

Students weather the storm to donate blood

About 500 people give, despite many problems involved

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

Despite snowy conditions Tuesday, University of Nebraska-Lincoln students gave of themselves to benefit others at the Campus Red Cross blood drive in the Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom.

The drive was sponsored by the Campus Red Cross, UNL health aides, American Red Cross and the Community Blood Bank. The blood donated will be given to the American Red Cross and the Community Blood Bank.

About 500 people had pre-registered to donate blood, but because of the snowy weather, donations were fewer than expected.

"The need for blood never stops just because there's snow on the ground. There are patients in need of blood every day," Beth Chapman, an American Red Cross blood service representative, said.

Melissa Girard, a junior veterinary science major, braved the weather to become a first-time blood donor.

"I was a little scared because it was the first time I gave blood," she said, "but I feel good because someday, if I was in the position if I needed blood, I'd be reassured because I'd given in the past."

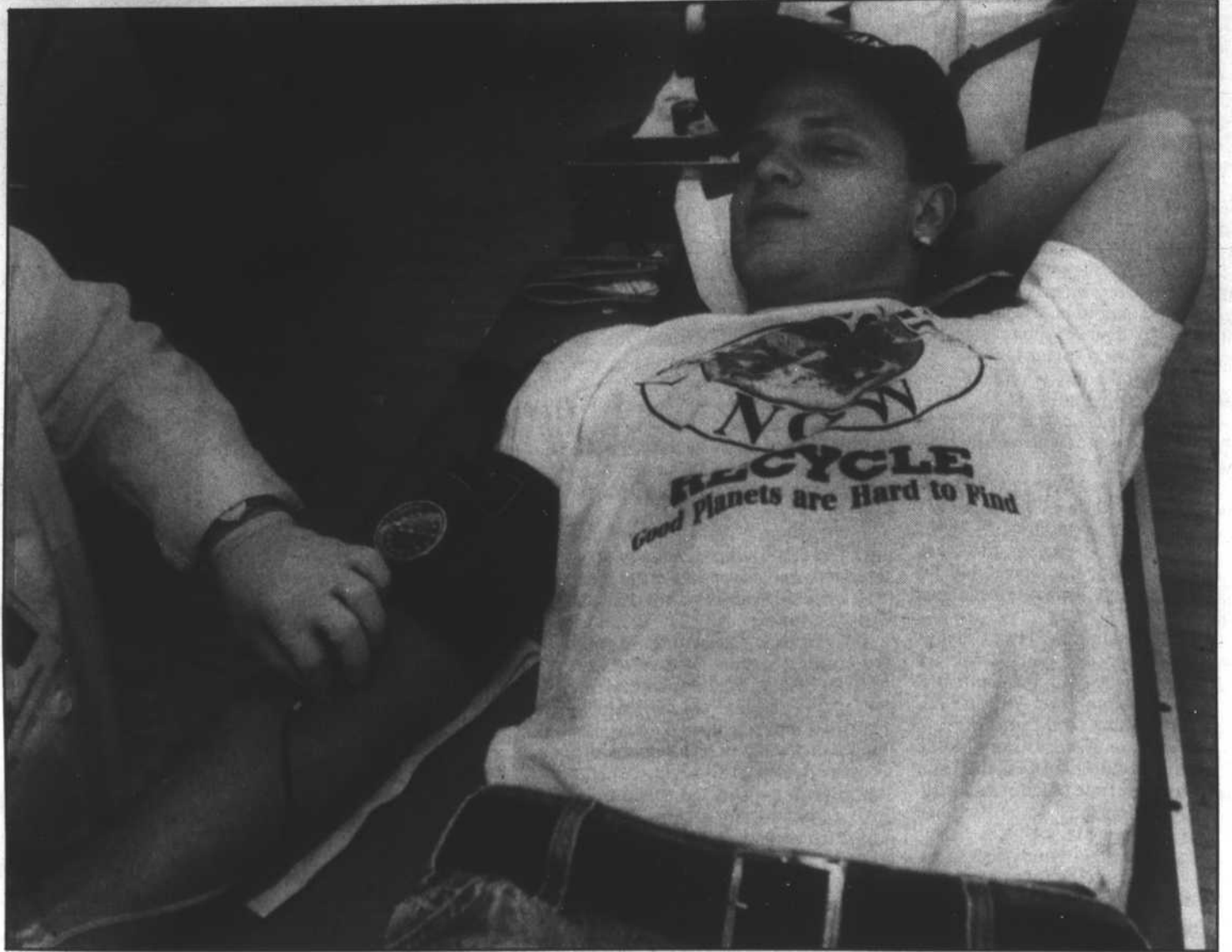
Many UNL students donated simply to give part of themselves to a person in need.

"It doesn't bother me to give, and I encourage others to donate, too," Ryan Soukup, a freshman agribusiness major, said. "I gave again because I can help other people by giving only an hour of my time."

Stacy Wassenberg, a freshman biology major, said she gave blood because it was a good cause that benefited others. She said she hoped other students would overcome their fears and donate, also.

"I get really angry about people who don't give blood because they're afraid of AIDS or getting sick," she said.

Shane Ham, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he was apprehensive about donating blood for the first time.



Brett Gay, a senior biology major, gives blood in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union Tuesday morning. This was Gay's first time giving blood.

Gerik Parmele/DN

"My girlfriend persuaded me to donate," he said. "I don't like the sight of blood, but I still feel it's for a good cause."

UNL health aides volunteered their time at the drive, too. Health aide Brian Thomas assisted at the drive as a canteen worker handing out juice and doughnuts to the donors.

"Although I was required to help because

I'm a health aide, I still feel really good about myself," he said.

The coming of the cold season affected the number of donors.

Jody Gray, a juniorexercise science major and co-chairwoman of the blood drive, said people with a cold or who were taking antibiotics were deferred from donating.

Stephanie Alexander, mobile recruiter for the Community Blood Bank, said the bank would distribute the blood to five hospitals in Lancaster and Seward counties.

Chapman said the blood the American Red Cross received would be sent to Omaha for testing, and then to hospitals.

The Campus Red Cross Blood Drive will continue Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chancellor

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Bauer said he thought it was healthier at this time for NU to hire a president outside the system.

As an outsider, Smith would bring new ideas, perspectives and solutions, Bauer said.

He expected Smith to work with UNO on several issues: the need for more faculty, the addition and development of graduate programs and the question of installing an engineering college, separate from UNL's, in Omaha.

Bauer said officials should give Smith some latitude at the start of his administration.

"Everyone deserves a honeymoon," Bauer said. "I guess how long it lasts depends on how the issues are resolved."

"Any new person coming in, especially with the very strong background Dr. Smith has — we should certainly give the benefit of the doubt for the first few weeks."

University of Nebraska at Kearney Chancellor Gladys Styles Johnston said Smith was a bright, capable person and a quick study.

Johnston said she met with Smith

for several hours on his last visit discussing the needs of the UNK campus.

The two talked about funds for UNK, Johnston said, which is always a concern. She said she also talked about maintaining UNK as an equal part in the NU system.

"Three years is not a long time," Johnston said. "We are the new kids on the block, so to speak."

Johnston said Smith's reaction to the discussion was focused.

"He took a lot of notes," she said.

Carol Aschenbrener, chancellor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, said her meeting with Smith was inspiring. She said she left so energized she wanted to start working with him right away.

Aschenbrener said she talked about the climate for health care in America with Smith.

"The environment for health care is changing dramatically," she said. "That has major implications (for UNMC)."

Smith comes from a university where he is very familiar with the academic health center, Aschenbrener said. She said Smith had an understanding of the changes UNMC faced.

"He speaks my language, which is great," Aschenbrener said.

Legislature

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Koslosky was testifying in favor of Omaha Sen. Kate Witek's LB998 and 999, which would prohibit the state from mandating that Nebraska schools implement outcome-based education.

Witek said her bill did not outlaw outcome-based education, but would guarantee decisions of local communities on whether to implement the new education methods.

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska State Education Association all opposed Witek's bills.

The NASB stated: "The language (in LB998,999) in particular, 'learner-outcome-based educational methodology' is confusing and vague. This

could be interpreted to mean no tests or grades could be given to students."

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators said the Legislature and many school districts already had invested resources in outcome-based education.

"To abandon this state-initiated movement would be a terrible mistake," the NCSA said.

Witek said the bills were written in response to the Legislature's 1992 outcome-based education bill.

Provisions of the bill are not yet binding, but Witek said she thought the Accountability Commission, in charge of outlining the bill's goals, was headed toward making them mandatory.

The cost of mandating such programs, she said, would increase the cost of education dramatically.

Technology hits Teachers College

By Marcia Verley
Staff Reporter

Students are learning teaching methods of the future in the high-tech Teachers College Alumni Technology Center.

Jim Fejfar, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the Teachers College, located in Room 120 of Mabel Lee Hall, was to help students and faculty learn to use technology in education.

The lab is a gift from the college's alumni, Fejfar said, and is reserved strictly for the use of students and faculty.

"The alumni fund the lab, and it is their wish that only the college's students be the ones using it," he said.

Students using the lab have access

to computers with CD-ROM capability and a software library that students can use to check out software, Fejfar said.

Additional technology available to students includes smart-carts and video cameras.

The smart-cart works in the same way as an overhead, Fejfar said, but it has a computer attached. The user is able to type in information using the keyboard or load up software applications.

The video cameras, he said, can be used as an electronic imaging device in order to keep track of students who use the lab. In this way, the cameras are similar to student identification cards.

This is helpful, Fejfar said, because it helps instructors remember students two or three years down the

road.

"If the instructor is called about a recommendation long after the student has graduated, the student's picture can be called up," Fejfar said.

Along with the open lab time available to students, the classroom is also used for miniworkshops of three or more people.

The workshops cover different topics, Fejfar said, from learning how to use electronic mail to introducing Microsoft Word. Usually, Fejfar said, there are about eight workshops a week.

The use of the different technologies and the workshops will benefit education students in the long run, Fejfar said.

"If we didn't have this lab, the students wouldn't have the advanced skills they need."

Bill offers expression protection

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Sen. Dave Landis of Lincoln told the Legislature's Education Committee that high school students should not be excluded from the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of expression.

Landis testified Tuesday in favor of enacting LB1166, the Student Freedom of Expression Act, which would protect student publications from prior restraint.

"They don't get to be obscene, libelous, slanderous, or to incite violence, but they get to say what they want," Landis said, "... including uncomfortable and unsettling ideas."

The idea seemed to unsettle Sen. James Monen of Omaha, who asked whether students would be able to write editorials denying, for example, the Holocaust, or supporting the legalization of drugs or other controversial topics.

— "66" —
But they are kids and they're still playing with toys.

— Monen
state senator

Landis said he proposed the act "with the idea that free expression is an instructive device, even in its mismanagement."

The act, he said, would give students responsibilities as well as rights. Students, not school boards, Landis said, would take the responsibility for the content of their publication.

"Rather than give students a toy newspaper, we will give them a real paper," Landis said.

"But they are kids and they're still playing with toys," Monen said. "... We're talking about people in their formative stage who still need direction."

The bill would allow school boards

to set guidelines that do not interfere with the First Amendment, Landis said.

Jessica Kennedy, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman broadcasting major, told senators that high school students were mature enough to use the right responsibly.

"We do have a code of ethics in high school journalism," she said. "It's not a free-for-all out there."

Kennedy told committee members they should support the act if they supported the education of critical thinkers.

"Influential writing does not belong to adults alone," she said. "It is naive to think the free flow of information is for adults alone."

John Bender, a communications law professor at UNL, also testified in favor of the act. He said it was not a radical proposal and should be passed to ensure quality journalism education in the state.

No one testified against LB1166.