

# Daily Nebraskan

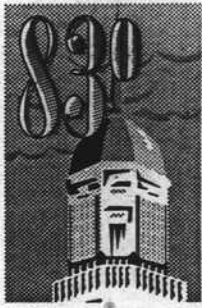
COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

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THURSDAY

WEATHER:

Today - Cloudy. 20%  
chance of thundershowers.  
South wind 10 to 20 mph.  
Tonight - 30% chance of  
thundershowers. Low of 60.



September 28, 1995

## Resolution could refine grade appeals

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

Students who want to appeal a grade will have an easier time finding someone to hear it if a proposed Academic Senate resolution passes in October.

James McShane, chairman of the senate's Commencement Committee, said a problem this summer encouraged him to define who was in charge of grade appeals.

A student wanted to appeal an incomplete grade, which would have prevented him from taking part in the graduation ceremony less than a week away, McShane said.

The situation was resolved and the student graduated, but McShane said he was still concerned about the difficulty the student faced in finding someone to hear his appeal.

"I couldn't find a grade appeals committee and that worried me deeply," he said. "This student deserved a hearing."

McShane's resolution would ask the senate president, Douglas Jose, to know who was in charge of grade appeals at each department or college level.

During the summer session, when many people are out of town, McShane said, the person in charge of grade appeals also should be responsible for having someone serve in the interim if he or she is gone.

"That might take some rule changing in the colleges," he said, "but if it's our job to hear these complaints, then we ought to hear them when they're hot."

But Jose said that could be a difficult task.

If a grade appeal cannot be resolved with a professor, it goes to a department committee for a hearing. Then, depending on the department, it goes to the dean's office within the college.

Jose said it would be hard to determine who was in charge of grade appeals at the department level.

It would be easier if grade appeals were solely handled by a college committee, he said; but then departments might feel rejected.

"We don't want to make the departments feel like we're trying to take away their authority and responsibility," he said.

Gerald Shapiro, associate English professor, is chairman of the English department's grade appeals committee, which, he said, is not a high-profile job.

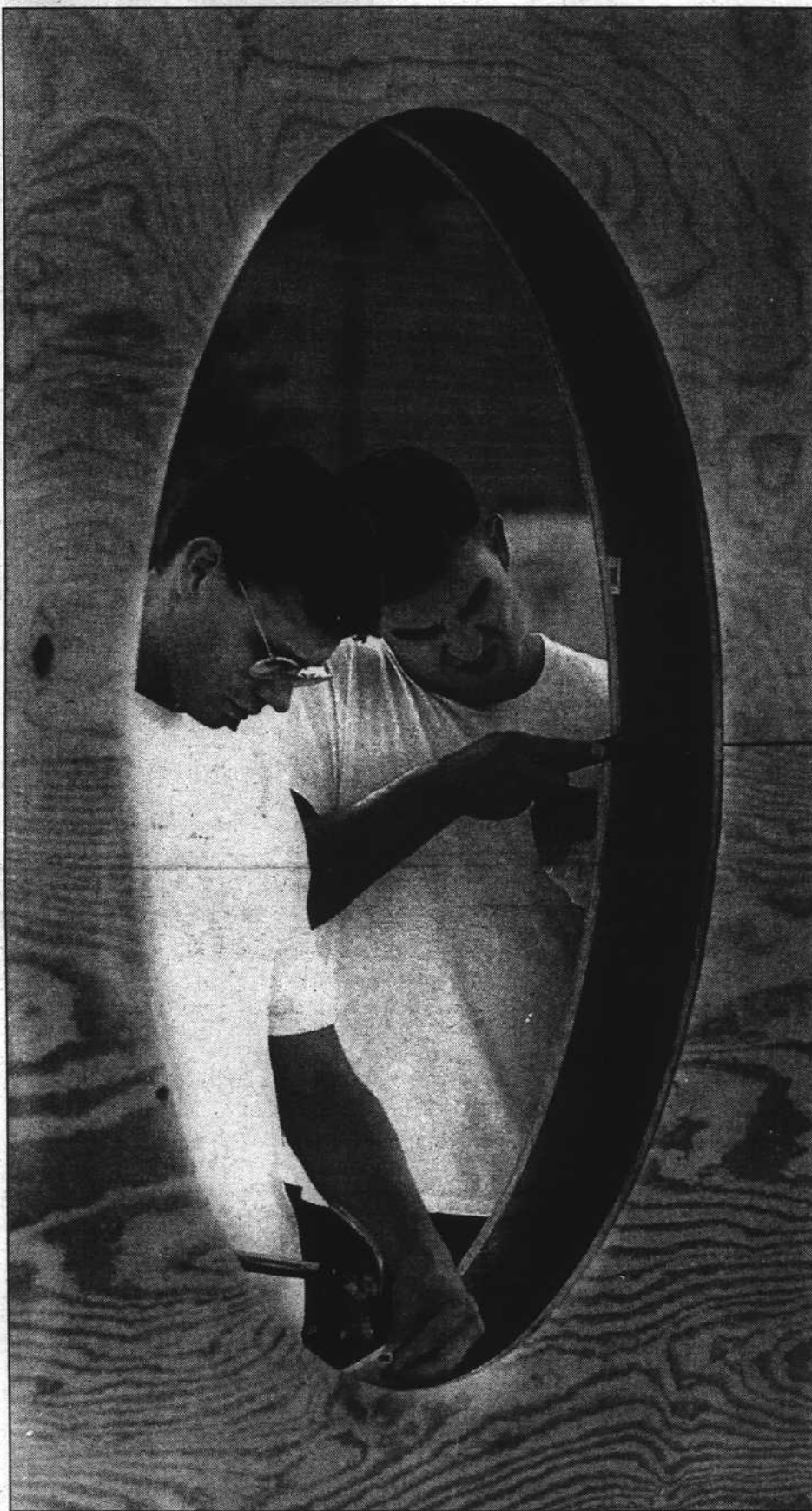
"No one really knows there is an appeals committee," he said. "It's not like my name is scrawled in the men's room."

Shapiro said he worked out most grade appeals through mediation, but some did go to hearings and committee members were usually available.

He said he was usually out of town in the

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## ART IN PROGRESS



Jay Calderon/DN

Fifth-year architecture students Todd Ault, left, and Ryan Swanson work on a sculpture near Architecture Hall Wednesday afternoon. The sculpture is part of the "A" Festival, which is sponsored by the College of Architecture and the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

## Questions surround policy draft

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union is concerned that the draft of UNL's Harassment and Discrimination Policy inhibits academic freedom, the NCLU president said.

David Moshman said the policy's definition of harassment was too broad and could interfere with free speech and academic pursuit.

The draft states that:

"Harassment is a form of discrimination in which unwelcome, severe or pervasive speech or actions are directed at individuals or groups of people ... either directly or indirectly."

Moshman said the language was vague and could lead to situations in which a person was charged with harassment because he or she expressed personal beliefs.

"The policy would make it dangerous for people to express their views on a variety of controversial topics," Moshman said.

Moshman addressed those concerns in a statement he sent to the policy committee.

Linda Crump, associate director for affirmative action and diversity, said the committee has not had time to review the statement.

The deadline for input is Friday, she said. All statements sent in will be reviewed by the committee next week.

The NCLU statement describes some hypothetical situations that the policy would constitute as harassment:

"A supporter of gay rights regularly meets with a group of gay and lesbian students and makes frequent comments and suggestions that the group finds supportive and helpful.

"Although the speech in question is not unwelcome, it is nevertheless pervasive speech ... directed at individuals or groups of people on the basis of ... sexual orientation."

The statement also cited a real example that occurred this year when a white student said in a class that Francisco Renteria, a Hispanic man who died last year after a scuffle with police, should have learned English.

A black student disputed the other student's statement and said he shouldn't have to listen to it. The white student sought to bring charges against the black student for harassment.

In order to make the policy more concise, Moshman said, it should specify that:

- The comments are directed at a particular individual.

- The comments take place over a time when the individual makes it clear he or she does not want to be receiving the comments.

- The comments are causing emotional stress.

- The comments are intended to harm, humiliate or intimidate.

## Robak unveils service merger

By Pattyewel  
Staff Reporter

A unified health and human services system will simplify access to government aid, saving both time and money, the lieutenant governor said Wednesday at the Capitol.

Kim Robak unveiled a recommendation that would combine the Office of Juvenile Services and the departments on social services, health, aging and public institutions. They would all merge into a new health and human services system.

The resulting agency could respond directly to individuals' total needs, she said, rather than through many separate agencies.

The recommendation came as a

result of an eight-month review by the Nebraska Health Policy Project. Gov. Ben Nelson said he established the project last January to find more efficient and effective ways to deliver services.

Robak headed the project, which also included officials from several health and human services agencies. That project has ended, but its participants now form the new Nebraska Partnership Project.

The current departments do not operate as a system because they were not created as a system, Robak said. Agencies operate as rigid programs that do not interact.

"The current system was set up by categories," she said, "but people don't have problems in categories."

Thus, individuals or families may have to wade through a complicated bureaucracy to get help.

For example, Don Leuenberger, director of the Department of Social Services, said a family might seek several services including medicare, child care, food stamps or day care.

Currently, he said, that family would have to work with several case workers from various agencies. Though the case workers often gather the same information, they do not communicate.

Robak said a unified health and human service system would allow coordination and communication. An individual or family would no longer

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Jay Calderon/DN

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak explains a proposal to merge Nebraska health and human service agencies Wednesday morning.