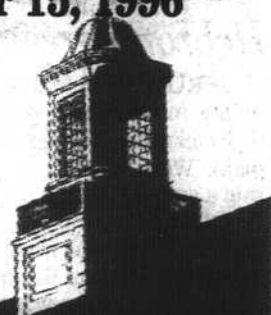


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Procrastinators get last chance at composition

By KASEY KERBER
Senior Reporter

Upperclass students who still need to take freshman composition classes may find the spring semester to be their last chance.

Incoming freshmen will have priority in registering for freshman composition classes next fall, and the classes usually fill up fast.

The English department is encouraging upperclass students who still need to fulfill the freshman composition requirements to take advantage of an increased number of classes offered in the upcoming spring semester.

The College of Arts and Sciences will offer 10 more sections of English 102 (Composition and Literature II), English 150 (Composition I), English 151 (Composition II) and English 254 (Composition) for the spring semester.

Linda Pratt, chairwoman of the Department of English, said 400 to 600 students still needed to fulfill the requirement.

"For whatever reason they've decided not to take the classes, they need to take them now," Pratt said.

She said the additional sections would only be temporary.

Anne Kopera, coordinator of the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center, said a "bubble" situation was being created when it came to the freshman composition class.

She said upperclass students who had not fulfilled their composition class requirements often would take up places in the freshman composition classes, squeezing out incoming freshmen.

Those freshmen become upperclass students and the situation repeats, she said.

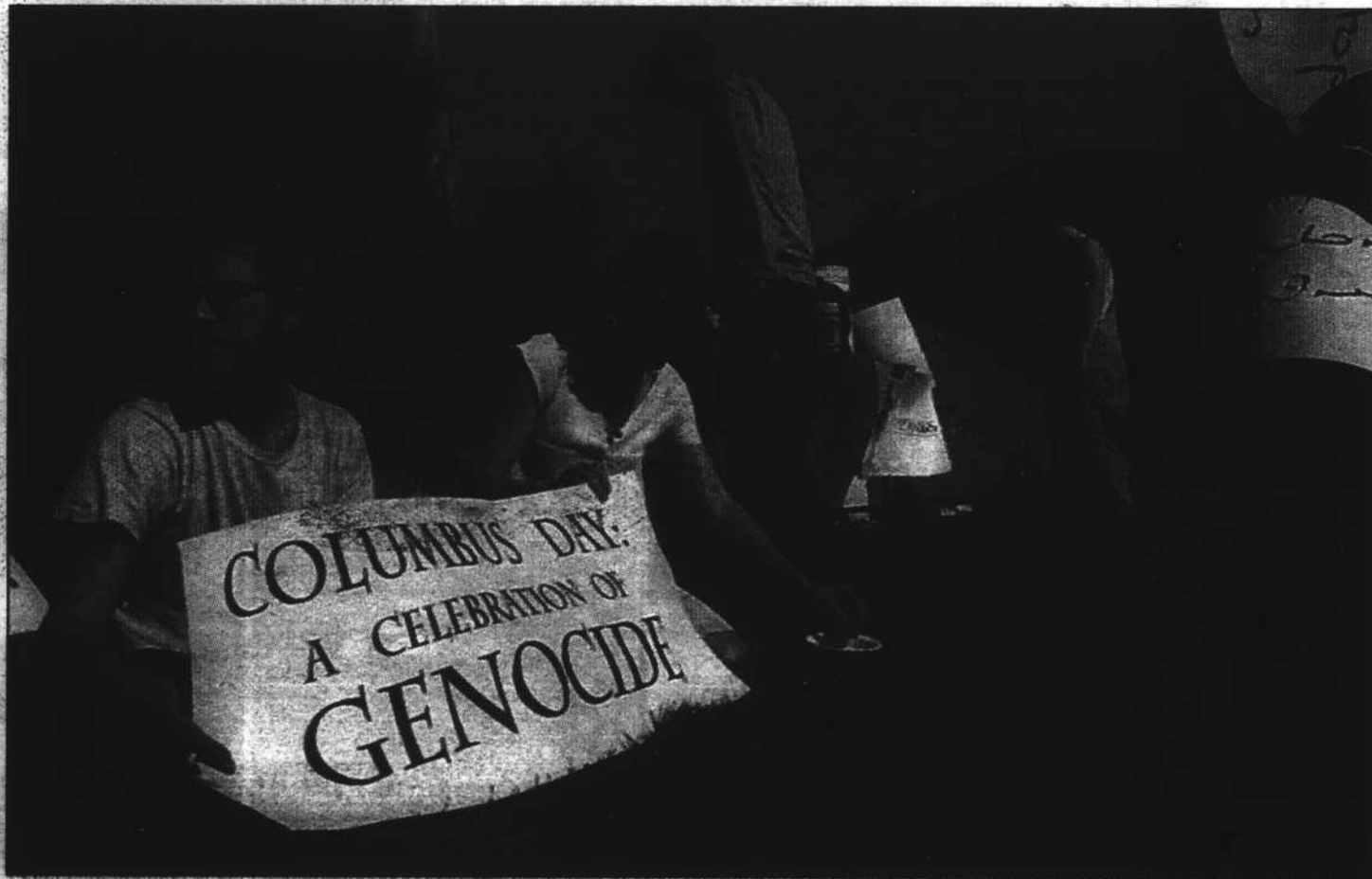
To solve the problem, additional classes were offered so all freshmen would have a chance to get the requirement out of the way in their freshman year, Kopera said.

Gerry Brookes, vice chairman of the Department of English, said the department normally offered about 50 sections of freshman composition classes.

Michael Steinman, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said funding for additional sections of freshman composition classes had created a budget dilemma.

"It's money that could be certainly used in other places," he said. "But we view this as something important — giving all freshmen an equal chance. This is something we just have to do."

A new world?



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

BRIAN KELLY, an undeclared freshman, and Jenefer Monroe, a senior biology major, hold a sign Monday during a Columbus Day protest at the "Torn Notebook" sculpture at 12th and Q streets. The protestors claimed the national holiday honored a "mass murderer," saying: "Columbus didn't discover America, he invaded it."

LPD awards officer for life-saving rescue

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

One year after helping save a man's life, Lincoln police officer Chris Peterson says he doesn't feel like a hero.

The National Association of Police Organizations thinks otherwise.

Earlier this month, Peterson was one of 10 officers to receive the nation's highest award for a police officer from the organization.

Peterson helped save a veteran's life last August when the man attempted to jump off the roof of the Veteran's Administration Hospital, 600 S. 70th St.

Although he traveled to Washington, D.C., Oct. 2 to accept the Top Cop award from NAPO,

Peterson said he didn't want to take all the credit. "There were four other officers involved," he said. "I guess I just wish there had been more pats on the back to go around."

Two officers were on the ground below the man, talking to him and "slowing down his emotions so he's not running at Mach 2 and making hasty decisions."

Officer Darren Johnson was on the roof with Peterson during the rescue. When the man jumped, both officers grabbed him — Johnson by the shirt and Peterson by the wrist.

When the officers began to lose their grip minutes later, Peterson slapped his handcuffs

around the man's wrist and around a cable bolted to the building.

"If the other guys hadn't been there, things would've moved a lot faster," Peterson said. "We wouldn't have been able to save him."

But it was Peterson's quick thinking that earned him hero status.

The Top Cop award was the highest honor Peterson ever received, he said, but he shrugged off his status as a hero. The rescue, he said, was simply part of his job.

He doesn't see himself any differently, he said, and his day-to-day duties haven't changed.

What has changed is the way people view police, he said. Police usually get a lot of publicity only when they make mistakes, but the rescue showed the officers in a good light.

Please see PETERSON on 3

Law school job placement above average

By DARREN IVY
Staff Reporter

Things are better here. Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law have a better than average chance of getting a job when they graduate.

This is good news for UNL law students, because a 1995 national survey showed that 84 percent of pre-law students perceived the job outlook as bleak.

That's not the case at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a law school official said.

"We are continually above the national job placement average for law schools in the United States," said Suzanne Kirkland, assistant dean and director of career services at the law

school. Statistics from the 1995 National Association for Law Placement showed that 92 percent of UNL's law graduates found jobs within six months of graduation. The national average was 86.7 percent.

Nebraska's 1995 job placement rate was the school's highest in the last five years.

The number of UNL law graduates who found jobs outside the legal field contributed to the increase. In 1990, 9 percent took jobs outside the legal field. By 1995, the number jumped to 22 percent.

"The jobs outside the legal field that these graduates are getting are professional jobs," Kirkland said. "They aren't flipping burgers or pumping gas somewhere."

But even though UNL law students

have a better chance of getting jobs than other law students, their jobs may not yield better pay than the jobs other law students get.

NALP statistics reveal that starting salaries at UNL lag behind the national average by more than \$12,000. UNL graduates' average starting salary for the class of 1995 was \$33,000. The national average was \$45,590.

Despite the disparity, starting salaries at UNL have improved — the average first-year salary in 1986 was \$25,000.

The job placement rates UNL graduates now enjoy haven't always been so favorable in recent years.

In the early 1990s, national job placement rates for law school graduates hit all-time lows.

Please see PLACEMENT on 3



SOURCE: NU COLLEGE OF LAW

AARON STECKELBERG/DN