

Daily Nebraskan

Columnist Yasmin McEwen finds there's a time to get real
In Opinion/4



With many new faces, the Nebraska soccer team works to retool its defense this spring
In SportsThursday/10



Tom Hanks is a UNL student pick for an Oscar
In Arts/8



Bigger Rigor

Students in the Honors Program must now maintain a higher than B+ grade point average with the decision by the Academic Senate to add minuses to the grading scale. Honors Program officials have decided not to adjust the required GPA in light of the decision.

Old grading scale	New grading scale
A 4.00	A 4.00
B+ 3.50	A- 3.67
B 3.00	B+ 3.33

Melanie Falk/DN

Minuses may sting honors students

BY LINDSEY BAKER

Next semester, university students will have to relearn the ABCs of UNL grading.

For honors program students, the new lesson stops at A.

This week, honors program students received an e-mail from program administrators stating the current grade point average to remain in the program, a 3.5 or B+ will not change to 3.33, the GPA assigned to the B+ on the newly adopted plus-minus grading system.

That means honors students will have to maintain above a B+ grade point average.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate approved a move from the current 9-point grading scale to a 13-point plus-minus grading scale in February.

The senate decided the new scale will be implemented in the Fall of 2001.

Academic Senate President Sheila Schiedeler said she was happy the administration decided to implement the plus-minus grading system this fall, but she didn't think the Honors Program's decision to keep the 3.5 requirement sounded fair.

She said she hoped the honors office had rational discussions about the decision with both honors staff and students.

"This is not a result of changing the grading system that we want to see," Scheideler said.

Judd Choate, a UNL visiting assistant political science professor who teaches honors courses, said he suspects honors administrators made the decision to stay in line with competing universities.

"We're stuck with ratcheting up standards to compete," he said. Some honors students had negative reactions to the decision.

"The standards are already difficult enough," sophomore chemical engineering major Justin Vala said.

Vala, attending UNL on a Regents scholarship, said he is particularly con-

cerned about the decision because he has to maintain an A average to keep his full-ride scholarship.

He said he feared the Honors Program would become a "grades and performance-based program" instead of an enriching, interest-based program.

"Focusing on students and trying to move forward is really what's important," Vala said.

Undeclared freshman and honors student Shannon Mullaney said she doesn't oppose the addition of minus grades, but she does oppose the program's decision to stay at the 3.5.

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ASUN

Senate OKs newspaper fee request

BY MARGARET BEHM

After three weeks of debate in student government over the funding for the Daily Nebraskan, the newspaper was granted its full funding Wednesday.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska voted 14-7 to give the newspaper \$50,862, or \$1.19 per student, per semester.

Joel Schafer, ASUN president, said he was tickled pink the newspaper received the full amount requested. Schafer said he had been working for weeks to spread the word to senators that the newspaper deserved the money.

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Joel Schafer
ASUN president

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The Committee for Fees Allocation voted earlier in the semester 6-2 in favor of a giving the Daily Nebraskan \$50,300 to pay for a portion of the paper's printing and production costs. With this funding, the newspaper estimated a profit of \$61,350 for this year.

When this amount hit the senate floor three weeks ago, debate kept the funding from being approved. Senators were confused about whether or not the newspaper should be given the money because it has about \$300,000 set aside in a Money

Market account.

Russell Willbanks, Daily Nebraskan Publications Board chairman, said although the amount sounds like a lot of money, it will only cover a portion of the production costs of the newspaper.

"We're not asking you to approve funding for anything other than 20 percent of publishing costs," he said.

The money is set aside in case of libel suits, equipment breakdowns or technology upgrades, Willbanks said.

"The contingency fund has to be as big as it can be for emergencies," he said.

And plus, Willbanks said, the newspaper doesn't have a crystal ball or a good psychic to predict future advertising revenues.

Please see ASUN on 6



Nate Wagner/DN

Though Chancellor Harvey Perlman undoubtedly spends a good deal of time in his office, there's a lighter side to him few students may see.

The real Harvey

Common man's chancellor: He's not all business

BY JILL ZEMAN

Harvey Perlman is a lawyer. No ifs, ands or buts about it. His comments are well thought out, and he usually doesn't deviate from what he wants to say.

If he doesn't know something, he'll say so. And even in the height of his seriousness, he has a way of saying "no comment" with flair.

Perlman, chosen Friday as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's 19th chancellor, doesn't have a lot of free time.

His hobby, he joked, is going to banquets and welcoming groups of people who visit or are interested in UNL.

But the lawyer and chancellor hats come off when the 59-year-old Perlman goes home, he said.

"My family wouldn't put up with that stuff," he said. At home, Perlman isn't anything like what the stu-

dents see, said his wife, Susan.

The Perlmans have two daughters - Anne, who is a doctor, and Amie, a UNL senior psychology major. Outside of work, life is casual, low-key and relaxed, Susan said.

"We make fun of him a lot," she said with a laugh. And he can cook, too.

Perlman came back with a slew of recipes after he and his oldest daughter, Anne, went on a bike trip through Northern Italy, Susan said.

According to Susan, one of the chancellor's best dishes is angel-hair pasta with tomato and basil.

Although he now leads the state's largest school, Perlman wasn't always a top name in academics.

He began his academic career at the University of Nebraska in 1959, where he majored in journalism for a semester.

He then tried out an English major, but that ended when he learned he had to read 25 books over a sum-

mer. Next came political science aspirations, which lasted for about a month.

And finally, Perlman ended up with a degree in history.

"To the extent I paid attention, I liked it," he said. For the first two years of college, Perlman picked and chose which classes he wanted to attend regularly.

But in his defense, the partying didn't start until Friday - unlike students who celebrate Thirsty Thursday now.

Perlman was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu and served as the fraternity's representative to the Interfraternity Council.

"The fraternity had grand visions of me being a member of the Innocents Society," Perlman said

Please see PERLMAN on 3

Fetal tissue bill could ban common medical practices

Vaccines and other drugs may be affected by the new bill aimed to stop fetal-tissue research.

BY GEORGE GREEN

A bill to ban fetal tissue research in Nebraska might do more than stop researchers.

In fact, in a recent evaluation of LB462, Lincoln attorney Alan Peterson found the bill would ban all Nebraskans from any vaccines, drugs or treatments derived from fetal tissue research.

Legislature

The bill - originally aimed at stopping fetal tissue research at UNMC - contains sweeping language that perverts its initial intent, Peterson wrote in a letter to the NU Board of Regents.

"LB462 has extremely broad scope, and creates a myriad of legal effects not all intended by its drafters," he wrote.

Sen. Philip Erdman of Bayard, who designated LB462 as his priority bill, said he hadn't had a chance to review Peterson's work.

But, he said, he expected opponents

of the bill to raise concerns about the bill's legal ramifications.

"It doesn't surprise me," he said. Peterson's findings didn't necessarily surprise Harold M. Maurer, University of Nebraska Medical Center chancellor.

He said the bill's effects were significant enough to warrant a letter to senators.

"I felt compelled to say something to the legislators about the consequences of this bill," he said.

In a letter to Nebraska's 49 senators, Maurer explained how much the bill could disrupt the practice of medicine

in Nebraska.

Specifically, he wrote the bill would prohibit any state-owned facility or institution from administering any type of medicine that was discovered through fetal tissue research.

He said new vaccines for Hepatitis A, chicken pox and rubella would all be off limits if the bill became law.

The language of the bill would also forbid people from using Medicaid dollars to pay for any treatments that involved fetal tissue research, he said.

Erdman's priority bill would spill into the public arena, Maurer wrote, by barring private institutions from

accepting Medicaid funds if they delivered any vaccine, drug or treatment that could be traced to fetal tissue research.

Any institution - public or private - that violated the bill's provisions could be brought up on felony charges.

Such an extensive list of consequences would severely damage the quality of health care in Nebraska, Maurer said.

"I don't think it's in the best interest of the health care of Nebraska," he said.

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