Tuesday, February 28, 1995

Daily Nebraskan

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 diffi-cult as a student answers more

questions correctly. ETS originally planned to re-place 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 testpreparation 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 per-cent of the test dates through June. Before the investigation, the com-puterized GRE test was offered up to six days a week in some loca-tions. 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 num-ber 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.

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

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 com-

puterized testing was good, but it was going to take more time and money to make the tests secure. "But we want to see it suc-ceed," Mecca said.



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 common

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.

Residence Hall Association is Proud to Present: **1st Annual Suitcase Dance** ou could win a Trip to Disneyland n Anaheim, California! Tickets are sold in Food Services of each Hall between 5pm & 6pm. They're only

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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.

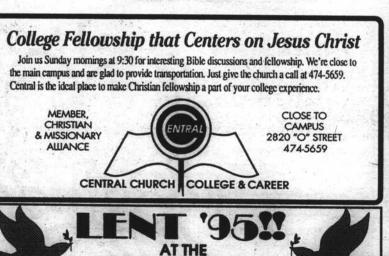
Under the bill, a minor's license would be impounded for 30 days if charged with a first-offense DWI. That impounding would appear on the minor's driving record for 90 days.

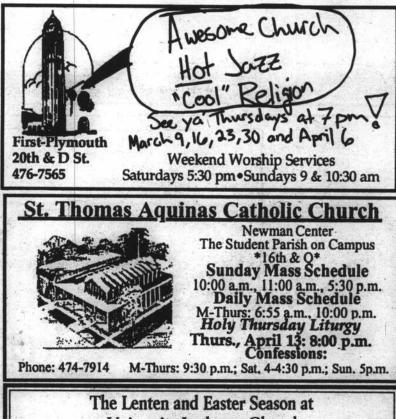
Under current law, an impounded license does not appear on Depart-ment of Motor Vehicle records, and DWI for minors is a secondary offense.

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 sec-ondary 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 li-cense 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 mi-nors to avoid further trouble, Withem said.

(535 North 16th Street across from Neihardt 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)

LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER

Wednesday, March 1 9:00 PM

> ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

CORNERSTONE-UMHE 640 North 16th Street

All UNL Students & Staff Invited & Welcome!

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 The HEART of Jesus beating with love April 5th MAUNDY THURSDAY (9:00PM) April 19th "The Last Supper" Dramatic Presentation GOOD FRIDAY (9:00PM) April 14th The WOUNDS of Jesus flowing with blood **RESURRECTION MEGA CELEBRATION!** April 16th Worship at 7:80AM & 11:00AM Baster Breakfast at 9:00AM **University Lutheran Chapel** 1510 Q Street(N.W. corner of 16th & "Q"), 477-8997 A member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

