

Perlman shows other side at home

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referring to the chancellor's honorary with a laugh.

"That didn't work out." He'd attend football games and took spring break trips to Texas and Mexico.

All in all, his college career was typical, he said.

But the below-average student got a turnaround when he met his future wife on a blind date in his junior year of college.

Said Susan: "He was not going to class, not buying his books, but he was getting by because he was so smart."

Harvey liked to listen to bag-pipe music, which was something that made him stick out to Susan, she said.

"He's always been interesting and pretty eccentric," she said.

After they met, Harvey would conveniently show up at the library when Susan was there.

"I'd either have to watch her study or read myself," he said.

But after Perlman starting cracking the books and going to classes, his grades began to rise.

It's a good thing because when he entered law school, there wasn't much time to play around.

Anyone was admitted, but up to 25 percent of students who enrolled flunked out.

Void of lofty goals to become the next Perry Mason, Perlman enrolled in law school to avoid being drafted in the Vietnam War, Susan said.

And when Perlman met the law college dean, he was told he wasn't law school material.

Perlman surpassed the dean's expectations, though, and eventually became dean of the NU College of Law in 1983, where he served until 1998.

The law school dean who doubted Perlman would succeed ended up eating his words in more ways than one.

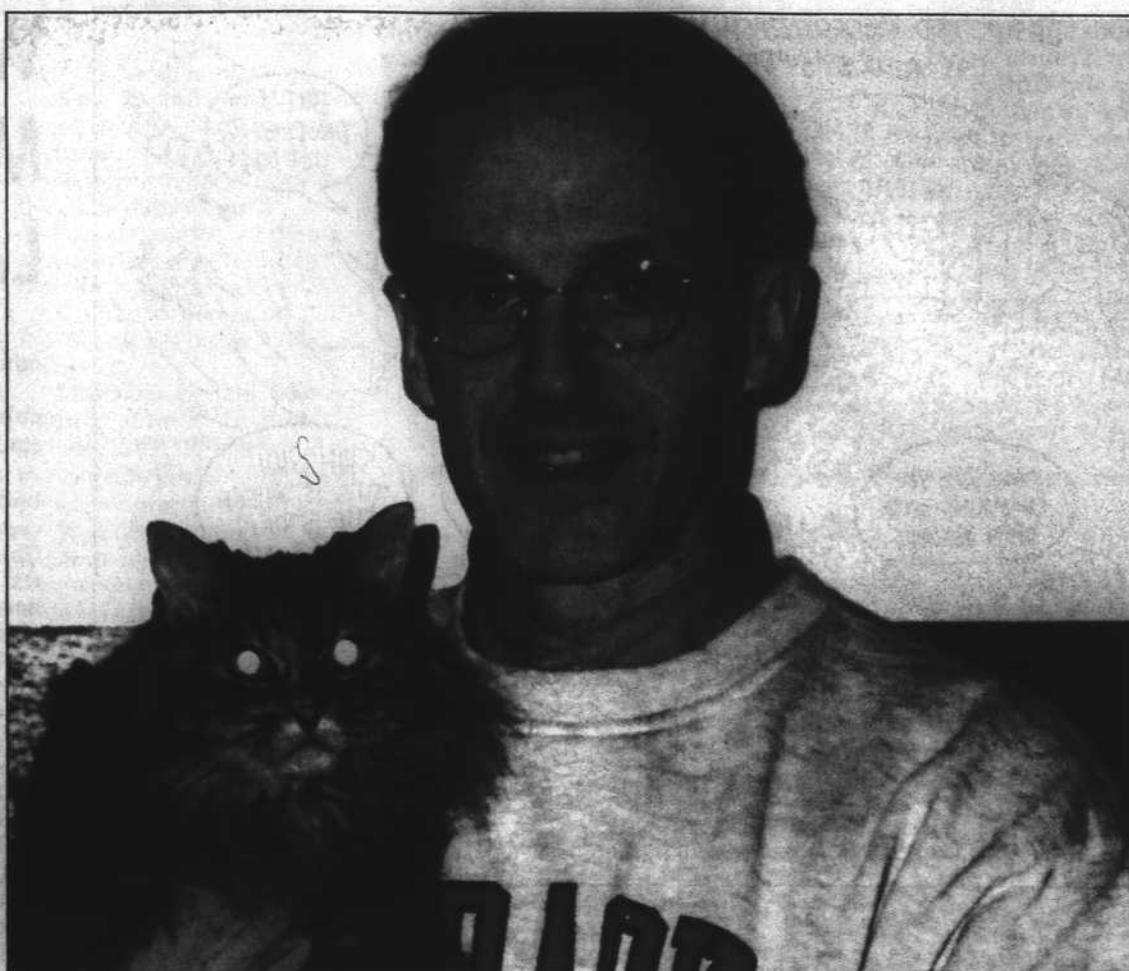
The dean's son married Perlman's daughter, Anne, who recently gave birth to a son, Will.

"(Will's) got a law dean as a grandfather on each side," Susan said. "Poor guy."

Perlman has won favor with both students and administrators.

Joan Leitzel, former senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, worked with Perlman while he was dean of the law college.

Leitzel is president of the



Chancellor Harvey Perlman poses with his cat, Coco, a 12-year-old tabby with finicky eating habits. Perlman was featured with his cat in a national newspaper of higher education.

University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Leitzel served as interim chancellor when former UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier left to become president of Penn State University in State College, Pa.

Perlman stepped up as acting senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, working alongside Leitzel, she said.

At work, Perlman is task-oriented and analytical, Leitzel said. "He's a very straightforward person, and he's skilled at arguing," she said. "You ought to have your ducks in line when you're talking to him."

But Perlman's sense of humor helped him handle conflicts and difficult situations, Leitzel said.

Perlman was the right choice for UNL's next chancellor, Leitzel said.

"He's very student-concerned," she said. "He's easy to work with and is a good partner."

In any given week, Perlman is featured in newspapers where he talks about academic prioritiza-

tion, tuition, recruitment, bioethics and salaries, among other topics.

But last week, the more human side of Perlman was shown in The Chronicle for Higher Education, a newspaper for college and university faculty members and administrators.

Perlman and his cat, Coco, were featured in Friday's edition in a section on college and university leaders and their pets.

In the paper, Perlman described his 12-year-old cat as a pet who throws up her food whenever possible.

Coco is fed one or two bits of cat food 27 times a day.

Perlman also said Coco is "particularly agile at throwing up on a new piece of furniture; she can spot those as we bring them into the house."

On a Pepsi-sponsored campus, Perlman chooses to drink neither Pepsi nor Coke.

Rather, he said his favorite daytime beverage is bottled water. And when the sun goes down,

it's beer, but not any cheap domestic beer.

Perlman goes for imported beers. Red Tail Ale was the brew in the fridge Wednesday night, Susan said.

"He's picky about his beer, but he has one every night," she said.

Although he makes decisions for the future of the university every day, Perlman is still indecisive about what he wants to do.

He doesn't want to retire as chancellor, though he's made a commitment to remain at the post as long as he's wanted and is in good health. Rather, he'd like to step down and teach at the law college as long as he can.

But he doesn't have a time frame for when this will all happen.

For Perlman, it's one-day-at-a-time, and he can't emphasize enough that he's not a planner.

"There's a John Lennon quote that says, 'Life is what happens to you when you're too busy making other plans,'" he said. "I like that."

Ban on research affects vaccines

RESEARCH from page 1

To survive, patients who needed the banned medicines and treatments would have to cross Nebraska's borders to get them, he said.

"If this law had been in place 55 years ago, we and our children would have had to travel to another state to receive the polio vaccine," Maurer said.

Peterson's new findings surfaced in the midst of an intense debate over fetal tissue research that began last year.

Currently, the bill is stuck in the Judiciary Committee because it doesn't have enough support to advance or enough opposition to get killed.

Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur holds a key vote in the near evenly divided committee.

Connealy, who has said he's against abortion, has voted against advancing the bill because he said the bill doesn't directly affect abortions in Nebraska.


"This isn't about abortions," he said.

Instead, Connealy said, the bill is about doing the "right thing" for the health of Nebraskans.

Sen. Dwite Pedersen of Elkhorn, who wrote the bill, has said he will probably request that Legislature pull the bill out of committee through a vote of the entire body.

Maurer said no matter what the senators do, they need to give the new findings a close look before debating the bill.


"I would hope they would look at this material very carefully," he said.



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All students who have successfully completed the Essential Experiences program will be recognized at the Chancellor's Leadership Recognition Ceremony on **April 10, 2001, 5:30 pm-8pm** Nebraska Union. Check-in and hors d'oeuvres will take place from 5:30-6:30 with the recognition ceremony following at 6:45.

Deadline: Essential Experiences recognition requirements due **March 30, 2001 by 4:00 pm**. Submit completed Essential Experiences Reflection Sheets to Student Involvement, 200 Nebraska Union. Further information & reflection sheets are on our website: <http://www.unl.edu/involved>. Questions: call Reshell Ray at 472-2454.



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
University of Nebraska

ABCs of grading relearned

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"I think the idea of a B+ should still be the same whether the points change or not," she said.

Vala said he thought keeping the Honors Program standard so high could make enthusiastic students bitter and affect student recruitment.

Choate said he didn't think students would be discouraged from applying to the Honors Program.

"The people that tend to seek out the additional work ... are usually the people that prioritize their academic life over their social life and find formal barriers to be rather easy challenges to overcome," Choate said.

Charlyne Berens, an assistant journalism professor, said the honors students she teaches

are all hard-working students who take their studies seriously.

"I don't know how this would affect them," she said. "Everyone I've had here has done excellent work. I don't anticipate that it would be a problem."

Berens said she probably wouldn't change her grading methods to be more lenient to honors students. As it is now, she said, she grades students based on their ability to meet class standards.

"Most of the time, I don't pay that much attention to who's an honors student in my class," she said.

Choate said the real challenges in the Honors Program come with the major projects students have to complete in their junior and senior years, and by that time, students in the program have been narrowed

down to those "who have met both the criteria and have the internal drive" to succeed in the program.

Patrice Berger, director of the Honors Program, and Karen Lyons, assistant director of the Honors Program, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

Earl Hawkey, director of registration and records, said the decision on whether the Honors Program grade standards would be lowered rested with the program's administrators.

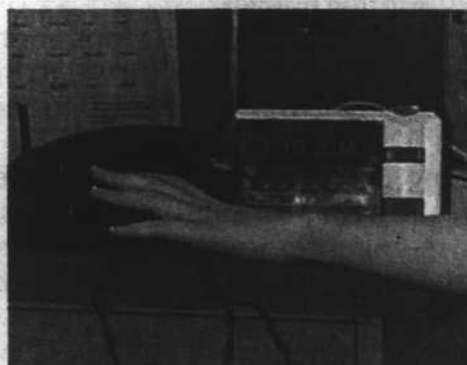
As it is, Hawkey said, there is no way to tell how the grading scale change will affect student GPAs.

After the first semester change is implemented, Hawkey said, then data could be gathered as to how the new scale affected students' grade point averages.



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