



Number of tenured professors declines at UNL

By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

Although the number of tenured faculty members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has started to decline, the impact on the university will be minor, UNL's chancellor said.

Ten years ago, 75.3 percent of the faculty had tenure. In 1993, that percentage dropped to 68.5 percent. Tenure, granted after professors work about seven years, practically guarantees employment by giving professors added protection and job security.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said the decline in tenures could be attributed to an increase in retiring professors.

"The university went through a great period of growth in the '60s and '70s. There were a lot of faculty members hired then," Spanier said. "Now that group of people are approaching retirement age."

Spanier said many of the positions left open by retired faculty members would be filled by new, younger professors.

He said this shift in faculty mem-

bers had a positive and negative side. "On the positive side, this allows the colleges increased flexibility in how they fill these positions," he said.

"When you have so many faculty members retiring, you lose a lot of experience and wisdom," he said. "This is the downside of the demographic bulge."

UNL English Professor Frederick Link was part of this "bulge." Link opted for a tenure buyout when he retired.

Tenure buyouts, payments encouraging older professors to retire earlier, were practiced between 1988

through 1992. Link said he received a full-year salary spread over three years.

"If your salary was \$70,000, you would receive that over a three-year period," Link said. This benefit was a financial incentive for him, but it also saved the university money in the long run.

He said the buyout was a minor motivation for his retirement.

"I had been teaching for 40 years, and I thought that was a reasonable number of years to teach," he said. "I didn't want to retire over the hill. I wanted to retire at the peak of my abilities."

Although UNL could lose experienced senior professors, Link said buyouts would give the university the opportunity to hire exciting new people.

"It would revitalize the department," Link said. "I think it's a trade-off."

"Obviously you do lose senior experience and national reputation in some cases, but it balances out," he said.

Link said buyouts did not create a large decline in faculty. Retirement is

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End of era of yearbook cuts contests

Editors' Note: College heritage is an important part of student life. UNL students today, however, don't have the chance to take part in many long-standing campus traditions. This is the second in a weeklong series of stories about UNL's forgotten traditions.

By DeDra Janssen
Staff Reporter

Nowadays, it's anybody's guess as to who UNL's most eligible bachelors are.

A yearbook list during the 1950s and 1960s solved that mystery for students who attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln then.

But with the 1973 demise of UNL's yearbook came the demise of the eligible bachelor contest and several other beauty contests that had been UNL traditions.

During the yearbook era, a panel of local judges selected 12 finalists for the eligible bachelor contest after a series of interviews with candidates. Candidates were nominated by members of their respective living units. Each living unit—a residence hall or greek house—could nominate one candidate for every 25 yearbooks it sold.

After the finalists were selected, a celebrity would choose six winners. Finalists were judged on personality, poise, appearance and eligibility.

To be an eligible bachelor, candidates could not have a steady girlfriend, be pinned or engaged.

The eligible bachelors were announced at the Kosmet Club fall show and listed with their photos in the yearbook.

"I think it was just sort of a fun

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UNL seniors Brandon Mann and Andi Mollring near their 11th hour of a kissing contest Wednesday morning.

Pucker up

Lincoln couple wins trip to Cancun with 18-hour liplock

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Two UNL students gave up a free trip to Cancun, Mexico, in the name of academia during a kissing contest that measured the smooching stamina of two local couples.

"We just quit," Brandon Mann said about he and his partner, UNL senior English education major Andi Mollring. "We had some stuff to do for school, so we just quit."

The contest, sponsored by KKNB-FM, 104.1 The Planet, started at noon Tuesday and ended 6 a.m. Wednesday.

Mann, a senior business administration major, explained his drive to continue competing with Megan and Andrew Jobson for more than

half a day.

"You think they're going to quit any time soon, so you think, 'we'll just go another hour,' but they didn't," he said.

Eighteen hours later, Mann and Mollring gave up allowing the Jobsons to win the contest, co-sponsored by Twisters Music and Gifts, Subway and Pepsi.

The kissing wasn't too passionate, Mann said. "It was just touching your lips trying to keep them together," he said.

Kissers were allowed a 10-minute break every hour.

"It was hard work on every part of your body," he said. "It was probably fun maybe the first two hours, three hours."

Staff members of The Planet worked in shifts to make sure the

couples didn't let up on their lip locks.

Just two couples participated in the contest, which was held at Twisters, 48th and Van Dorn streets.

Radio station officials received many contest entries, Kelli Reischl, sales executive for the radio station, said. They randomly selected 10 names to participate, Reischl said, but some of the couples were late, and others didn't show.

The losing couple received free tickets to Wednesday's BEST-KISSERSINTHEWORLD concert at the Rockin' Robin downtown.

The Jobsons could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Dave Douglas, program director for the radio station, said the couple probably catching up on their sleep after having kissed for more than 18 hours.

IFC's vote recommends suspending Fiji chapter

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Members of the Phi Gamma Delta house may return from Christmas break no longer members of a recognized fraternity.

James Griesen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln vice chancellor for student affairs, said members of the UNL Interfraternity Council recommended Wednesday night the Fiji house be suspended five semesters.

"I've been given a very strong statement from the governing council of the fraternity system at UNL that they feel it's important to have a completely new start of that fraternity in the future," he said.

Griesen said he would soon take the recommendation to UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier for a final decision. Griesen would not say whether he agreed with the proposal but said he thought drastic changes should be made in the chapter.

"The violations in the chapter house that occurred in relation to the injury of Jeffrey Knoll were very serious," he said.

Jason Sanders, Fiji president, said he had not been officially notified of the recommendation and would not comment.

The recommendation came after injuries suffered by UNL student Jeffrey Knoll at the Fiji house. University officials have said Knoll was hurt when he fell from a third-story Fiji window after being forced by fraternity members to drink alcohol.

Griesen said the council suggested a national member of the fraternity—probably a UNL graduate student—live in the house in the fall of 1996 after the suspension. The national member would serve as a supervisor for one semester.

"I felt it was essential that we not go into the Christmas break period,

See **HAZING** on 2

Engineering consultants to visit UNL, UNO next week

By Steve Smith
Senior Reporter

Engineering experts will visit two University of Nebraska campuses next week to judge whether a new engineering college at UNO would benefit the state.

Donald Langenberg, the chancellor of the University of Maryland system, and John Christian, the chairman of a Boston engineering company, will be at the Lincoln and Omaha campuses Dec. 9 to evaluate the NU system's engineering facilities, NU spokesman Joe Rowson said.

The consultants will make recommendations on how the university could improve engineering education in the state, including whether or not an independent college is needed at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Currently, the engineering college is administered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. UNO and several Omaha businesses want a separate college on the Omaha campus.

Langenberg will remain in Lincoln during his one-day visit, Rowson said. He will meet with UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier, UNO Chancellor Del Weber, Dean Stan Liberty

of the UNL College of Engineering and Technology, faculty members and administrators.

Christian will be in Nebraska two days, Rowson said—Dec. 9 in Lincoln and Dec. 10 in Omaha.

Two other consultants—James Halligan, president of New Mexico State University, and Charles James, an engineering dean at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee—will visit UNO and UNL in January, Rowson said.

The regents hired the four consultants Oct. 15 for \$20,000. The NU

Foundation will pay for the consulting services with private funds, Rowson said.

The hiring came amid controversy among regents about what the consultants' task should be. Several regents, including Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha and Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo, wanted the consultants to look specifically at establishing a UNO college.

Rowson said bringing in outside consultants was the most reasonable way to resolve the situation.

"(The regents) found people in the engineering field, both in the world of

work and who have experience with universities and multi-campus systems," he said.

Rowson said the regents agreed to give the consultants "a free hand to do work objectively and then have them recommend what the best course of action would be."

Because of the consultants' expertise, Rowson said, the regents will pay close attention to their recommendations.

"The board wouldn't have selected these people unless they're giving serious considerations to their recommendations," Rowson said.