

# Open wide

## Museum features 150 years of dental history

■ An anatomy professor's collection of antique dental tools goes on display.

By ADAM KLINKER  
Staff Reporter

People who walk through the door to Stan Harn's anatomy class may feel themselves regressing to the pioneer days, when nobody was afraid of anything — except perhaps a visit to the dentist.

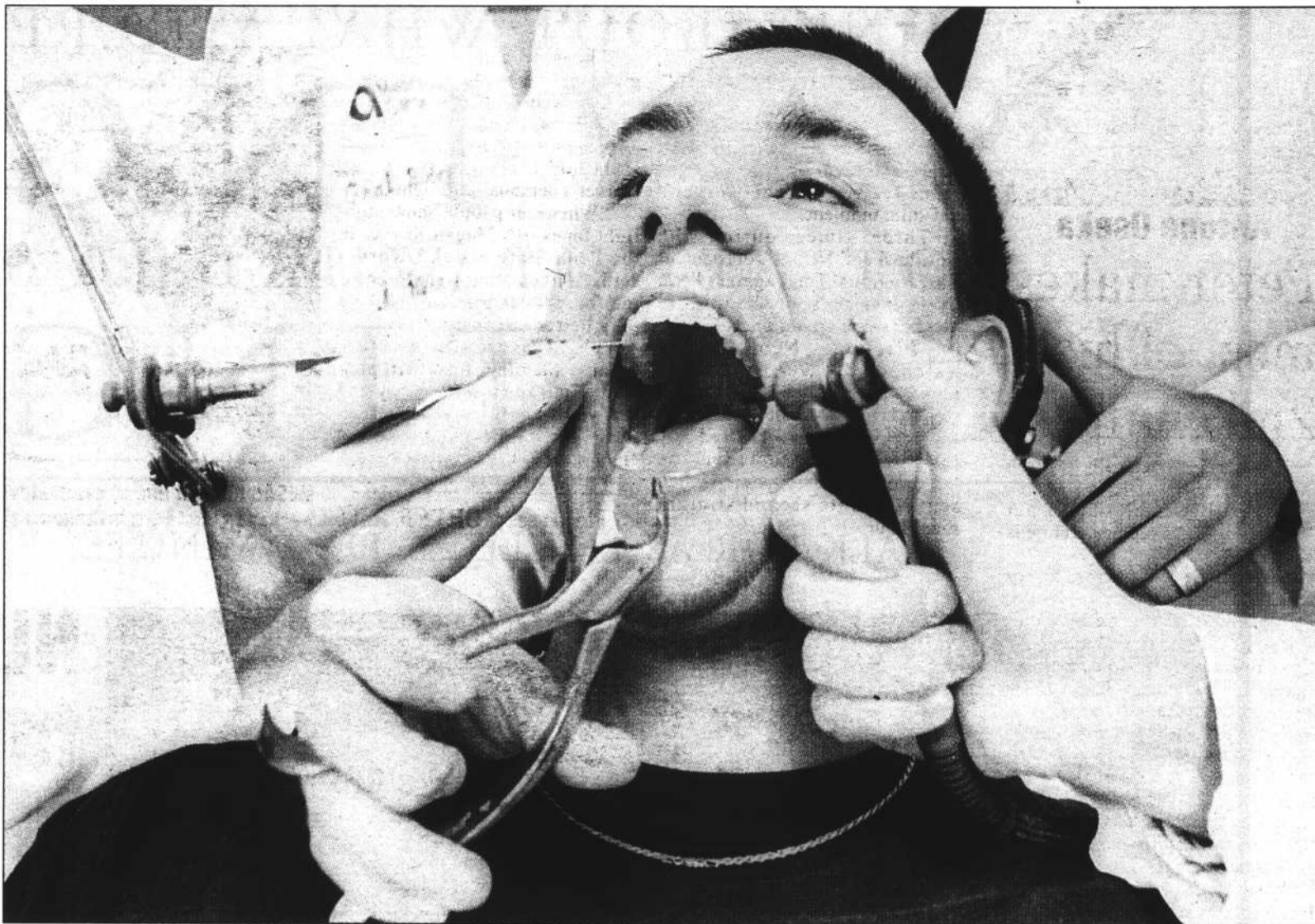
Harn, an associate professor of anatomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Dentistry, has turned his lab into a temporary museum of dental history. The museum concentrates on the last 150 years of dentistry, Harn said. During the past 19 years, Harn has been collecting and receiving pieces of antique dental tools, which he displays every year for homecoming at the dentistry college. The temporary museum makes a return this year after not showing in 1996 due to construction at the college.

"The museum is set up around Nebraska dentistry and dentistry at the time Nebraska became a state," Harn said. "We just try to portray what that time period would be like."

The collection includes five operatories, or dental workspaces, from different time periods. Each consists of a patient's chair, tools of dentistry and light fixtures. Each operatorial shows improvements in dental technology from one era to the next.

The displays aren't the only part of the collection that has changed over time. Harn's collection has been growing steadily over the years partially because of 426 donors that look for possible additions. They also help Harn cover costs. Harn hopes that one day a donor can be found to build a permanent building.

He estimated that 98 percent of the exhibits were donated. Harn also



MARK SCHLOTHAUER, a senior pre-dental major at UNL, opens wide to a few of the dental tools on display at the dental museum. The dental tools are only on display this week, which is homecoming week for the College of Dentistry.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN

searches for himself, stopping at antique shops and flea markets on trips he takes.

"I'm always looking, wherever I go, for anything that is related to dentistry and dental history," he said. For Harn, that means papers, pamphlets, toothbrushes and even wall decorations from early dental offices, some items dating back to the early 18th century. Due to the size of the collec-

tion, Harn could not estimate how many items are displayed.

Some museum visitors said they were amazed at Harn's acquisitions and the way dentistry has changed.

"Every year there's always something new, something you haven't seen," said Rhonda Simpson, a dental assistant at the college. Simpson and two of her colleagues, Becky Case

and Deann Valverde, visit the museum every year.

"(Dentistry) has thankfully changed for the better," Case said. "Especially in terms of sterilization and anesthetics. It must have just been a nightmare back then."

Harn says, however, that it is important that students and visitors know where dentistry has been, so

they can have a better idea of where it is going with technology.

"We encourage people to come out and see what dental history is all about," he said.

The museum will be open for the remainder of this week, subject to these daily hours: today and Thursday 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8-11:30 a.m.

## Moeser not worried about small freshman class

By SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

UNL's class of 2001 may be leaner than those of previous years, but if Chancellor James Moeser has his way, it will also be meaner — or at least better educated.

The high rate of academic excellence within this year's freshman class was a main topic of discussion at Tuesday's Academic Senate meeting.

Moeser said even though the overall number of students is down by 1,100, the lower numbers are

not long term.

"Recruitment is always a concern for us," Moeser said. "But the bottom line is that we are now enrolling better students."

Moeser said the increase was so drastic that with the incoming class, the mean ACT score of the entire student body increased by one score point, from a 23 to a 24.

Moeser said he was hoping to see a recovery in the numbers of enrollment within the next three years. He also is looking for improved numbers in other areas thanks to the new admissions standards.

"I am hoping for a higher freshman retention rate, as well as an increase in the graduation rate," he said.

Moeser asked professors to challenge this new class both in and out of the classroom, for the benefit of the students.

"After all, it's not all about ratings, it's also about academic integrity and quality," he said.

The senate also discussed the status of post-tenure review. President Jim Ford said the administration made some minor changes to the document, and was incorporating suggestions from the Post-Tenure Review Committee into the final

draft.

"This is a very important document, and I think it's good that we are taking time on it," he said.

The senate was slated to vote on the old version of the document at Tuesday's meeting, but instead voted to table the issue indefinitely.

Gail Latta, the libraries senator, assured the senate there would be ample time to discuss the revised draft.

"The senate will have one month before the final vote on the proposed document," Latta said. "This leaves ample time for review and discussion."

## Medical clinic offers low-cost health care

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both quality health care at a location convenient to many needy families and essential experience for students learning to care for a diverse population.

"It's good for the students; it's good for the patients," said Paul Paulman, a UNMC family medicine professor and physician supervising the students. "It's really a win-win situation."

Medical student Christopher Connolly, co-president of SHARING, said students will provide a variety of health care, including

physical exams, care for sick patients, well-baby checkups and pregnancy testing.

Students will also help patients manage chronic diabetes and hypertension, two diseases that require frequent medical attention, Connolly said.

Until now, high cost has placed such routine care out of reach for many poor south Omaha families without health insurance.

"A lot of people in the community can't afford to see the doctor every couple months," Connolly said. "We want to try to remove that obstacle."

He said he hoped the clinic's preventative medical care would keep patients from waiting until sickness or disease became life-threatening to seek medical attention at a hospital emergency room. Taxpayers would then pay the high medical bills, he said.

Medical student and clinic volunteer Sharon Stoolman said that although health care in "free clinics" has been available to such poor or indigent Omaha residents in the past, a low-cost clinic was needed.

"These are working people with homes who are not fortunate enough to have insurance," she said. "When

you have this much dignity," she said, pinching an inch of air between her fingers, "you have every right to keep it."

The clinic's low fee for health services helps poor, working parents feel like they are still providing for their families, Stoolman said. The fee may help families who refuse to accept handouts feel comfortable accepting the volunteers' health care.

Karoline Anderson, medical student and SHARING co-president, said students are "falling over themselves" to sign up to help at the clinic.

Second-year medical students have experience in clinics and medical offices but seek experience working one-on-one with patients, Anderson said.

As more patients come to the clinic, a large number of volunteers will allow the clinic to expand its days and hours of operation, she said.

"I'm just overwhelmed by people's outpouring of generosity," Anderson said.

Perkumas, sitting in the clinic's waiting room, agreed. "It's wonderful."