

Stohs

Continued from Page 1
settle in a bit before noticing the more meaningful differences.

In Ireland, people don't sacrifice their social lives for their work, the Stohs said, and the pace of life is more leisurely.

"Work is there," Joanne said. "It will get done. Don't break your neck over it."

Life at the university is different. Students are left more to their own resources, Mark said, and they tend to specialize earlier.

"They don't take as broad of courses," he said. "This makes them better prepared for master's degrees, but maybe not better prepared for life."

Joanne said the value students and faculty put on relations and networking was greater than in Wisconsin, where it was "more on production and less on people." Professors have lower teaching loads and less pressure to publish.

The system also relies on tradition. Students' grades aren't computerized and involve a bit of faculty "horse trading." Exams, given once a year, are usually all essay.

This worked fine in the Middle Ages when classes were relatively small, the Stohs said, but it's a problem now that universities are "mass educating."

"When you have essay exams for between 375 and 400 students, how can you do justice?" Joanne said.

Mark tried to introduce multiple choice exams last spring, he said, and the students got angry.

"It was changing tradition," he said. "They've been doing things this way for more than 100 years. It's just a matter of getting used to them."

There is also less emphasis on rules, Mark said, which dates back

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MARK STOHS

UNL graduate living in Dublin

to when the Irish were ruled by English law.

"It's the Irish reaction to the past when the British made a lot of rules," he said. "They've learned to get around the rules without breaking them."

Outside of academics, Irish students have interests similar to their Nebraskan counterparts.

"Sports are very big with the whole population," Mark said. "When there's a big soccer match, they almost shut down the school."

Just when the Stohs have adjusted to Ireland, they will soon be served with another dose of American culture.

The Stohs will continue their nomadic nature in August, when Mark starts a job at California State University in Fullerton. They have the option of returning to UCD, though.

"You learn something from the European approach," Joanne said. "You're not just a machine turning out products."

But the familiar patter of the drizzling Irish rain promises a pleasant change in Fullerton.

"Weather-wise," Mark said, "California will be nice."

Program offered worldwide

Students attend classes without leaving home

By **Todd Anderson**
Staff Reporter

Cindy Haas never has to worry about making it to her administrative finance course on time.

She turns in homework on computer and works on group assignments using a special program called Lotus Notes Distributed Education.

Her classmates are at computers across the nation and the world — some as far away as Guam.

Haas, who is working toward a doctorate of education administration, is enrolled in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Teachers College distributive education program, which offers courses taught by professors in Lincoln and one professor in Australia.

The program, in its third semester, offers credit for graduate-level courses to students who would have difficulties attending class.

Paul Carlson, associate vice chancellor for business and finance at UNL, completed a virtual university course last semester.

"There was no way I could have been going to class with the schedule I

had," he said.

Haas said the greatest benefit of the program was its freedom.

"It was wonderful," she said. "You can work when you have time."

Space constraints also are alleviated, since students can work from their home computers.

Alan Seagren, the instructor of the finance course, said with distributive education, the responsibility for learning is shifted onto the learner.

The instructor's role is to facilitate the learning process, he said. Each student is required to give input and to respond to other students' input.

Students also can send notes to other students in the virtual cafeteria.

"It's a good opportunity to get to know other students better," Carlson said.

Haas said students also learned about each other from posted personal biographies and personal examples used in topic discussions.

Each student is required to keep a journal to record progress in the course and in the program, Seagren said.

After completing each academic year with the program, students are

required to attend a summer session on campus. Last summer, several students from Guam attended their first session after the first semester of the program.

During the summer sessions, students attend doctoral seminars and study different research tools, Seagren said.

Students enrolled in the program pay regular tuition prices to receive credit through the Division of Continuing Studies, Seagren said. Students in the virtual university program must pay for the software disks in addition to a special distance education fee, he said.

But special costs are offset because on-campus student fees are waived, he said.

Additions to the software program, such as an e-mail function and an advising opportunity, are being explored, Seagren said.

As for now, both Haas and Carlson said it was a great way to obtain credit for graduate-level courses.

"It's the wave of the future," Haas said. "So many people are wanting to continue their education but have limitations because of their families or careers."

East Campus to add parking meters

By **Melanie Brandert**
Senior Editor

When students return to campus after spring break, they may find new parking meters on East Campus.

Parking Manager Tad McDowell said Landscape Services started installing meter poles Tuesday. The warm weather allowed the department to begin work early, he said.

Don Hinds, operations manager for Landscape Services, said employees finished installing 20 poles Tuesday in the Area 20 lot south of the Animal Science building and in the Area 6/10 lot behind the Ruth Staples Lab.

Employees will put in the rest of the

poles Wednesday, and Parking Services will attach the meter heads next week, he said.

Twenty meters will be installed at the far north end of the Area 6 lot, and 10 will be placed in the northwest corner of the Area 20 lot.

The Parking Advisory Committee approved the addition of 30 meters on East Campus in November. ASUN senators recommended the new meters to the committee in October, citing student concern about inadequate parking on East Campus.

McDowell, who proposed the locations, said the meters would be ready to use in about two weeks, weather permitting.

After the meters are installed, 10 Area 20 parking spaces will be converted from residence hall stalls and placed just south of the meters. Even though 15 spaces originally were designated in the proposal, McDowell said he would like to start out with 10 first.

"After adding 20 meter stalls, 15 would be pushing it," McDowell said. "If we could add some more later, we would be more than happy to do it."

McDowell said he was concerned about increased traffic with the few number of commuter stalls, however.

"If you have 10 stalls and 50 people trying to park, it creates more of a problem than a solution," he said.

I know what you're thinking. What does a fish know, right? Well, I may not know much, but I do keep my ears open. Like just the other day. I overheard a couple of students talking. Found out that Apple is offering incredibly low campus prices on Macintosh computers. Found out that a Mac is a really easy way to get up and running on the Internet. I even found out that more students are using a Mac to share ideas on the Internet than any other computer. Boy, what I would give to get out of this stupid castle and start surfing the Net.

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No payment of principal or interest will be required for 90 days on the deferred Apple Computer Loan offer. Interest accruing during this 90-day period will be added to the principal and will bear interest which will be included in the repayment schedule. The monthly payment quoted above is an estimate based on a total loan amount of \$1646.81 which includes a sample purchase price of \$1548 for the Power Macintosh 7200/90 system shown above. The total loan amount also includes a 6.0% loan origination fee. Interest is variable based on the Commercial Paper Rate plus a spread of 6.35%. For example, the month of January 1996 had an interest rate of 12.19% with an annual percentage rate (APR) of 13.97%. Monthly payment for the total loan amount described above would be \$28.30. Monthly payment and APR shown assumes no deferral of principal and does not include state or local sales tax. Monthly payments may vary depending on actual computer system prices, total loan amounts, state and local sales taxes, and a change in the monthly variable interest rate. Prequalification expedites the loan process, but does not guarantee final loan approval. Subsequent acceptable verification documents must be received before your loan is approved. Offers shown above expire May 15, 1996. See your campus store for details about the Apple Computer Loan. © 1996 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, LaserWriter, Macintosh, Performa, PowerBook and StyleWriter are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Mac and Power Mac are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. PowerPC is a trademark of International Business Machines Corporation, used under license therefrom. All Macintosh computers are designed to be accessible to individuals with disability. To learn more (U.S. only), call 800-600-7808 or TTY 800-755-0601.