

Teacher awaits rare opportunity

Education needs outweigh risks of space travel

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

On the morning of Jan. 28, 1986, Barbara Morgan was on the ground at Kennedy Space Center.

As the space shuttle Challenger streaked the sky with its vapor trails, the third grade teacher from McCall, Idaho, wished she was on that flight to the stars, sitting in the place of Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first teacher in space.

As the Challenger went with throttle up, Morgan watched as the Challenger exploded. The seven crew members died.

Eight years later, Morgan, who was runner-up to McAuliffe in the program, awaits the opportunity to be the first teacher to go into space.

"And I'm waiting patiently," the 43-year-old mother of two said before a ceremony honoring Nebraska teachers Thursday night.

The Teacher in Space Program that sent McAuliffe in the Challenger is still going, Morgan said, but the flight part is on hold. The flight section is up for review now and a decision will be made soon on whether or not Morgan will fly in the space shuttle.

Morgan insists she is not nervous about going into space or the dangers involved in being a teacher in space.

"It is risky, and people need to know that," she said. "But you need to weigh those risks. I can't think of anything more important than education."

"We have hundreds of my colleagues that daily risk greater danger (with school violence) and we think nothing of it."

Morgan said that if someone in a school was killed due to violence, the school was closed for one day, not eight years to debate whether to continue the school.

Morgan said her trip into space was being made for teachers and learning, not to see what it was like in space. She said she had not thought about what it would be like in space.

"I know that I'm not going for me," she said. "That's not what this program is about."

"I'm just lucky. It's a great responsibility to learn as much as I can and share that."

And there is nothing more important to Morgan than coming back and teaching her experience to kids everywhere.

"My motivator is to do something that I think is right to do and keep doing it," she said. "You teach people by showing, not by telling. You can tell people about sending a teacher in space but they won't learn anything until you do."

"If it was important enough to do the first time — and if it wasn't, I wouldn't have done it — it's important to do again. It was important enough to give those people's lives."

Morgan said her voyage into space was also important to teaching students.

"In our classrooms, before your students can learn anything, you have to grab their attention — that's the first rule."

"This is going to grab their attention."

CFA votes to up DN budget

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

The Committee for Fees Allocation recommended Thursday that the Daily Nebraskan receive a 10 percent increase in student fee funding.

At its Tuesday meeting, the committee recommended a 5% increase in DN funding. The 10 percent increase would raise the amount allotted to the DN from \$41,153 to \$45,268.

Daily Nebraskan Editor Jeff Zeleny asked the committee to change its recommendation to a 20 percent increase to help offset large increases in the price of newsprint. Zeleny said

the cost of printing the newspaper next year would increase by about \$150 a day.

Rainbow Rowell, arts and entertainment editor, said some comparable college newspapers charged students directly, usually 10 to 25 cents per issue, so it was not unreasonable to ask for more student fees.

The cost each University of Nebraska-Lincoln student pays in student fees for the Daily Nebraskan is 1.14 cents a day, or 88 cents a semester. Zeleny said a 20 percent increase would raise the cost to \$1.06 per semester for each student.

CFA member Dave Hengen was the only representative to support the 20 percent increase.

"It's unreasonable to request a better newspaper and then not support it," he said.

Hengen said the Daily Nebraskan had asked for few increases throughout the last 10 years. Over the years, he said, a slow, steady increase in funds probably would have added up to more than the 20 percent increase, he said.

CFA member Brendan Bussmann said the Daily Nebraskan should look for other ways to fund the newspaper and not pass price increases along to students.

After nearly an hour of discussion, the committee, however, voted 8-1 against the 20 percent increase and instead voted 5-4 to recommend a 10 percent increase.

In other business, Dorene Johnson, president of the University Program Council, appealed CFA's Tuesday decision to recommend a 4.65 percent decrease in UPC funding. CFA denied the appeal.

Charges against Phillips dismissed

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Charges against NU football player Lawrence Phillips will be dropped today at the request of the victim, Hal Anderson, Phillips' attorney said Thursday.

Anderson said a motion would be filed by prosecutors in Lancaster County Court to dismiss two counts of vandalism, one count of misdemeanor assault and one count of disturbing the peace.

The dismissal came after Phillips paid for a \$400 gold chain, which was broken in a scuffle in which he was allegedly involved, Anderson said.

Phillips originally had entered a

pre-trial diversion program for the charges, but was formally charged after he did not complete the program. Phillips pleaded not guilty to the charges in a Jan. 13 arraignment.

Phillips, a sophomore from West Covina, Calif., led the Huskers in rushing last season.

At Phillips' arraignment, Anderson said the charges stemmed from an incident in which Phillips tried to stop a fight between a friend and a Doane College student.

On that night, Phillips and his friend were driving on Ninth and Claremont streets and stopped, he said. Anderson said it was not clear whether the Doane College student or Phillips was blocking the road.

At the intersection, an argument erupted between Phillips' friend and the Doane student, Anderson said. He said it was then that Phillips pulled the Doane student away and the chain was broken.

Anderson said Thursday that Phillips last saw the chain at the feet of one of the people who made the charges.

"Lawrence paid for the chain that was broken," he said. "No one was hurt, no harm was done."

Anderson said neither he nor Phillips had asked about the chain.

"Lawrence said, 'Somebody said I broke it. I'll pay for it and that's it,'" Anderson said.

Scuba

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diving, in Nebraska — go figure. "It's not just a tropical thing," Stuart said. "And it's not all fun and games."

Stuart said he had been teaching scuba for 2 1/2 years, and diving in Minnesota, New Mexico, Mississippi, Kansas and, yes, even Nebraska.

Mark Kuzma, a graduate student in biology, said he appreciated the needed attention to details, but treating it like work was ... dull.

"I think of it more as enjoyment

than a class," Kuzma said. "I don't really enjoy my classes."

After spending more than two hours in the water, some students appeared ready to call it a day. But Kuzma, who got interested in scuba while snorkeling in Lake Tahoe, Nev., this summer, was ready to take it to the next level.

"It was incredible, fascinating," he said. "I want to go out in the open water already. I'm even more excited."

The same could not be said for his families' and friends' reactions when he told them he'd signed up for scuba diving this semester.

"A lot of people laugh," he said.

"They think it's kind of goofy. I mean, a lot of the lakes around here are so dirty you can't see your hand underwater when it's six inches in front of your face."

Mike Nattress, a junior business management major, is looking forward to getting back to California. Nattress said he lived by the beach and, like Kuzma, got his start snorkeling.

As 8 p.m. rolls around, the pool is silent. Tiny air bubbles sparkle the surface of an otherwise tranquil pool. Class is in session, down there — about ten feet from the surface.

Daniels

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Police Capt. Jim Peschong said police had increased their presence in the area, because of a number of minor assaults and other incidents, as well as a fall shooting at 26th and W streets.

Patterson's account followed much of the police reports, but she said she saw Rupert leave the disc-jockey stand

carrying the gun. Patterson said Rupert had begun shouting at the crowd after everyone "mobbed and went crazy."

Patterson said Daniels told her he was going to get her coat so they could leave. After that, she lost him in the crowd. Patterson said she saw him again, standing near the door, just as Rupert shot him.

Daniels was released April 14 from the Lancaster County Correction Center after serving more than four years

on a manslaughter charge.

Daniels, along with another man, was convicted of robbing and beating a 35-year-old Lincoln man to death with a tire iron. The incident occurred in August 1988 at Penzer Park, near 26th and Potter streets. Prosecutors said Daniels was believed to be an accomplice in the man's death, but he became a witness for the state.

Rupert's preliminary hearing is scheduled for today in Lancaster County Court.

ACCESS

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Pekron said that if elected, ACCESS would try to lobby the Legislature to improve the older buildings on campus.

"We're afraid that some of the building problems are becoming detrimental to our education," he

said. "When there are floods in classrooms that force classes to be moved, that's really bad for our education."

ACCESS is also concerned with safety outside the classroom.

"We want to work on safety on campus, especially the parking lots after dark," he said. "We want to work with the university PD to make more patrols in lots at night so people will feel safe."



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