

Work-study students' pay rises

Federal minimum wage increases to \$5.15 an hour

By TED TAYLOR
Assignment Reporter

Cha-ching, cha-ching. That's the sound minimum-wage earners across the country heard at midnight Labor Day as the federal minimum wage made its last increase, at least for a while, to \$5.15 an hour.

The 40-cent raise from \$4.75 an hour is the last of a two-step plan that began when President Clinton signed the increase into law Aug. 20, 1996. It is the first increase since 1991.

However, Monday's pay increase for minimum wagers didn't affect work-study students at UNL. They received raises in August, said Marcia Phelps, director of Career Services.

She said that the university knew minimum-wage increase would take effect and decided to let employees

start the semester at \$5.15 an hour.

"It not only resulted in a new starting rate for students but it also increased the wages for quite a number of students," she said. "Across the board, the increase is pretty extensive."

Now, a person working full time on minimum wage will earn \$10,300 a year, which is a \$1,800 increase from annual earnings they received when making \$4.25 an hour from April 1991 to October 1996.

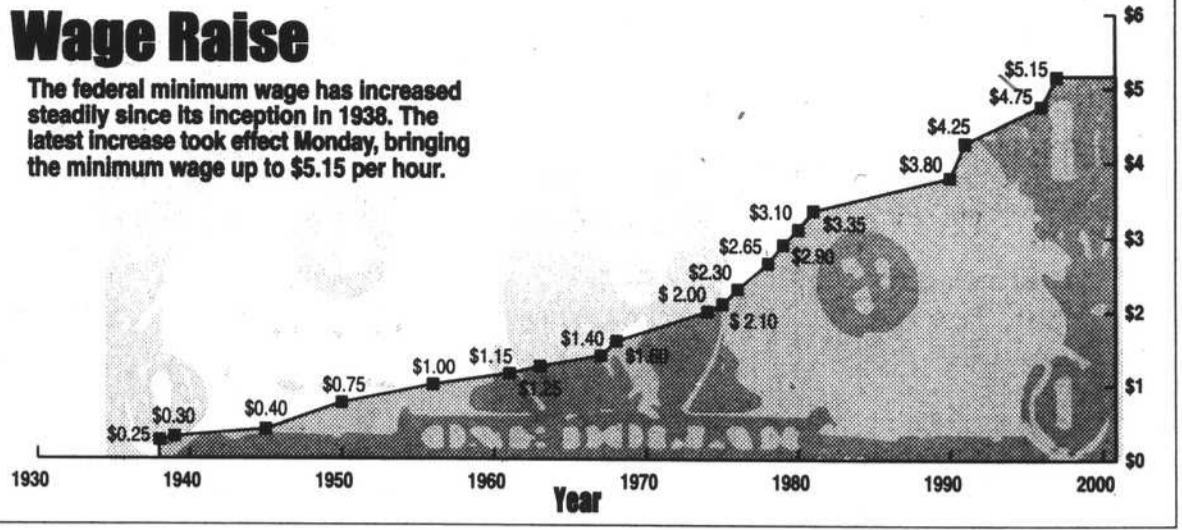
That annual income, however, is only \$315 above the 1996 poverty threshold for a family raising one child under 18 years old.

Phelps said the recent wage increase was positive for the student employees, but maybe not so for full-time workers in the labor force.

"I think it's a nice increase. It is really a step in the right direction," she said. "But if you think of the people in the full-time work force who are trying to support families

Wage Raise

The federal minimum wage has increased steadily since its inception in 1938. The latest increase took effect Monday, bringing the minimum wage up to \$5.15 per hour.



SOURCE: AP

AARON STECKELBERG/DN

—it's not going to be enough."

But it's just enough to help support the life of a recent college graduate waiting for graduate school.

Chris Hugus, 23, a part-time employee at Homer's Records and Tapes, 1339 O St., said that it would be tough to live on minimum wage, but he could do it.

"I just wouldn't be able to buy the food I want to eat and I definitely wouldn't be able to buy the guitar strings I need."

Hugus said that he also has another higher paying job, but his paychecks at Homer's are "enough to pay the bills."

The minimum wage, which start-

ed at 25 cents, was first implemented in 1938 as a result of the Fair Labor Standards Act. It has steadily increased since then as Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Bush and Clinton have all signed into law minimum-wage increases.

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Greene informs ASUN of fair judicial policies

By BRAD DAVIS
Assignment Reporter

The newly appointed director of student judicial affairs continued his crusade to inform students that they will all be treated equally when dealing with his office when he went to ASUN's Wednesday meeting.

Charles Greene, who met with all student athletes last week, this week challenged senators of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska to "make the university do what it is supposed to do."

"We all have to work together to make the university a continued place of respect," Greene said.

Greene came to UNL as a scholarship athlete in 1963 and said the university gave him an opportunity to get an education.

"I have a passion for this place," he said, "I believe in the educational opportunity it offers."

He said the success in his life, which included winning gold and bronze medals in the 1968 Olympics, and working for both the Armed Services and the Special Olympics, was due to his experiences at UNL.

"Everything I consider to be a success in my life, I owe to here," Greene said. "I want students to feel

ASUN

the same love for this place — but they have to take care of this place."

Taking care of the university includes following the rules in the student code of conduct. The code, distributed to all students in a pamphlet during Big Red Welcome, will be applied fairly to all people — including athletes, Greene said.

In dealing with students who have not followed those guidelines, Greene said he will try to handle his job with compassion, while realizing "young people make mistakes."

"If it's not a violent offense, we should be able to find a way to keep the student at the university and help him or her accept the responsibilities and accountabilities to what they do," Greene said.

Greene said he will implement "creative" new measures to deal with students who have broken the code of conduct. "I will try to come up with community service which reflects what their personalities are, so they can learn something and realize how fortunate they are to be here."

If a student wrote bad checks to pay university bills, for example, Greene said he would arrange for the offending student to work community service hours with Career

Services so the student could gain experience with finances.

Greene is able to work with students who have violated the code of conduct because of a restructuring in the Judicial Affairs office. James Griesen, vice chancellor of student affairs, and a task force eliminated separate judicial boards for Greeks and residence halls, and created a new position, which Greene filled.

ASUN President Curt Ruwe said UNL was fortunate to have Greene as part of the administration.

"He is an outstanding man for the position. He's a great role model and a Nebraska alum," Ruwe said.

In other ASUN business:

■ Ruwe said several Greek houses would be contacted regarding violations of the new rules for student seating at football games. Students were seen standing on the seats by ASUN senator Clint Richards, who brought the issue to the senate's attention.

■ ASUN's next meeting will be 6:30 Wednesday on the green space behind the Nebraska Union. Student group leaders will meet afterward to focus on recruitment for student organizations and student retention.

■ Bylaw A was passed, which requires senators to attend two student organization meetings each month in a continuing effort to reach more students.

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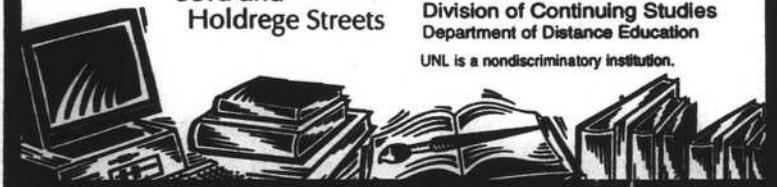
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