

Daily Nebraskan

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UNL graduate returns to Andrews Hall to read from his book of dark, yet funny fiction
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Political interest rises as saga continues

■ The uncertainty about who will be the next president has some students wanting to know more.

BY MARGARET BEHM

It's not often students call their professors at home just to chat about current events.

But the presidential saga that has played out over the last week on television and in the newspapers has spiked students' interest — so much so, some couldn't wait for class to discuss it.

"I've even received calls at home

and e-mails from students asking questions," said Judd Choate, chief undergraduate adviser for the political science department.

Choate said he's impressed by students' engagement in the election.

"My students have been very interested by it," he said.

John Comer, a political science professor, said those between the ages of 18 and 25 aren't typically enthralled with politics.

Despite daily developments and uncertainty about who will be president — seven days after the election — the people in his class still aren't inspired to

pay close attention to it, he said.

"I don't know that this election was any more energizing to students than years past," he said. "In general, young people are not interested in politics, and this year confirms it."

John Hibbing, a political science professor, said the election of 1992 was of interest to young people. But in 1996, younger voters weren't interested, he said.

In this election, students are interested in the process that will eventually determine the next president, Hibbing said.

"The difference is that most of the

election interest is up because of the unusual results," he said.

Choate said 20 out of 22 students in one of his classes watched the election results at his house. Some of the students stayed until 11 p.m.

"They weren't just doing this for the free pizza and to brown-nose with the professor," he said. "They were very interested."

Choate also is the adviser for Pi Sigma Alpha, a political science honorary. He said students have shown more interest in the group's events since the campaign began.

"We have had political events where

60 people have shown up, and these were events in which you may expect 15 or 20," he said.

Comer said most people are more than ready for the election results to be decided.

"Students, like everyone else, want to see this end," he said.

Even though the public would much rather concentrate on things besides the election, it wants to be sure the right person is elected, Comer said.

"Usually after the election, people like to forget about it as soon as possible," he said. "Clearly, they can't do that in this case, and they aren't."



BUNDLE UP: Junior environmental studies major Megan Lien, left, and sophomore communications major Brittany Sill battle the cold weather Monday as they walk home from class. temperatures dropped into the upper teens Monday with the wind chill at about 5 degrees. Derek Lippincott/DN

Students, plants feel winter's ire

BY JILL CONNER

Students are not the only members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln preparing for winter, according to Robert Hensarling, director of UNL Landscape Services.

"Plants are getting in the mood, as well," he said.

Most plants are getting into their transitional stages, Hensarling said. That means it's a good time for transplantation, he said.

"Right now before it gets too cold, we transplant a few trees and move them around to different locations on campus," he said.

It's best to move trees in the winter months while they are dormant, he said. Workers move the trees from construction sites

to other sites, Hensarling said. Students — and vegetation — should expect snow by Friday, said Mike Powers, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

Along with the snow last weekend, it will be snowing again by Thursday, Powers said.

"It looks like at least through the rest of the week, (the weather will be) basically down and dirty," he said.

The snow this past weekend is not unusual, Powers said.

Mike Powers
meteorologist

"The average (first) snowfall in Lincoln is around the 17th or 19th of November, but we have had snows as early as the end of September," he said.

Hensarling said the combination of this summer's dryness and the new snow will have an impact on plants on campus.

"It's tough on the plants; they are already stressed," he said.

The plants need a steady flow of moisture in increments, Hensarling said.

That won't be a problem, said National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Byrd. Byrd said it will be at least four to five degrees colder this winter than last.

"It looks like we'll have a few arctic outbreaks with very cold wind chills," he said.

Near-normal snowfall is around 28 inches, he said.

Hensarling said the snow will be beneficial to some trees.

"The snow gives us actually an insulating factor in some sense, so we don't get a hard freezing to some tissues," he said.

UNL spins new features into Web site

■ The new design offers students up-to-date information on campus events and weather.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Students surfing the Web can still land on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Web site.

They just might not recognize where they've landed.

UNL launched a revamped Web site Monday, <http://www.unl.edu>. It looks different, and it has more up-to-date content that changes daily.

Robert Crisler, publications specialist for university public relations, said the Web site was changed to make it more accessible to students and others who use it.

"It was done to present a page for the university community that people use to orient themselves in the morning," Crisler said.

The top two features on the new site are "On Campus Today" and "The Week Ahead."

These will change every day, Crisler said, to update what's happening at UNL.

"This information is relevant to

the day instead of the page being an index for the university," he said.

The links on the old page are available on the new site. Users can access them from folder-shaped tabs at the top of the Web page.

The new site also shows the day's weather in the top right-hand corner and has a "plaza cam" that updates the view in front of Broyhill Fountain every minute.

For those with slow Internet connections, clicking on the low-bandwidth link in the top left-hand corner takes users back to the old UNL site.

Talk of updating the Web site

started in July, Crisler said. The previous site had been around for four or five years and needed to be redone.

"We needed the changes to bring (the site) up to speed," Crisler said. "(The new site) presents a face that shows a vital academic community."

A lot of the changes stemmed from research on Web site usability. But the new site also is organized to focus on certain university "treasures," he said.

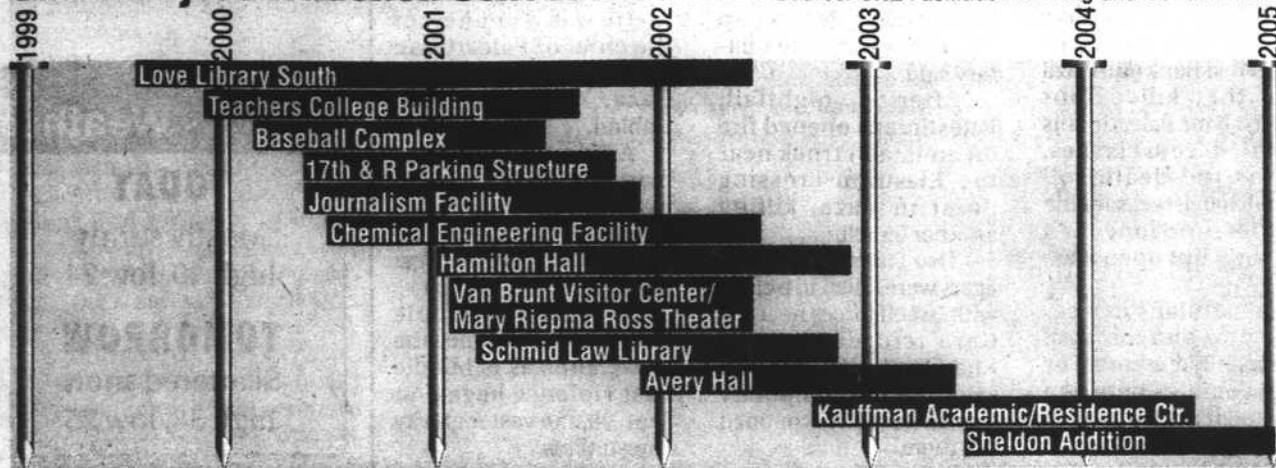
A different picture runs down the right column of the home page each

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Technical difficulties may delay journalism school's move

University Construction Schedule

Source: UNL Facilities Planning and Construction



BY VERONICA DAEHN

UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications is still making its move to the old Security Mutual Life building at 200 N. Centennial Mall.

But it might not be complete by the target date of next fall, said Linda Shipley, assistant dean of the college.

"We're moving along on the renovation," Shipley said. "And we're still excited about the plans we're seeing from the architects. But I can't guarantee everything will be set up in the fall."

The final deadline for the college to be out of Avery Hall is December 2001. In January 2002, the space will be transformed into a mathematics, statistics and computer science area.

Before the college of journalism can move to its new home, mechanical and technical things still need to be done to the new building, Shipley said.

Asbestos is being removed right now, and other codes put forth by the American Disabilities Act and the university are being met, she said.

This is time-consuming, Shipley said.

Making sure the wiring in the new building is compatible with the college's equipment is important, as is hooking up satellite dishes and making sure the phones work, she said.

"A lot of what we're doing now has to do with mechanical things," Shipley said. "We're trying to get the infrastructure of the

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