m. — Fire alarm tripped, Agricultural Communications Building.

9:50 a.m. — Bike stolen, Nebraska Hall, \$260.

10:05 a.m. — Purse stolen, Nebraska Union, \$29.

10:47 a.m. — Accident, metered parking lot at 14th and W streets, \$700.

12:39 p.m. — Supplies stolen, Love Library, \$59.

3:57 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, parking lot at 10th and V streets, \$1,200.

Beginning midnight Wednesday

12:25 p.m. — Bike stolen, Westbrook Music Building, \$180.

12:48 p.m. — Camera stolen, parking lot at 19th between R and Vine streets, \$50.

1:58 p.m. — Fire alarm, Morrill Hall.

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