

GRE format change delayed

Testing service to implement shift in 1999

By Rebecca Oltmans
Staff Reporter

The Educational Testing Service has postponed changing its Graduate Record Examination to a computer-only format until 1999.

In 1993, ETS introduced the computerized version of the GRE, a graduate-school admissions test taken by almost half a million students each year. The test is adaptive; questions become more difficult as a student answers more questions correctly.

ETS originally planned to replace the pencil-and-paper test with the computerized version by 1997.

Several changes related to the GRE have been made since December 1994, when a dispute with Kaplan Educational Centers occurred.

Kaplan, a nationwide test-preparation service, heard evidence that students were seeing similar questions on the tests," said Ann Mecca, a spokeswoman for Kaplan.

Kaplan had 20 investigators take the test. After taking the test, they were able to reconstruct a portion of the test from memory.

A few weeks after Kaplan's in-

vestigation, ETS canceled 75 percent of the test dates through June. Before the investigation, the computerized GRE test was offered up to six days a week in some locations. The test will be offered one week a month at least until June.

But Kaplan's actions are not the reason ETS delayed changing over to a computer-only format, said Tom Ewing, spokesman for ETS.

"It's disturbing that Kaplan is portraying the delay as something they caused when it is not," Ewing said.

The reason for the delay, Ewing said, is because more time is needed to prepare for the conversion.

"The GRE is an adaptive test, and the process of changing to a computer-only format is adaptive too," Ewing said.

ETS will be working on a number of changes and improvements during the two-year delay. The testing service wants to have 500 test centers in place before eliminating the pencil-and-paper tests, Ewing said.

ETS also is adding new types of questions to the GRE quantitative section and a writing portion to the test.

But the top priority, Ewing said, is enlarging the question pool. That is not a simple task, he said.

"It's very costly to create a giant pool of questions," Ewing said.

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TOM EWING
ETS spokesman

A test like the SAT will cost about \$150,000 per test form, and will take about 16 months work on each version, Ewing said. The work behind a computer test is similar, he said, except that because it is offered more frequently, the question pool is more exposed to students.

"In other words, its shelf life is not quite as long," Ewing said. "We have to come up with a lot more questions."

ETS also postponed changing the GRE's individual subject tests to computer tests until 1999.

Mecca said Kaplan felt computerized testing was good, but it was going to take more time and money to make the tests secure.

"But we want to see it succeed," Mecca said.

Lincoln hosts holiday parties

By Catherine Blalock
Staff Reporter

Like people all over the world, groups at UNL are celebrating Mardi Gras today and observing Ash Wednesday tomorrow.

Tonight the Newman Center, the Catholic student center on campus, will hold a Mass at 9, followed by a Mardi Gras celebration.

The Responsible Hospitality Council of Lincoln and Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs Inc. will host a party tonight from 5 to 7 at The Cornhusker Hotel.

The UNL German Department also is celebrating the holidays with Rosenmontag, a holiday celebrated mainly in central and southern Germany.

Yesterday the club began its traditional celebration by cutting off ties, dressing up in costumes and passing out candy to students.

Are you Tired Of This?

Waiting For This?

Residence Hall Association is Proud to Present:
1st Annual Suitcase Dance
You could win a Trip to Disneyland in Anaheim, California!

Tickets are sold in Food Services of each Hall between 5pm & 6pm. They're only \$2, so get them while they're HOT! You could be on your way to the Happiest Place on Earth! Dance is Friday, March 3. Sale ends Wednesday

DWI bills debated in committee

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Senators on the Nebraska Legislature's Transportation Committee advanced a bill on Monday that would toughen the "zero tolerance" law for minors cited for drinking and driving.

LB766, sponsored by Sen. Connie Day of Norfolk, would make it possible for police officers to cite minors for DWI without having charged them with another offense.

Under the bill, a minor's license would be impounded for 30 days if charged with a first-offense DWI. That impounding would appear on the minor's driving record for 90 days.

Under current law, an impounded license does not appear on Department of Motor Vehicle records, and DWI for minors is a secondary offense.

Day said that if a minor's insurance came up for review in those 90 days, the offense would be on record.

Mike Kelley of the Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorney's Association was the only person to testify against the bill.

He said his group thought the zero tolerance law should remain a secondary offense to eliminate the possibility of police officers pulling over minors for no reason.

The committee also amended, but took no action on, a bill that would give juvenile judges the ability to restrict and suspend minors' drivers licenses as a form of punishment.

A vote on LB595, sponsored by Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, was delayed by committee members after questions about the language of the bill arose.

Under LB595, a record of the license suspension would be kept with the DMV, making it accessible to law enforcement agencies. An amendment offered by Withem and approved by the committee would make the records confidential.

Under the old legislation, minors were to keep a copy of the court-ordered suspension with them at all times. No record of the suspension was kept at the DMV, allowing minors to avoid further trouble, Withem said.

These Lincoln Area Churches invite you to join them in worship this spring.



College Fellowship that Centers on Jesus Christ

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 for interesting Bible discussions and fellowship. We're close to the main campus and are glad to provide transportation. Just give the church a call at 474-5659. Central is the ideal place to make Christian fellowship a part of your college experience.

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LENT '95!!

AT THE
LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER

(535 North 16th Street across from Nelhardt Hall)
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
Wednesday night, March 1, 1995 at 9:30 pm
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES
"Cross Examinations"
9:30 p.m.
(Each Wednesday during Lent)

Wednesday, March 1
9:00 PM

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WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

CORNERSTONE-UMHE
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All UNL Students & Staff Invited & Welcome!



Awesome Church
Hot Jazz
"Cool" Religion
See ya' Thursdays at 7 pm!
March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6
Weekend Worship Services
Saturdays 5:30 pm • Sundays 9 & 10:30 am

First-Plymouth
20th & D St.
476-7565

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
Newman Center
The Student Parish on Campus
16th & O
Sunday Mass Schedule
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Daily Mass Schedule
M-Thurs: 6:55 a.m., 10:00 p.m.
Holy Thursday Liturgy
Thurs., April 13: 8:00 p.m.
Confessions:
Phone: 474-7914 M-Thurs: 9:30 p.m.; Sat. 4-4:30 p.m.; Sun. 5p.m.

The Lenten and Easter Season at
University Lutheran Chapel
"The Body of Jesus"
Pressing Toward The Goal By Going With Jesus To The Cross
Wednesdays at 6:15PM (unless othwise noted)

March 1st	The FEET of Jesus to lead the way
March 8th	The HANDS of Jesus to help and heal
March 15th	The MOUTH of Jesus to speak God's Word
March 22nd	The EARS of Jesus to hear our prayers
March 29th	The EYES of Jesus to see our needs
April 5th	The HEART of Jesus beating with love
April 13th	MAUNDY THURSDAY (9:00PM)
April 14th	"The Last Supper" Dramatic Presentation
April 14th	GOOD FRIDAY (9:00PM)
April 16th	The WOUNDS of Jesus flowing with blood
April 16th	RESURRECTION MEGA CELEBRATION!
	Worship at 7:30AM & 11:00AM
	Easter Breakfast at 9:00AM

University Lutheran Chapel
1510 Q Street(N.W. corner of 16th & "Q"), 477-3997
A member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod