

## Movin' on up



Heather Glenboski/DN  
**SECOND-YEAR BUSINESS administration graduate student Todd Erickson climbs the stairs in the east entrance to Architecture Hall on Thursday afternoon.**

## Research eyes cause of cataracts

CATARACTS from page 1

the particles accurately enough to determine what kind of changes have taken place.

David Smith first got the idea for using mass spectrometry 11 years ago when the couple was at Purdue University in Indiana.

By seeing what changes in mass have occurred, it's possible to determine the changes in the makeup of the proteins in the lens. Then the Smiths try to figure out what changes in the proteins may contribute to cataract formation.

Jean Smith said she hopes the research can be applied to the development of a drug that will prevent or cure cataracts.

"It's still rather preliminary," she said. "We see a lot of modifications. We don't know which of these are important to the formation of the cataract."

Because cataracts are so common, Jean Smith said she sees her research as a true contribution to society.

"I think it's good to let people know that there's real, practical things going on here (at the university) that might affect their lives," she said.

The Smiths' grant extends for about five more years, so the research is an ongoing project, she said.

The Smiths are working with Majorie Lou, UNL professor of veterinary science and biomedical science, on the project.

Lou has developed a repair enzyme for cataracts that she hopes will be used to make a drug that could slow or reverse cataract development.

"We're mainly trying to cure cataract formation," she said.

Jean Smith said research on

cataracts is important because cataracts are so prevalent.

Cataract surgery is the most frequent operation performed on people over 60 years old, and cataract expenses account for about 12 percent of the Medicare budget, she said.

Cataract surgery is generally successful, but other issues, such as cost, make research important, Smith said.

One of the important parts of the Smiths' research is the work that students put in, Jean Smith said.

She said they have offered opportunities for many graduate students, as well as a few undergraduates, to help out.

"Part of our job at the university is not just to get the research done but also to train students. And this is a good way of doing it," she said.

## Homeless problem in Lincoln examined

By Jackie Blair

Staff writer

Homelessness is a bigger problem in Lincoln than most people realize, a group of panelists said on Thursday.

The discussion was held at the University of Nebraska College of Law. It was sponsored by the Equal Justice Society.

Julie Post, a community development program specialist in Lincoln, said 108 single people are homeless in Lincoln. Eighty percent of those are homeless because of substance abuse or mental illness.

Post said 163 families in Lincoln live in transitional housing, mostly because of eviction or poverty. Fifteen of those are led by teen-agers.

"A big problem we have is the number of homeless children we find," Post said.

Most homeless children are runaways, but a few of the teen-agers are homeless because of Nebraska law, she said.

In the state of Nebraska, teen-agers are

legally emancipated from their parents at 18. They have to be 19, however, to legally sign a lease. This leaves many teens without a home.

There is a shelter for homeless teens open 24 hours a day. They are able to get a decent meal and have a place to stay until the next day, said David Traster, the associate director of the People's City Mission.

He said the majority of women end up at the city mission because of child custody battles, domestic violence, divorce or separation. The majority of men are there because of warrants out for their arrest or evictions, Traster said.

Steve Lauer, a nurse practitioner student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, works with the homeless.

In his work, Lauer said he was once able to help a homeless man keep his toes from being amputated from frostbite.

"When you see the expression on a homeless person's face when they're genuinely thankful, you'll want to keep helping them," he said.

## Student fights disorders

DISORDER from page 1

Ironically, Larson found the help she needed when she was trying to help someone else.

Last September, one of Larson's friends who also had an eating disorder called her and asked for help.

Larson looked on the Internet and found a clinic called First Step Wellness Center.

There, Larson met Teresa Maas, director of First Step.

Larson began going to two support groups through First Step — one for people overcoming anorexia and another for those overcoming bulimia. She also began attending individual counseling sessions.

"(Maas) said the only things I needed to do to get better were to show up and do the assignments," Larson said.

And, as Maas promised, Larson did

begin to get better.

Shortly after beginning the First Step program, Larson went six weeks without giving in to the urge to make herself throw up.

And now, Larson said she hasn't thrown up in about 45 days.

Larson is lucky to have gotten help, she said.

Maas said only about 15 percent of bulimic women get help at all.

She said that with an estimated 2,500 women at UNL who battle eating disorders, problems such as Larson's are a serious issue.

Larson is enjoying her life now that her thoughts are consumed with issues other than food, she said.

"I've still had some rough times with it, but I'm so much better," Larson said. "I'm so much more happy."

"I've got my hopes and dreams back."

## Switzer presents Osborne with achievement award

From staff reports

Former Nebraska Football Coach Tom Osborne received the Jim Thorpe Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in Oklahoma City, Okla., on Thursday night.

Osborne is only the fifth person to receive the award named after the man who was chosen in 1950 as the most outstanding athlete of the first half of the 20th century.

Former Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer made the presentation to Osborne.

The award Osborne received is given out only on special occasions, said W. Lynne Draper, executive director of the Jim Thorpe Association.

"(Osborne's) support of the Thorpe Association and his contributions to college football as a whole make him deserving of the recognition," Draper said.

Past recipients include basketball Coach Abe Lemons, baseball player Allie Reynolds, former Gov. George Nigh and ABC sportscaster Chris Schenkel.

The Jim Thorpe Association is a non-profit, charity organization, Draper said.

Jim Thorpe was born in Oklahoma. He won two gold medals in track in the 1912 Olympic games and played Major League Baseball for six years.

Osborne said he was honored to receive the award.

He said he looked forward to receiving it in Oklahoma — the stomping ground of Nebraska's biggest rival during Osborne's reign.

Before he left to receive the award, Osborne said he was looking forward to the award ceremony.

"I'm surprised and pleased," Osborne said.

## Kerrey honors grade school student

HOPE from page 1

"Josie and her family were having difficulty with their insurance company," Berge said. "They were afraid the company was going to cut them because Josie wasn't getting any better."

"(Kerrey's office) set up a fund to help pay for her cure and the therapy she's receiving. Without this, Josie had a chance of being institutionalized."

Patrick Decker, Maxey Elementary School principal, said last year Josie was presented with the Maxey Gold Star award, which is presented to two influential students at the end of each year.

Decker said when he has a bad day, he goes and finds Josie.

"Inspiration is the key word when it comes to Josie," he said. "She never complains, she's never in a bad mood, and she shows concern for other stu-

dents when they're feeling bad."

Before Kerrey presented Josie with the award, he sat down next to her. "Do you know what a screwdriver is?" Kerrey said as several little hands popped up in the air.

Josie replied: "A tool."

Kerrey said: "Yes, that's what a senator is — a tool that made a (insurance) company do what they didn't want to do."

Ellis Goodman, co-founder and chairman of Heroes of Hope, presented Kerrey, recipient of the United States Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War, with a Heroes of Hope award of his own.

Kerrey responded: "I got my medal because of one hour in which I defended my country. But you, Josie, do this every day."

Goodman said Kerrey has instilled hope in others just as Josie has.

"It's a humbling experience to be a

part of this miraculous union we have in Senator Kerrey and Josie Moore, who help us meet the challenges we have to face everyday," Goodman said.

"We're in the hope-building business and the hero-making business."

The whole auditorium stood and formed a chain, while the fifth-grade chorus, directed by vocal music teacher Sylvia Bailey, sang Josie a rendition of songs to show their support.

Josie's mother, Holly Moore, said: "I thought it was a really neat thing for everyone who takes care of her. Josie works really hard for everything she does."

Josie's night-time nurse, Linda Bergholz, said Josie is a special little girl with a strong spirit.

"She always has a huge smile on her face when I come in," she said. "Josie definitely deserves this. She inspires hope in everyone and jokes. She has some pretty good jokes."

## CFA approves Union's proposal for more money

By Sara Salkeld

Staff writer

CFA approved the Nebraska Unions' appeal for more money on Thursday night and compromised with UPC by adding to its original student fees recommendation.

The budget appeals of the University Program Council and the Nebraska Unions were heard by the Committee for Fees Allocation.

UPC requested CFA reconsider its recommendation of \$119,311 and instead give it the total requested amount of \$124,695.

CFA's original recommendation for

UPC suggested it work on advertising and public relations. In the UPC's appeal, it promised more advertising and the possibility of bringing Maya Angelou next fall.

CFA member Nolan Gaskill said that bringing in an event such as this is a good idea but was not willing to recommend the full requested amount.

CFA member Andy Mixan said some of the cost could be absorbed by selling tickets.

Summer Spivey, CFA member, recommended giving UPC a 5 percent increase over last year's amount, \$2,138 more than the original recommendation, for a total of \$121,449.

This budget was passed with a vote of 6-2.

The Nebraska Unions, in its appeal, asked for \$2,347,264, \$5,436 more than CFA recommended. According to information provided by the Nebraska Unions, the item where CFA proposed the cut was not an increase.

What appeared to be an increase was only the result of moving existing funds into a different location.

CFA approved the appeal with a vote of 5-0, with two members abstaining.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will vote on CFA's recommendations on March 8.



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