

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 67

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NOVEMBER 29, 1994

Incoming dean hopes to learn and lead at CBA

By Brian Sharp
and Matthew Waite
Senior Reporters

Before John Goebel takes his new job as the dean of the College of Business Administration, he said Monday that he has a lot of listening to do.

"I learned a long time ago that you learn a lot more when you listen," said Goebel, who is giving up his job as the vice chancellor for business and finance.

Goebel, along with Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joan Leitzel and outgoing Dean Gary Schwendiman, met with CBA faculty Monday. Goebel said Leitzel explained how a new dean would be selected at the meeting.

About the shift, Goebel said he had been thinking for some time about a return to the classroom. He said, however, that he enjoyed administrative work.

When the chance to return to the academic side of the university and continue administrative work came along, Goebel said he made his decision.

But, when Goebel's two-year term as dean is over, he is out of a job. At that time, Goebel said, he will look for opportunities to return to the classroom, where he started more than 20 years ago teaching accounting and commercial law.

Goebel said his fixed term would not stop him from helping the college. He said, with the CBA faculty and staff, the college could continue to move in the right direction.

But Pat Kennedy, assistant professor of marketing, said he hoped Goebel's appointment would transform the college, not continue its direction.

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New users find Internet overwhelming

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

Paul Logemann first got hooked on the Internet last fall.

"It's an addiction," said Logemann, a sophomore forestry major.

He said his grades dropped from spending four hours a day on-line. He said he used the Internet mostly to write e-mail to friends in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas.

The Internet has been developing over the last quarter century, but how it's used has remained basically the same. Internet users said the biggest change has been the surge of new users.

Ann Weide, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and frequent user of the Internet, said that a few years ago, maybe 5 to 10 people logged on to HuskerNet each day. Now, she said, 40 to 50 are logged on at one time.

Weide said having more users was exciting. The glut of new users, however, put more demand on computers and slowed down work on the Internet, she said.

New users can discover that the Internet supplies an endless amount of information — information that isn't easily accessible without experience.

Weide said her first encounters with Internet were "like walking into a room without the lights on."

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Oh, Christmas Tree



Jeff Haller/DN

Alan Viox, left, of Weeping Water, and his son-in-law Kenny Reuter, of Syracuse, drag a Christmas tree they just cut with other family members Sunday at Jacobmeiers south of Eagle.

Eagle family farms festive foliage

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Christmas tree farming is more than a business for Eagle resident Vern Jacobmeier. It's a family affair.

Since Jacobmeier first began selling trees in 1965, he has included his family in the venture. He started his first farm while working in marketing and sales for John Deere Co. as a way to send his children to college.

At first, he worked out of a make-shift straw shelter on the 40-acre farm with only a bonfire to keep him warm.

His children were his only employees. They worked for free, in a manner of speaking.

"You don't pay your own kids," he said. "But they cost later."

They did. Jacobmeier said he made a deal with each of his children: If they would help him with the farm, he would pay to send them to the college of their choice.

They all stuck with it, and they all went to school out of state.

Today, it's still a family business. Jacobmeier's daughter was helping take money Sunday at the family farm about 15 miles from Lincoln and one-half mile south of Eagle on Highway 43. Jacobmeiers' is open from the day after Thanksgiving until three or four days before Christmas.

Two other daughters, Susan and Stacy, traveled this year from Utah and Ohio,

respectively, to help, as did his son, Jon, from California.

Jacobmeier, however, doesn't limit the experience of finding a Christmas tree to his own family. He said he knew his customers made finding a tree their own family affair.

"They're going to get a tree someplace," he said. "They want to take the family on an outing in the country."

The Vioxes are one of those families. On a cold, wet Sunday, Alan Viox drove his wife, three children, a son-in-law and a family friend 35 miles from Nebraska City to Jacobmeiers' to get a tree.

"It's just a family tradition," Alan Viox said.

Viox said his family had traveled to Jacobmeiers' for the last four years.

Families traveling to Jacobmeiers' today won't find the same farm as 30 years ago. The farm has grown to 80 acres and 35,000 trees. A wood-burning stove now keeps him warm.

Jacobmeier said he wanted to keep selecting and cutting down trees simple. All customers have to do is find a tree and cut it down. The rest is done for them.

Customers drive up to the entrance and are given a saw and instructions to turn left onto the road that leads into the acreage.

Some people, Jacobmeier said, are concerned that the tree will be difficult to cut down. But Jacobmeier reassures them.

"Pine cuts so easy," he said. "There's nothing to it."

Customers have a mile of rock road they can drive in search of the perfect tree. When they find it and cut it down, they return to a parking lot where the tree is shaken and bundled.

Jacobmeier said the trees were shaken by a special machine to get rid of the duff, old needles on the inside of the tree that would otherwise make a mess in people's homes.

"The missus doesn't want those dead needles in her carpet," he said, "so we take them out for her."

The tree is bundled in white netting with a machine of Jacobmeier's own invention. A steel cable attached to a tractor wheel pulls the tree through a barrel, and the netting catches the tree's branches, pinning them down for easy transport.

Jacobmeier said his prices were lower than most. He charges \$20 for a tree five feet or taller and \$15 for a tree shorter than five feet. Pre-cut trees also are available for \$15 and \$10. He said the pre-cut trees were cheaper because he must make room for new trees.

Jacobmeier said his policy of "telling people like it is" set him apart from other tree farmers. He said his ads were the only ones that list price.

"They know it all before they come," he said.

Jewish holiday celebrates faith's triumph

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Instead of celebrating the holidays with Christmas trees and candy canes, many Jewish children observe the season by honoring positive religious role models during Hanukkah.

Hanukkah, an eight-day historical celebration that began at sundown on Sunday, commemorates the fight for survival of the Jewish culture and religion in a rebellion against the Syrian Empire in 165 B.C.

King Antiochus forbade the Jews from practicing their religion and had his soldiers destroy the Jews' temple in Mount Moriah. In the temple, they replaced the Jewish symbol of power and faith — a simple oil lamp — with

idols.

A rebellion led by a man called Mattathias and his five sons defeated the soldiers. When Mattathias died, his son Maccabee led the Jews to victory.

When the Jews re-entered the temple, they found only enough pure oil to light their lamp for one day. The people prayed for deliverance, and the lamp burned for eight days.

This triumph is represented by the nine lights of the menorah. Eight candles represent the eight nights the lamp burned at Mount Moriah and the eight days of celebration. The ninth candle is used to light the others.

Dorothy Kaplan, a library technician at the Jewish Community Center in Omaha, said she celebrated Hanukkah with her 6-year-old grand-

son by lighting the first menorah candle Sunday night.

Kaplan said her family also ate the traditional potato "latkes" or pancakes, and the children played games with a dreidel, a spinning top with four letters that translate to "A great miracle happened there."

Kaplan said Hanukkah also gave her grandson positive role models to look up to.

"Hanukkah is marvelous. It's a wonderful story of men fighting for what they believe in," she said. "There are great heroes, wonderful heroes for Jewish youngsters."

Although Hanukkah is a minor holiday and not a biblical one, Kaplan said it commemo-

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