

Five honors research classes to be offered

By DeDra Jansson
Senior Reporter

The UNL Honors Program will offer new research seminars to prepare honor students for later research projects, the program director said.

Patrice Berger said five new seminars would be offered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln next semester.

"We feel very strongly that involving students in research projects is a very valuable part of their honors experience," he said.

The seminars, listed under the course number 200H, include research methods and resources in the humanities, research methods in the sciences, quantitative methods in the

social sciences and introduction to inquiry in the social sciences. Legal environment, listed as Business Law 371H, also will be offered.

The Teachers College also is preparing a research seminar for honor students, Berger said. But that seminar will not be offered next semester.

One reason for offering these courses is to create continuity for students participating in the Honors Program, especially during their sophomore years, Berger said.

Students in the Honors Program now are required to take honor seminars during their freshmen and junior years, he said. However, he said, students often lose interest in the program during their sophomore year, when they are encouraged to take

honors courses that their respective colleges offer.

"We felt that was an incomplete curriculum," Berger said, "leaving students with too much freedom or without honors options in their sophomore year."

The 200H courses will provide students with those options, he said.

"They will keep students involved in the honors community so as to provide some continuity in their honors experience," Berger said.

Berger said the new courses also would prepare honor students for individual research projects, including a required honors thesis written during the senior year.

"The problem was we did not provide them with sufficient instruction

to undertake that thesis," he said.

Students got some instruction during the honors seminar they took during their junior year, he said. But that instruction came too late.

"Longtime fears of individual research had been allowed to fester," Berger said.

The new courses not only will prepare students for their senior theses but also will prepare them to undertake any kind of research project at UNL, he said.

Berger said honor students were only encouraged to take the new courses next semester. However, he said, future honor students may be required to take the courses.

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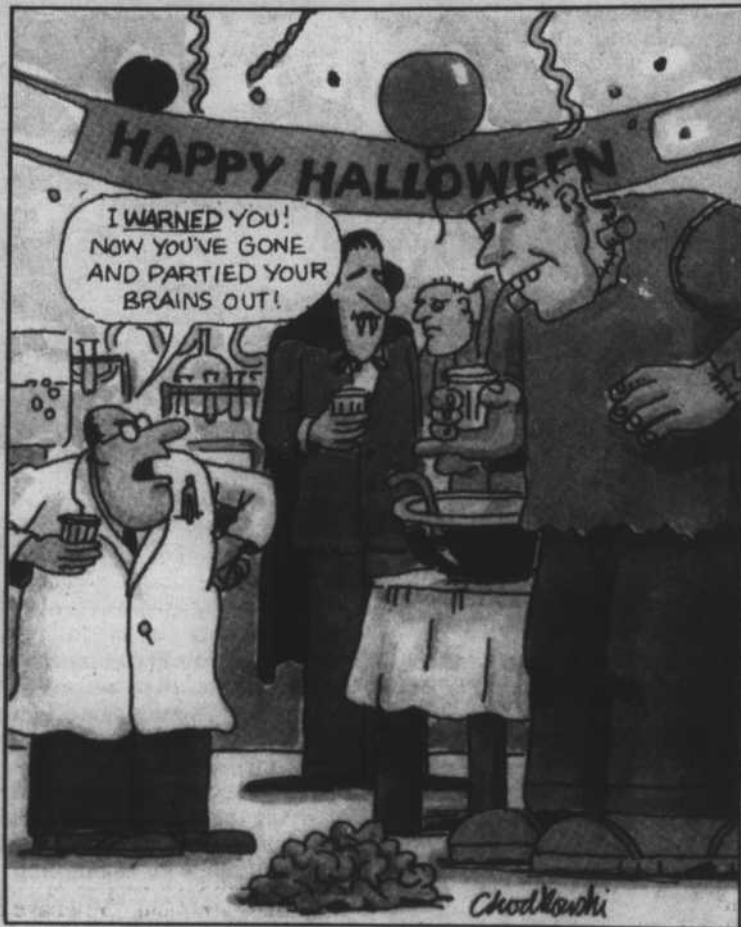
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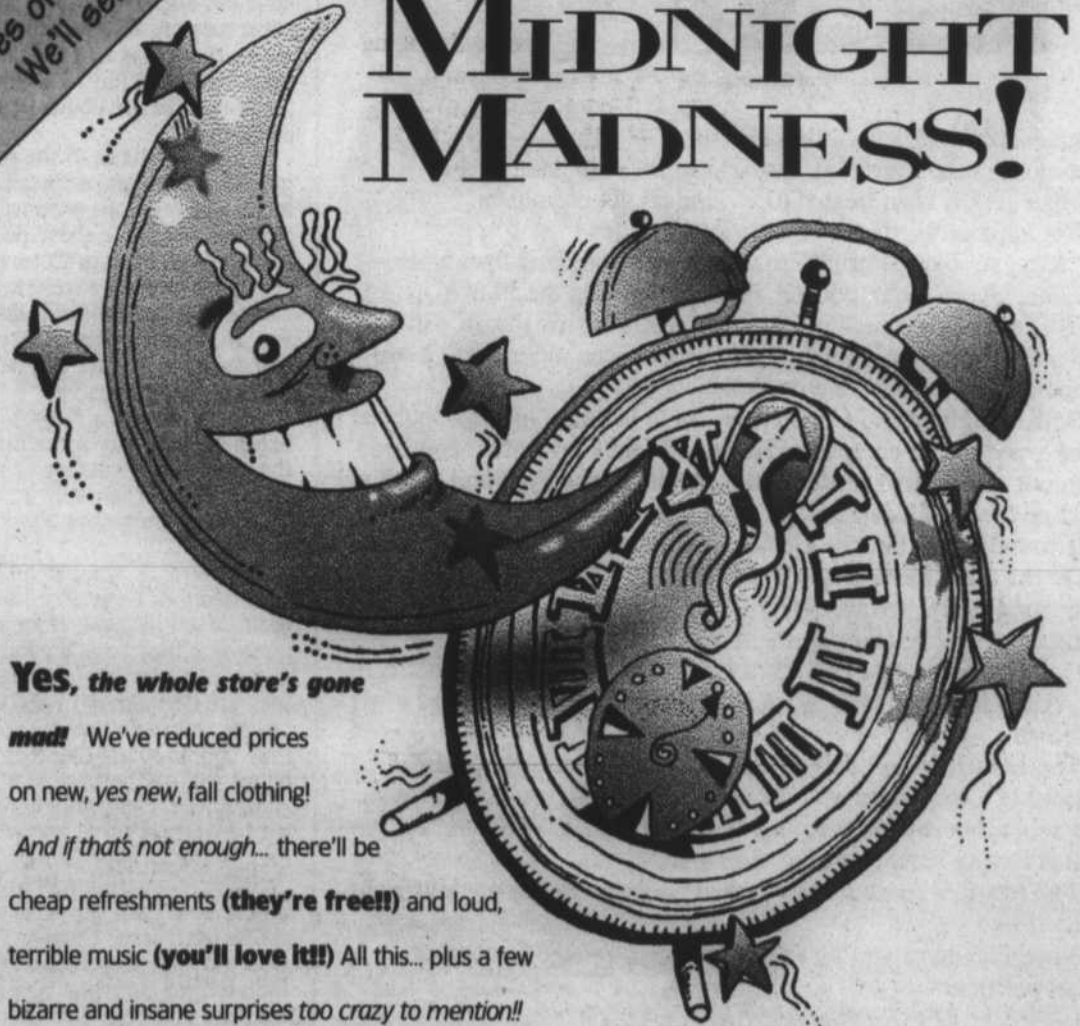


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