

Printing for life: Marc Zmarzly examines the status of marriage in modern life in Opinion/4



The Nebraska baseball team is serious about getting to the College World Series this year In SportsWednesday/10



Alexandria 2112 plays to nearly every crowd in Lincoln In Arts/5



## Grade reports to add minuses

UNL's Academic Senate approves the new grading system, which it says will be implemented soon.

BY LINDSEY BAKER

Academic Senate members approved the controversial plus-minus grading system 38 to 13 at Tuesday's Academic Senate meeting in the Nebraska East Union.

The system, proposed by Associate English Professor Jim Ford in December and sent to the Grading and Evaluations Committee for review in January, calls for the addition of minus grades to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's

grading system.

The Grading and Evaluations Committee returned its study conclusions Tuesday with a recommendation for further discussion. The committee's report detailed pros and cons of perceived benefits, and concluded that UNL should consider faculty and student opinions.

The chairman of the committee, associate agronomy Professor Don Lee, said the three main reasons UNL faculty members want to move to a plus-minus grading system include achieving a more standardized grading system, more grading options for professors and less opportunity for grade inflation.

He said the proposed cost to implement the grading system eight

years ago was \$3,000 to \$4,000; the committee did not discuss costs for this implementation.

Grades transferred throughout the University of Nebraska system were also an issue: With the adoption of UNL's plus-minus grading system, problems could occur transferring credits to or from the Universities of Nebraska at Omaha and Kearney.

The committee suggested UNL's Academic Senate propose the addition of minus grades to the other NU campuses.

After the senate discussed the motion, it moved to question and then approved the motion.

"I was very grateful for the committee's report even though I didn't agree with the conclusions," Ford

said.

He said the committee's data was outdated and that the administrators he talked to at UNO and UNK said grade transfers would be no trouble.

Ford said he was pleased that the motion, put before the senate and voted down eight years ago, passed this time around.

"I'm just happy that the senate agreed that this is a good idea," he said. "It's happening all over the country."

Senate President-elect Miles Bryant said the motion will now go to the Records and Registration office

Please see PLUS on 7

## Cheerleader funds axed by Athletics

BY CHARLIE KAUFFMAN

The faces of the Nebraska Spirit Squad will be different next year.

Members of both the Cornhusker cheerleading Squad and the Scarlets were forced off their teams — and for some, out of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — after the Athletic Marketing Department cut all out-of-state tuition waivers Monday afternoon.

Shawn Perry, a senior cheerleader who was planning to return to UNL next semester, said close to 95 percent of the squad will be gone next year because of the cuts, and the quality of the team will suffer as a result.

"Personally, the talent level is definitely going to drop dramatically," Perry said. "(The fans) are not going to be able to see what they've seen in the past."

But an Athletic Department spokesman said it was left with no other choice when facing a budget crisis.

Barry Swanson, assistant director of marketing for the Athletic Department, said cutting the spirit squad's tuition waivers was the department's "only option" to counteract a shortage of funds.

Swanson said the team will have to rely more on products of Nebraska high schools.

"I think we can find qualified candidates," Swanson said. "Just because we don't have that many (out-of-state members) doesn't mean they won't do as good a job."

Swanson said the cuts were based on "strictly budgetary issues" and that no other sports were affected.

Perry said he didn't think the teams deserved such a drastic cut.

This year's cheerleading squad had one of its best showings at the national competition, coming in sixth place. The Scarlets finished second in the nation at its last competition.

Scarlets Captain Charisse Deuel, a UNL senior, said the quality of next year's Scarlets will also be affected.

"I don't think the team will ever be at the same level of talent," Deuel said. "It's going to be very, very difficult to find 12 girls who are as talented in the state of Nebraska."

Deuel said all seven of the 12 Scarlets who are from out of state will be leaving UNL after this semester.

One such Scarlet is sophomore Julia Pagano, who said she will be forced to return to her hometown of Lawrence, Kan., after this semester and transfer to the University of Kansas.

"Nebraska doesn't raise dancers like some states do," Pagano said. "Now they're going to be drawing from a state that doesn't have a nationally recognized dance program."

Nebraska forbids its high school cheerleaders to perform any kind of aerial stunts, so incoming squad members from Nebraska would have to

Please see CHEER on 3

RIGHT: The ASUN presidential and vice presidential candidates assembled for the first of three planned debates. BELOW: Melanie Mitzel, first vice-presidential candidate for The One party, stands to speak at the first student government debate. The event was held Tuesday evening in the Nebraska Union.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

## Platforms set in first debate

BY SHARON KOLBET

If spectators came looking for mudslinging, they went home disappointed.

Tuesday's hour-long and predominantly diplomatic debate gave UNL students their first chance to see all five Association of Students at the University of Nebraska presidential candidates and four first vice-presidential candidates gathered in the Nebraska Union.

The event was moderated by Daily Nebraskan Editor Sarah Baker and Managing Editor Bradley Davis.

During the debate, the presidential candidates spoke

about their platforms and addressed the question of what they felt was the university's most glaring weakness.

John Matzen, an independent presidential candidate, was the first to speak. He reiterated his desire to have a Chik-fil-A restaurant in Lincoln, but said his campaign was about more than just "the chicken platform."

"I am caring for the students of UNL," Matzen said.

Andy Mixon, presidential candidate for the No Bull party, said he was running for ASUN president because his party's policies would benefit students. Mixon outlined his platform and emphasized his com-

*"UNL is not seen as an attractive place for faculty to come to."*

Angela Clements  
NUForce candidate

mitment to changing Dead Week policies.

The One Party's presidential candidate, Jaron Luttich, said he wanted to help students be more informed. He said he wanted to change class descriptions to ensure they

Please see DEBATE on 3

## Senators boil down teacher pay solutions

BY GEORGE GREEN

The Education Committee has left no stone unturned.

For the last month, committee members have heard countless hours of conflicting testimony focusing on Nebraska's lagging teacher salaries.

Some testifiers, following the lead of Gov. Mike Johanns, warned senators to leave taxes alone.

Others predicted an educational disaster if teacher salaries don't change soon.

And still others offered a parade of compromises on the issue.

Weighed down with this testimony, committee members will begin this week to hash out a plan to help teachers, but no one is laying down a firm deadline for finishing the proposal.

When they do complete the plan, the committee will introduce the proposal as a bill and drop it into the general legislative pool for debate by the whole body.

Senators moved a step closer to crafting the bill when they heard one of the last rounds of testimony dealing with teacher pay Tuesday.

Most of the bills revolved around the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, the act that funnels dollars into the state aid formula

*"People know we graduate good teachers and they're willing to pay for them."*

Bob Wickersham  
senator

for schools.

Sen. Ron Raikes of Lincoln, chairman of the Education Committee, introduced two bills, LB521 and LB522, on the subject.

Both bills would let some districts increase levies on property taxes to earn additional revenue and allow school districts to increase their budgets beyond current levels.

Raikes said Education Committee members need to start reflecting on bills like LB521 and LB522 and then begin isolating priorities.

"The next step is to try to flesh out a proposal with a cost," he said.

Thus far, the committee has picked out about half a dozen general ideas they would like to see in the bill.

But the senators, like the conflicting testifiers, also disagree on how to handle

Please see EDUCATION on 3

## Party faces penalty

The Electoral Commission decides to penalize the NUForce candidate.

BY MARGARET BEHM

Two decisions that affect the student government election were made Tuesday by the Electoral Commission.

The NUForce party got some bittersweet news when the commission ruled that Rowena Pacquette, second vice-presidential candidate, could still run, but she would be penalized.

Pacquette's candidacy was questioned after she failed to turn in on time 200 signatures and a filing form.

John D. Conley, electoral commission chairman, said the commission is letting her run because students should have the chance to decide who the second vice-president is.

"We felt it was more of a disservice to students to not let her run," he said.

Angela Clements, presidential candidate for NUForce, said she was satisfied with the commission's decision.

"We're just happy that Rowena can run," she said.

The commission ruled that NUForce would be fined \$30, and Pacquette can't participate in the next student government debate, to be held February 15.

Conley said the penalties serve as a reminder that candidates should obey election rules.

"We had to be able to send the message that you have to meet deadlines," he said.

Clements said the commission didn't silence Pacquette when it banned her from the debate.

"It's unfortunate that Rowena can't be in the second debate," she said. "But there's a lot of other ways that Rowena can get her message out."

Clements said she will represent Pacquette during the debate when she speaks.

Pacquette could not be reached for comment.

In other news, the commission also put its foot down and temporarily suspended the group No Mo Ho's campaign activities, said Conley.

The ASUN Special Topics Committee will take up the investigation next to determine further action.

Please see ELECTORAL on 7

## Ex-band director guilty in sex case

BY JILL CONNER

The former band director for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln pled guilty in a District County Court on Tuesday to a charge of attempting to have sex with what he imagined to be a 14-year-old girl.

John "Jay" Kloecker, 42, admitted he wrote sexually explicit e-mails to someone he thought was a teen-age girl and then set up a meeting in Omaha to have sex with her.

But the girl he thought he was talking to for five months was actually a state patrol Internet Crimes Against Children's Unit.

Although Kloecker was suspended from the university in June, he resigned in December.

In exchange for the guilty plea, the original charge of conspiracy to commit first degree sexual assault on a child was reduced.

With the new agreement, Kloecker faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, instead of 50 years.

Another part of Kloecker's plea agreement is that he must register as a sex offender with the Nebraska State Patrol, a stipulation he would not have to do under the former charge.

Kloecker's sentencing date was set for April 20.

Kloecker could not be reached on Tuesday when contacted by the Daily Nebraskan.

Kloecker, an associate professor of music, was UNL's band director since August 1987.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.