

Seasoned

s p e a k e r s

By Michaela Pieler
Staff Reporter

Patti Leavitt has an ability most students envy — she's not a bit nervous when she speaks in front of a class.

Leavitt said she owed that to her four years of experience on the Cornhusker Forensics Squad.

"I was a really bad speaker when I first came to UNL," said Leavitt, president of the squad. "But the team totally helped me out of that."

The senior political science major is one of 22 members of Cornhusker Forensics.

The group meets once a week to practice persuasive speaking, interpret literature or debate current issues. And on the weekends, members travel to tournaments at other colleges and universities.



tionwide.

Last weekend, squad members competed in Eau Claire, Wis., where 10 members qualified for the American Forensics Association's national tournament next month in Gainesville, Fla.

"I can't remember having such a good season," said Forensics Director Ann Burnett, who has been leading the squad for eight years. The team has lost only one tournament since last December, she said. "We have an extremely talented group of young people this year," Burnett said.

She and five assistant coaches lead the group, which can be taken as a class for up to two credit hours a semester.

Team member Marna Schulte said succeeding in a tournament required both practice and experience.

For example, every speech — even serious ones — should contain some humor, she said.

Schulte, a senior political science

Forensics team adds spice to communication

and communication studies major, said she also tried to keep eye contact with her audience.

"You always have to keep in mind that you're talking with someone and not at someone," she said. "Don't try to give a 10-minute lecture."

Assistant coach David Tschida said the tournaments were his favorite part of forensics.

"At the tournaments, we bring together a competitive and educational activity in a very friendly environment," said Tschida, a graduate student in communication studies.

Leavitt said she made a lot of friends both at tournaments and within the UNL forensics team. The squad is like a family, she said. Members support each other without being competitive.

"It's a great chance for every student to find a smaller community within a huge school like UNL," she said.

Burnett said members learned more than how to speak more effectively. For instance, they learn how to do effective research.

"It prepares you better for classes, makes you more analytical and improves your papers," she said. "You learn how to think about issues, and you learn how to win and lose."

Mike Wagner, a sophomore broadcasting major, said forensics had benefited him more than any one class.

"It makes communication so much easier," he said. "You will always communicate with people. And the better you do in communication, the better you'll do in life."

Charges filed against former Husker player

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Disturbing the peace charges were filed Tuesday against a former Nebraska football player for an alleged incident in Kearney on March 2.

Amy Jacobsen, Buffalo County deputy attorney, charged Christian Peter with disturbance of the peace of Janelle Mues, 21.

Peter originally was cited by police for third-degree assault after allegedly grabbing Mues around the neck at a bar called Einsteins.

Peter, who was on campus Tuesday testing in front of professional football scouts, did not speak with the media.

Jacobsen said she reviewed police reports and witness accounts before

filing the lesser charge.

"Our office can prove there was disturbance of the peace," Jacobsen said. "The assault charge is a little weaker."

Peter, who was co-captain for the national championship Cornhusker football team, was in Kearney for a scholarship fund-raiser sponsored by the Platte Valley Big Red Boosters.

Peter was found guilty of third-degree sexual assault in 1993 and sentenced to 18 months probation. He was released from probation on Jan. 5.

He is scheduled for arraignment on March 27. Disturbing the peace is a class III misdemeanor carrying a maximum sentence of three months in jail and \$500 fine and no minimum sentence.

Mankiller lecture canceled

The scheduled appearance of Wilma Mankiller, former principal chief of the Cherokee nation, has been canceled, a University Program Council spokesperson said Monday.

Holly Crocker, event director for UPC, said Mankiller was ill and would not be able to speak.

The lecture was to be held tonight in the Nebraska East Union.

Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee nation, is co-author of "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People." In the past few years, she has lectured at universities and conferences nationally, speaking about issues affecting women and minorities.

Crocker said the event would not be rescheduled.

— Joshua Gillin

Schick

Continued from Page 1

tence structure of sign language.

Like any foreign language, American Sign Language differs from spoken English in many ways, Schick said. For example, adjectives come after nouns, like in Spanish.

Schick has another program still in development. The computer program, "Sign to Mind," is a signing dictionary. When a word is typed in, the screen shows someone signing that word. Standard signing dictionaries are hard to use because they use still

pictures to indicate hand movement.

All of her programs have been transferred to CD-ROM, Schick said, in the Barkley Memorial Center's media center.

She said she hoped to publish all of her programs on CD-ROM so other universities could use them in signing classes.

But Schick said she was concerned that other universities might not have the computer resources to use the programs. In that respect, sign language students at UNL were lucky, she said.

"UNL is much further ahead in instructional technology than other schools."

WINTER'S OVER!

(And we'll do what we have to do to get you out of that hole!)

SPRING BREAK SALE

Come in and see all the new stuff at great sale prices!

the **Post and Nickel**
Men's and Women's Clothing, Sportswear, and Footwear
Downtown at 14th & P

Layaways Welcome

It's 3am. Call the IRS and hang up real fast.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Changing for good.

TeleFile
It's free. It's fast. It works.

Duffy's



Exotic Body Piercing Studio

"Get Pierced By A Pro"
Over 3 Years Experience

BODY PIERCING ONLY

CLEAN & STERILE PRIVATE

Walkins & Appointments

305 S. 11th

438-7266

Country Gospel Night

Wednesdays 6:30-7:10 p.m.

Featuring the Country Spirit Band

St. Mark's 70th and Vine Streets
Lincoln, NE 68505

(402) 489-8885 Childcare provided

ABORTION CARE

STATE LICENSED PHYSICIANS

Womens Services, P.C.

- Abortion Services Performed During All Legal Stages
- Tubal Ligations
- Awake or Asleep
- Total OB/GYN Health Care
- Birth Control
- Outpatient Care
- Caring Staff

Call for an appointment:
554-0110 or 1-800-922-8331

201 South 46th St.
Omaha, Nebraska

BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS
G. William Orr, MD, FACOG • CJ LaBenz, MD, FACOG