

# Daily Nebraskan

Those claiming to be "open-minded" are closed to Columnist Simon Ringsmuth's beliefs against homosexuality  
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The Nebraska passing attack is getting all the attention after a five-touchdown performance  
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UNL theater major Katie Byrd breaks her shell and lets love for acting take flight  
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## More returning students boost UNL's enrollment

The university is starting to rebound from a drop that occurred after UNL raised its standards.

BY JILL ZEMAN

Despite potential tuition hikes and a high administrative turnover, enrollment rates for the University of Nebraska have risen in the past year.

More students are staying at the university after their first year, and the number of transfer students has risen, according to an enrollment report for fall 2000.

Harvey Perlman, University of

Nebraska-Lincoln interim chancellor, said although he was pleased with the rise in enrollment, the university needs to continue to bring in even more students.

Tougher admissions standards, adopted in 1997, contributed to a drop in students the next year. However, the numbers are beginning to rebound, Perlman said.

Perlman said this is consistent with patterns in other universities that have raised admission standards.

To help bolster enrollment in the coming years, Perlman said, the university will work to increase scholarships and financial aid, along with

wooing more out-of-state students.

Despite rising enrollment figures, the incoming freshman class dropped from 3,673 in 1999 to 3,667.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, attributed the slight drop in freshman numbers to an increase in students whose admission was deferred because of academic deficiencies.

Prospective students who do not automatically qualify for admission under the standards can have their application reviewed.

Last year 398 students were deferred for admission, compared with this year's 525, he said.

Often, students who are admit-

ted through the review process do not perform well academically and drop out or flunk out of school, he said.

Because of this, the university has adopted stricter standards for admission by review, which has led to a smaller incoming freshman class, Griesen said.

But the ultimate factor behind the enrollment rise is the increasing retention rate - or the number of students who stay at UNL to complete their degrees, he said.

More students remain at UNL because, under stricter admissions

### Up With People

Total NU enrollment: up 0.4% (compared with Fall 1999)

NU Medical Center: up 4.1%  
University of Nebraska at Omaha: up 1.6%  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln: up 0.6%  
University of Nebraska at Kearney: down 4%

Individual Colleges:  
College of Engineering and Technology (UNL): up 4.7%  
College of Fine and Performing Arts (UNL): up 7.9%

Enrollment is up at the University of Nebraska, with UNL's experiencing a 0.6% gain of students (126) compared with fall 1999 enrollment.

Source: University of Nebraska

Delan Lonowski

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Josh Wolfe/DN

Michael Worneki grabs his head in frustration as he preaches to students behind the Nebraska Union on Monday. Worneki and his family spent the day spreading religious beliefs based on Christianity to passing students.

## Loud and clear: Preachers incite reaction

BY JILL ZEMAN

They walk outside the Nebraska Union, some carrying Bibles, others with posters and a few toting large, wooden crosses.

They come from all over the country - men, women and children alike, to do what they think is necessary.

But what's most noticeable about the religious speakers who spread the word on campus are their voices.

Their loud voices, sometimes yelling, always proclaim what they say is the truth, which can incite debate, discussion or full-fledged screaming matches with some students who stop to listen.

Of several religious groups on campus Monday, one adhered to historical biblical Christianity, said Bob Borer, one of the group's three speakers.

Borer said the speakers came to campus because college students represent the country's future.

Although not all students are receptive to Borer's preaching, he said he was pleased to get people thinking about religion.

"We hope this will lead them to forsake sin and love and obey God," he said.

The group will be speaking at UNL all week, said Ken, a preacher who refused to give his last name.

Ken has been speaking in churches and on campuses for eight years, he said.

Originally from Newark, Ohio, Ken travels across the country for most of the academic year, he said.

Ken said he didn't think the group's tactics, which can include insulting students, were out of line in spreading its message.

"Unless you're assertive, you don't get people's attention," he said.

But not all students are receptive to the speakers' assertiveness.

Anne Underhill, a sophomore psychology major, said she thought the speakers were hypocritical.

Some of them got angry and judged the students, which she said was contrary to their calls for sinless lives.

"He's not loving us; he's yelling at us," she said

about one of the preachers.

Even though some may view the speakers' presence as controversial, unwanted or annoying, their words are guaranteed by the right to freedom of speech, said Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Unions director.

University officials may regulate who speaks within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's buildings.

No restrictions are placed on those who speak outside, he said.

When religious speakers come to preach on campus, Swanson said, he usually receives one complaint, question or inquiry per day.

The university has never removed a preacher from campus, but University Police have been called on occasion to watch the crowd if arguments become intense and could elevate to a physical confrontation, Swanson said.

Despite some angry students who circled some of the speakers, Swanson said, he did not call the police Monday.

"If you don't like what they say, exercise your right to walk away," he said.

## Drought distresses local, state wildlife; fish hit hardest

BY GEORGE GREEN

As crops across Nebraska wither from drought, most local wildlife is alive and well Nebraska Game and Park officials said.

"We have not seen much of an impact," said Jeff Hoffman, district manager for the southeast Nebraska wildlife division.

Many animals can get moisture from plants, insects and dew if open water sources are unavailable, he said.

A drought must be extremely severe to affect local wildlife, he said.

Although most animals are surviving,

some animals are feeling the drought's dry grip, said Scott Taylor, upland game program manager.

Pheasant counts in southwest Nebraska, the area hit hardest by the drought, are lower than usual, he said.

"It is reasonable to assume the drought had an effect on the pheasants, but there is not a way to tell exactly," he said.

To increase grazing land for livestock, state officials opened new areas to animals, which reduced habitats for pheasants and other animals, Taylor said.

But the emergency grazing areas were not opened until after the pheasant's nest-

ing season, which reduced the opening's impact on the birds, he said.

White-tailed deer are also suffering from the drought, said Karl Menzel, big game program manager.

More cases of the Blue Tongue virus, an infection that afflicts deer, have been reported this year, he said.

Hot and dry temperatures increase the stress levels in deer, which makes them more susceptible to the virus. Biting gnats spread the virus, he said.

Afflicted deer develop high temperatures and begin hemorrhaging before they die, Menzel said.

Some deer, though, survive the virus,

"It is reasonable to assume the drought had an effect on the pheasants, but there is not a way to tell exactly."

Jeff Hoffman

southeast Nebraska wildlife division district manager

but high temperatures decrease their likelihood of survival, he said.

Nebraska fish have been hit hardest by the drought, said Dave Tunink, assistant administrator for game and parks.

Because of the drought, large numbers of fish have died in southwest Nebraska lakes.

Swanson Reservoir, one of the lakes affected most by the drought, is 78 percent empty, Tunink said.

Most lakes are used primarily for irrigation, so when a drought sets in, farmers draw more water from them, he said.

Please see DROUGHT on 6

## Candidate: College is key to UNL

Jim Lewis, chairman of the university's mathematics and statistics department, is vying for the dean spot in the College of Arts and Sciences.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Jim Lewis has been at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for nearly 30 years - 30 years longer than any of the other candidates for the dean of arts and sciences.

On Monday, Lewis, a professor and chairman of mathematics and statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, wrapped up an interview that spanned two weeks.

He was the final candidate to interview for the dean position.

Like the three candidates before him, Lewis spoke to faculty members about the importance of arts and sciences colleges.

He said an arts and sciences college was crucial in preparing students for the world.

It is the best place to hone critical-thinking skills, creativity and excitement for learning, Lewis said.

"Arts and sciences contributes to the betterment of society," he said.

Lewis said he had put up with deans in the past he did not agree with.

He said he was pleased to be given the opportunity to fill their shoes.

Past deans have failed to work well with all departments, Lewis said.

The arts and sciences dean especially needs to focus on sustaining a vision of where the college is headed, Lewis said.

Faculty members should not have to switch plans when each new administrator arrives, he said.

Lewis said his goal was to focus on attaining a high level of excellence and quality education in the arts and sciences and at UNL.

"Let's go on in terms of trying to build a strong future," he said.

The arts and sciences dean and faculty members need to focus on external funding, Lewis said.

Enhancing the college's resources is always a concern, he said, and the university should look to strike partnerships with businesses to bring in more outside money.

Lewis said his commitment to the university was strong and should help him with the dean position.

He has worked at UNL since 1971, and two of his children and his wife graduated from the university.

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