



## THIS WEEK

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Recent survey suggests Americans have risky sex lives.

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Students prepare for upcoming exams.

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## Upcoming events

**Sexual Assault Prevention & Drug and Alcohol Awareness:** Wed. Dec. 7, 7-8:15 p.m. in Ockinga Conference Room. This is an overview class of drug and alcohol awareness on campus.

**Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) Meeting/Holiday Reading & Potluck Party:** Thu. Dec. 8, 5-7 p.m. in Thomas Hall room 111.

**UNK Math Club meeting:** Thu. Dec. 8, 6-7 p.m. in Founders Hall foyer. The Math Club meets the second Thursday of each month of the regular school year.

**UNK String Project Concert:** Fri. Dec. 9, 7:30-9 p.m. in Fine Arts Building Recital Hall

**Concerts-on-the-Platte Series: Wes Hird & Company:** Mon. Dec. 12, 7:30-9 p.m. Fine Arts Building Recital Hall

# Continued stormy job outlook has college grads on edge

BY REBECCA MCMICKELL  
Antelope Staff

When Heather Renter walked into her first college class, she felt like anything was possible through higher education. Four years, \$20,000 and one biology degree later, she isn't so sure.

"I'm feeling pretty low lately. I grew up thinking that a college degree was the key to a better life, but I don't know what to think right now," she said.

Renter, a perfectly employable 23-year-old with bright eyes, a personable smile and a firm handshake, graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in May. Her once glowing ambition has faded slightly in the six months since commencement.

Renter is among the millions of recent college grads in search of full-time work. In an age of layoffs, downsizing and staggering national unemployment rates, col-

lege graduates are now facing the worst job market in decades according to numerous data.

A survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers says that just 19.7 percent of college graduates in 2009 who had



**"I'm feeling pretty low lately. I grew up thinking that a college degree was the key to a better life, but I don't know what to think right now."**

Heather Renter  
2011 UNK graduate

applied for jobs secured one by graduation, compared to 51 percent of 2007 college grads and 26 percent of the class of 08.

The study also outlines a decline in starting salaries for college grads. The median starting salary for students graduating

from four-year colleges in 2009 and 2010 was \$27,000. That's down from \$30,000 for those who entered the work force in 2006 to 2008—a 10 percent decrease without inflation factored in.

"There's a combination of barriers that college graduates are facing now," said Mary Daake director of Academic and Career Services at UNK. "They are not only competing against each other, but also those who have been laid off, and the students who graduated a few years ago and are still looking for work. And frankly, employers are becoming less likely to hire kids fresh out of school," she said.

**JOB OUTLOOK, PAGE 11**



## GINGERBREAD COMPETITION SWEET

Photo by Adam Konruff

An all Grand Island team made up of Angelica Calderon, junior business management major; Roxana Chamul, junior elementary education major; Doug Perez, junior history major; and Jay Chamul, sophomore nutrition major, made this gingerbread scene based on Spongebob Squarepants Thursday in the Nebraskan Student Union. The houses are currently all on display in the Student Union commons area.

## the antelope

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## Americans biggest sexual risk-takers, survey says

*Both U.S. men and women come in near top in survey examining health risks in 36 countries*

**BY ERIK DODGE**  
Antelope Staff

Sex in America is risky business according to the Durex Sexual Well-being global survey released Nov. 30.

Americans are the biggest sexual risk takers according to Durex's sixth annual survey, which examined the sexual attitudes and behaviors of 29,003 people in 36 countries.

"It is of great concern to discover how many sexually active American adults are putting their health, and that of their partners at risk," said Kevin Harshaw, marketing director of U.S. Personal Care at Reckitt Benckiser in a press release.

"The findings highlight how important it is to continue the efforts to inform and educate sexually active Americans of all ages."

Of the 1,019 American respondents, six out of ten reported using no form of protection against HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted infections when losing their virginity. Lower rates were reported in other countries such as Mexico with 44 percent and Colombia with 43 percent.

Americans also reported a relatively high number of sexual partners compared to other countries. American men reported having a total of 20 sexual partners. Ca-

nadian men reported more than Americans with 27 and Australians reported 24. French men reported fewer partners with 19, while the British reported 17 and men from Mexico reported 15.

Women from America, France and Britain reported the most partners with 10 each, while Canadians reported 9 and Italians reported 8.

HIV/AIDS has killed more than 550,000 Americans, and 1.1 million are living with HIV, according to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Approximately one out of five Americans infected with HIV is unaware of the infection. The CDC estimates one new infection happens every nine minutes in the United States.

Nebraska reported the tenth fewest AIDS cases to the CDC with 1,679 from the beginning of the epidemic through 2008.

In addition, Nebraska reported relatively low STD rates compared to other states according to the CDC's 2010 state profile. Nebraska reported fewer cases of primary and secondary syphilis than 39 other states with 0.8 cases per 100,000 people, fewer cases of Chlamydia than 34 states with 314 per 100,000 people, and fewer cases of Gonorrhea than 25 other states with 82 per 100,000.

Consistent and correct use of latex condoms is highly effective in preventing HIV, AIDS, and STD transmission according to the CDC, and the most reliable ways to prevent infection are to abstain from sexual activity or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner.

## CAMPUS CRIME LOG

Nov. 30: Danielle Schinn was issued a citation for speeding and no operator's license on her person on the 1400 block of University Drive.

Nov. 30: Stephani Romero was issued a written warning after she failed to stop at the intersection of 15th Avenue and University Drive.

Dec. 1: Cydney B. Kimminau and Zoey R. Dutton were issued conduct summons for MIC after they were observed walking outside Martin Hall and it was determined they had been drinking.

Dec. 1: The fire alarm sounded in the Frank House, which filled with a smokey haze before Kearney Fire determined a furnace motor had burned.

Dec. 3: A female student's scooter battery was stolen from CTE between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 2.

Dec. 4: A female student reported a burglary after someone stole her coat from her unlocked room in University Residence South.

Dec. 5: Adriana Henderson, Rosy Villa, Jackie Nunez, Sarah Teeters and Brian Ramallo were given conduct summons for MIP after UNK Police responded to a report of an alcohol violation on the sixth floor of CTE.

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# Panhellenic council prepares for recruitment changes in 2012

BY BLAIR YOUNGS  
Antelope Staff

The fall of 2012 brings opportunities of change for UNK. A new academic year means new students, a farewell to those who have graduated, and chances for growth for everyone on campus.

The Greek community will be facing some major changes as well. Sororities will conduct their formal recruitment differently as the event has been moved to take place after classes have begun. Unofficially, formal recruitment is set to take place Sept. 7-10.



COURTNEY  
SMEJDİR

In the past, sorority recruitment was scheduled the week before classes began. This gave incoming freshmen the opportunity to move to campus early and go through the four-day recruitment process before the added stress of class schedules.

However, in 2012 that system will

be changed for the sororities. Although it may be a new transition to the Greek sororities, Assistant Director of Greek Affairs Erin Christensen has experience in this type of formal recruitment.

The last institution in which Christensen was employed conducted their recruitment after classes began. She knows the ins and outs of navigating and planning ahead for this change. She is confident in her ability to bring about positive promotional events and to potentially increase the number of women participating in sorority recruitment.

Last year, approximately 160 women went through recruitment, but by implementing the new schedule, Panhellenic Council is looking to raise the overall numbers of participation to 200 or more.

Christensen has been working with the current Panhellenic Council to prepare the Greek women for what is to come. Together they are focusing on educating all the sorority chapters on the rules and details of the new formal recruitment. Panhellenic's current Vice President of Membership Courtney



The insignia above represents the National Panhellenic Council. It was established in 1902.

Infographic by Blair Youngs

## SYMBOLS

- Shield symbolizes the organization's protective influence on its members
- Lamp represents pursuit of leadership, scholarship & enlightenment
- Laurel wreath denotes victory of achieving ideals
- Sword signifies willingness to fight for one's beliefs
- Mantle symbolizes how education & knowledge give members a protective cloak

Smejdir says, "Panhellenic is behind the change completely. It will take some major planning, which we are already doing for next year."

"Communication will be key," Smejdir said.

Christensen knows there will be some kinks in the transition, but that it

will also be a positive change for the Greek community.

Although there is some nervousness about the unknown, Panhellenic's attitude about the new recruitment schedule is positive. "There is an overall level of excitement as for what's to come," Christensen said.

## Sudoku ★★★★★

### How to play:

Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

|   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 |  |   |   | 6 |   | 8 |  |   |
| 3 |  |   |   |   | 9 | 7 |  | 2 |
|   |  |   | 4 |   |   | 1 |  |   |
|   |  | 6 | 7 |   | 4 | 5 |  | 9 |
|   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| 4 |  | 3 | 9 |   | 5 | 2 |  |   |
|   |  | 1 |   |   | 3 |   |  |   |
| 8 |  | 2 | 5 |   |   |   |  | 3 |
|   |  | 5 |   | 9 |   |   |  | 7 |

Find answer on page 10

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)



## LET IT SNOW

Photo by  
Amanda Arnold  
The first snow of the season fell Saturday, Dec. 3. The snowy weather began late the night before and carried over into a few fluffy inches of snow that covered campus. Some students welcome the snow as the end of the semester draws near.



# Spitzlberger named RMAC offensive player of the year

## Reflects on time as a Loper

BY ERIK SWAZO  
Antelope Staff

When Jake Spitzlberger came to UNK in 2007, he was coming off a great high career in Lakewood, CO, throwing for over 6,000 yards and rushing for more than 1,200 yards. But that was high school. As a freshman, Spitzlberger took a redshirt, wanting to gain more experience by taking time to learn the offense that the Lopers ran, but when the 2008 season came around, Spitzlberger was ready to take the Lopers to the next level.

After watching from the sidelines for the first two games of the season, Spitzlberger jumped into the starting roll as quarterback, and started the last nine games of the season. In his very first career start, Spitzlberger threw for a season-high 292 yards with two TD's at Western State. To add to a great start as a Loper, Spitzlberger was named RMAC Offensive Freshman of the Year, setting the school record for completion percentage in a season with 64%.

Spitzlberger recalls some great accomplishments as a Loper, going back all the way to his sophomore year. "I think our greatest accomplishment as a team dates back to my sophomore year all the way to this year, having two playoff births and two conference championships," said Spitzlberger.

In 2009, Spitzlberger and the Lopers made school history, as UNK won their very first playoff game, beating Saginaw Valley State, 35-20. In that game, Spitzl-



Courtesy of Lopers.com



Photo by Adam Konruff  
(ABOVE) Quarterback Jake Spitzlberger keeps the ball for a short run into the end zone to put the Lopers on the board in a game this season against the Western State Mountaineers. The Lopers, coming into the game ranked 7th in their division, easily defeated the Mountaineers 55-14.

berger threw for three TD's and 184 yards.

2010 was yet again a successful season for Spitzlberger and the Lopers, as they were RMAC Co-Champs, finishing the season 9-2. Spitzlberger on the season started all 11 games, throwing for 2,314 yards with 22 TD's.

In his final season, Spitzlberger was named team co-captain. Leading the way for the Lopers, Spitzlberger played in all 12 games, throwing for 2,656 yards and 21 TD's, and leading the Lopers back to the playoffs for the second time in three years.

"I loved my experience here at UNK. It has been a true blessing to play for a great school, in a great community, a great coaching staff and players," said



**"I loved my experience here at UNK. It has been a true blessing to play for a great school, in a great community, a great coaching staff and players. I chose to come here because of the opportunity to play and don't regret one thing."**

Jake Spitzlberger

Spitzlberger. "I chose to come here because of the opportunity to play and don't regret one thing."

Spitzlberger isn't done completely with football, as he will be going to Germany to play professional football

there in March. "My advice to future Lopers would be to value each moment and don't waste anytime you have an opportunity to get better to help someone else because it sure goes fast," said Spitzlberger.

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# Kearneybars.com hosts VIP night at The Garage

BY JAY SLOAN  
Antelope Staff

The online resource for Kearney's social crowd, Kearneybars.com, gave University of Nebraska at Kearney students and local bar-goers an opportunity to be treated like VIPs.

The event, held on Nov. 17, gave people the opportunity to buy an exclusive Kearneybars.com T-shirt. With the purchase of the T-shirt, attendees were granted admittance to the private upstairs section of The Garage in downtown Kearney. While in the impromptu VIP lounge, the participants were offered free Bud Light and dollar drinks. Beer pong, dancing and billiards were also available.

The event was the first of its kind,

website co-founder and UNK graduate Scott Wemhoff said. The Kearneybars.com team wanted to do something special for their viewers and fans that make their website possible.

"Our fans have made our website a success," Wemhoff said. "We want to continually treat them with a sense of exclusive treatment from here on out and continue to foster that special relationship our fans have with us."

The team looked to target the 21-34 aged audience, and specifically UNK students. As a way of promoting their event, members from the Kearneybars.com team "chalked" the sidewalks of UNK. However, the chalk-style art was promptly removed the next day by UNK officials.

A collection of Lopers still got the

message and took advantage of the drink specials. Ryan Fjeldheim, a senior agricultural business major from Doniphan, enjoyed the VIP experience at The Garage.

"I thought it was a fun event and I think it was a good promotion for The Garage," Fjeldheim said.

Wemhoff said he would have liked to seen a better crowd on hand for the event but pointed out that the Kearneybars.com team is relatively new to event planning and promoting.

"We did not get the numbers we were looking for at this event. When it comes to creating 'awesome events' versus 'not so awesome events,' we're still in the learning curve,"

The founders of the site have hosted

a number of different events, which have included cash give-a-ways and drink specials to individuals who "like" their Facebook page.

Wemhoff says he and the Kearneybars.com team plan to keep offering unique events to Kearney's social scene. The team says they are primarily dedicated to website development and continuing to offer a good online product.

"The final product of what we want to accomplish is going to be awesome. We needed our fans to help get us off the ground first," Wemhoff said. "We are looking to do another event early 2012 and then launching our new website within 3-6 months will really blow the socks off of our patrons."



Photos by Jay Sloan

A view from above shows bar-goers enjoying their night at the Kearneybars.com VIP event at The Garage.



Brandon Siegel, a senior physical education major from Litchfield, shows off his Kearneybars.com shirt during the first Kearneybars.com VIP night at The Garage in downtown Kearney.

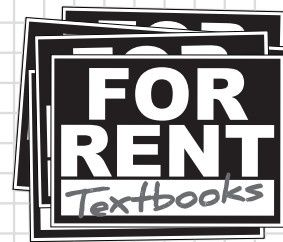
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**December 16, 2011**



# *Appeal to the Great Spirit statue makes lasting impression on both mother, daughter*

BY JEANNIE WOODWORTH-FULLERTON

JMC 220

I knew that the sculpture, Appeal to the Great Spirit had a story to tell me. Little did I know that the story would involve my family.

In researching my story about the artwork, I kept hitting dead ends, but my father knew all about the significance of the sculpture to our family.

In 1966, my mother, Norma Hamill, also a literature student, found the sculpture and developed a fascination for it, even writing about it in her diary: "When I have a problem to figure out, I go and look at the Great Spirit. It helps me understand that some people have even bigger problems than I do."

Exactly 46 years later, I found the sculpture that fascinated my mother. Apparently, some things are hereditary.

I found the first pictorial record of the sculpture in a 1940 photo where it lurks in the back-

**"When I have a problem to figure out, I go and look at the Great Spirit. It helps me understand that some people have even bigger problems than I do.**

Norma Hamill, Freshman in 1965-66

ground in a picture of the A.O. Thomas School for elementary education. Other pictures always show the sculpture in the background. Like any proper ghost, this replica has quietly existed in Thomas Hall for the last 70 years. The original sculpture stands outside the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

The sculpture's haunting qualities have garnered attention around the world in a number of surprising ways. It's been used on the Beach Boys record label, on the album cover of "Lysol" by the Melvins and the White House has the artwork on permanent display.

The series of four statues by C.E. Dallin all depict a different aspect of the Native American's history. Dallin was born in Springfield, Utah, and grew up with Ute Native American boys as friends. He grew to respect the culture and decided to devote his artistic ability to showing the Native American's point of view about losing their homelands. When these sculptures were completed, they came to represent controversial political issues and many other artists tried to talk Dallin out of displaying them.

Dallin's work has endured for so long because of the detail he uses to tell the story. Each hair in the mane of the horses is defined, and the pain and anger in the Indians' faces helps the viewer to understand the feeling at the moment. Dallin has become known as one of the greatest sculptors in American art.



Photos by Jeannie Woodworth-Fullerton

C.E. Dallin cast the bronze original in Paris as a tribute to the Native Americans. Appeal to the Great Spirit was one of four statues showing the end of a way of life in the late 1800s. The original statue now stands outside the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.



## C. E. Dallin

**Born:** Nov. 22, 1861

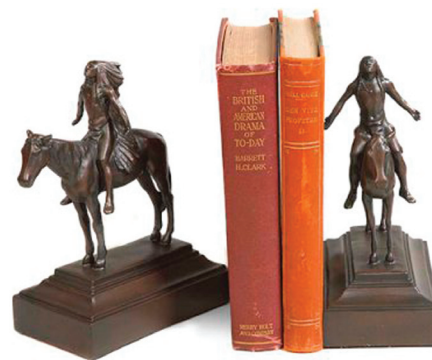
**Died:** Nov. 14, 1944

**More:** His Paul Revere statue in Boston's historic North End took 58 years to complete. He made seven versions and had to fight to get the funding. The finished work was finally erected in 1940.

Dallin also sculpted General William T. Sherman, Sacajawea and Julia Ward Howe.



Courtesy Photo



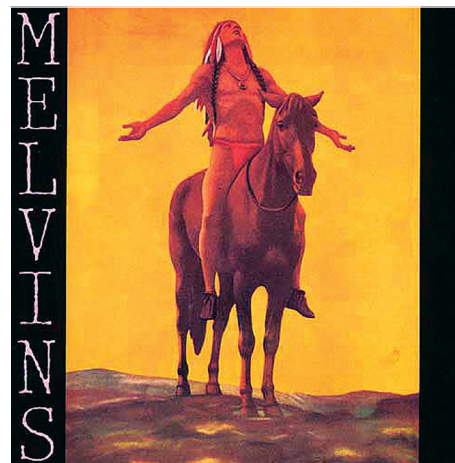
*Iconic image found in pop culture, still available on Amazon*

Courtesy Photos

The Appeal to the Great Spirit had become an icon by 1920. It remains so yet today.

It has been used on album covers, and as logos for various rock bands. It's haunting qualities have not gone unnoticed by Americans.

It has also been widely reproduced. The statue is also available as bookends on Amazon.com. starting at \$139.99.



## C.E. Dallin's Indian Cycle: History of the Native American loss



Photo courtesy of Way Making Gallery  
Signal of Peace was the first statue. It is also known as "the welcome." This statue was cast in 1890 depicts how willing the Native Americans were to welcome settlers into their lands.

1890



Photo courtesy of Christies Auction House  
The Medicine Man is the second statue. Another name for it is "the warning," signifying that the Native Americans were becoming aware that the settlers were taking over Native land. This statue was cast in 1899.

1899



Photo courtesy of Dallin Fine Arts Museum  
The Protest is the third statue. Trouble begins for the Native Americans. The settlers and the U.S. Army begin to force the Native Americans to leave their lands, and war begins. It was cast in 1904.

1904



Photo by Jeannie Woodworth-Fullerton  
Appeal to the Great Spirit is the fourth statue. The Native Americans lose hope and appeal to a higher being for help. This ends what is known in the art world as the Indian Cycle. It was cast in 1912.

1912



# MOROWITZER TAKES VOLUNTEER WORK TO THE CUTTING EDGE

BY CAITLIN OSTBERG  
Antelope Staff

Imagine speeding along a slick surface as fast as you possibly can on two-millimeter-wide blades with the intention to throw yourself into the air.

Sounds crazy right?



**KIMBER MOROWITZER**

Not for Kimber Morwitzer from Ashland who fell in love with ice-skating after watching the 1998 Olympics. "I tried to make up programs and do tricks on my roller blades," Morwitzer said.

Morwitzer's dream became a reality when she began ice-skating at age 11. Now, as a senior elementary education major, Morwitzer doesn't just skate for fun but inspires kids to follow their dreams as a volunteer ice-skating instructor for Learn to Skate at the Viero Event Center.

A Learn to Skate instructor approached Morwitzer her freshman year when she went to the rink the first weekend after school started. "She saw me and said, 'Hey! You should teach lessons,' and I was kind of floored. I thought, 'I can't teach lessons,'" Morwitzer said laughing.

Now into her fourth year as an instructor, Morwitzer wouldn't change a moment because working with kids is her passion. "Right now I'm teaching Level 4, which includes backwards stroking and doing a lot of things backwards that they learned to do forward in the previous levels," Morwitzer said.



Though she never competed, Morwitzer jumped at the chance to perform a solo two years ago in the spring recital held every year by Learn to Skate. "It was the most nervous I've ever been in my life," she said. For her, it was a chance to follow in the footsteps of skaters she loves. Morwitzer's favorite skater, Johnny Weir, began skating when he was 12.

Morwitzer's love for the sport is contagious, and Learn to Skate coordinator Marlene Delaet said she finds Morwitzer's enthusiasm encouraging. "My favorite part is that she always comes in with a big smile asking, 'What do you want me to do?'"

"She just does it, and it's great," Delaet said.

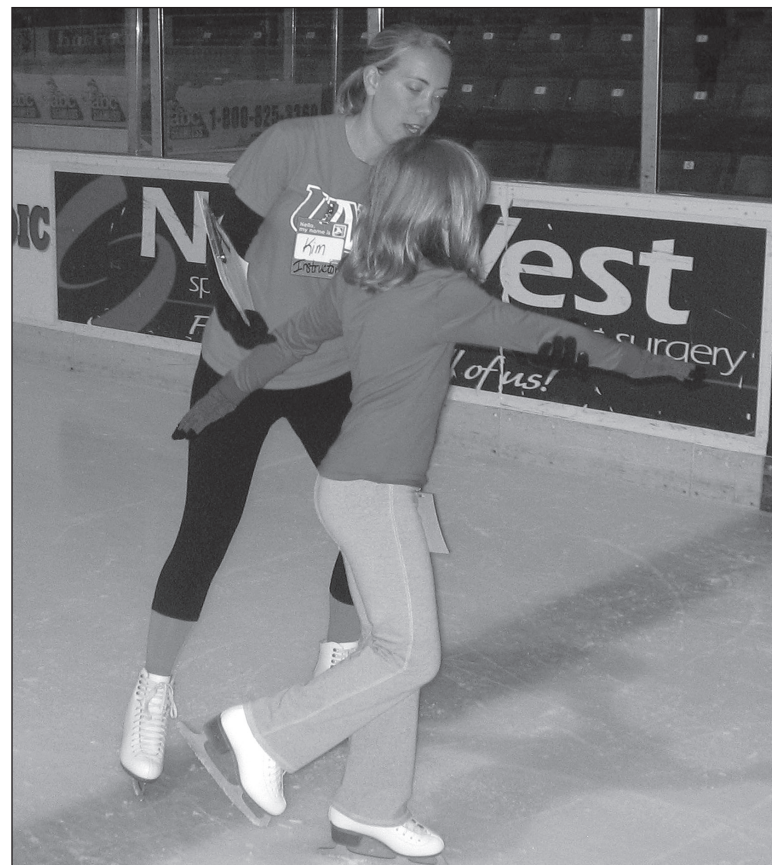


Photo by Caitlin Ostberg

Kimber Morwitzer, a senior elementary education major from Ashland, guides a student learning a new skill on the ice for Learn to Skate at the Viero Event Center. Morwitzer volunteers every Monday for one hour at the Viero Event Center teaching basic skills to kids ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.

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# Circle K funds 700 backpacks each year

BY TIFFANY HAGERBAUMER  
Antelope Staff

Dressed like oversized trick-or-treaters during the week of Halloween, Circle K rounded up members to scour the streets and inform the community about the Backpack Program established to help feed hungry elementary students.

The organization's goal was to let Kearney residents know about this worthy cause and collect monetary

healthy, nonperishable foods and are sent home with children as they leave school for the weekends.

Circle K is a collegiate Kiwanis organization that looks for new opportunities to better the community and organize many different events to do so. Circle K is made of up UNK students who have a passion for volunteer work or need community service hours to satisfy a requirement for their major.

President of Circle K Tina Younes said, "Each year over 700 backpacks are given to students within 10 school districts in Nebraska. By raising funds we will be able to donate backpacks to the students in our area. The more we raise, the more backpacks

**"I think it's a great way to reach out to the community in a very positive way."**

Courtney Cave  
Circle K member

donations for backpacks of food given to students in need when they go home for the weekend.

The Backpack Program is dedicated to feeding low-income children in the U.S. The program was created because many low-income families rely on the food provided by the National School Lunch Program. For some children, lunch provided at school may be their only meal of the day. The backpacks prepared by volunteers within the community contain

we can provide."

Courtney Cave, member of Circle K and a speech disorder major from Silver Creek, said, "I think it's a great way to reach out to the community in a very positive way and I'm happy to be raising money for such a great cause."

Circle K wants to let everyone know that any monetary donations are encouraged and greatly appreciated. For more information contact Tina Younes at younesc2@lopers.unk.edu.

# Loper Low Brass ring in holiday season

UNK NEWS RELEASE

Loper Low Brass, the University of Nebraska at Kearney low brass ensemble, will perform at the Frank House at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

"Shortly after I arrived on campus (2009) I was contacted by KrisAnn Sullivan asking if I had a group that would be interested in playing and, of course, I did," said Dr. Seth Fletcher, UNK senior lecturer in music and ensemble director. "It's a tradition we hope to continue!"

Frank House Architect George William Frank, himself a musician, designed rooms on the first floor with coved (as in the library and drawing rooms) and coffered (in the grand hall) ceilings, making the rooms acoustically sound.

"Hearing and seeing the house full of tubas and euphoniums is just a great experience," Fletcher said. "The entire house resonates when we play, and it's as if you're swimming in sound. Plus, the holiday decorations, and how they reflect off the instruments, is visually striking."

Loper Low Brass members, listed alphabetically by hometown, are: Michael Crawford, Broken Bow; Tommy Augustine, Crofton; Patience Buck and Eric Rempe, Grand Island; Brock Persson and Zach Marghem, Kearney; Jonathan Hunzeker and Vergil Nelson, Minden; Mark Messner, Ogallala; Paula Newhouse, Omaha; and Lee Rushing, Marion, Ark.

While the Loper Low Brass performance is free and open to the public, KrisAnn Sullivan, Frank House director, noted: "Donations helped refurbish the master bed chamber area and will be put to good use as we begin the other

planned improvement projects in the Frank House.

Saturday at the Frank House educational program volunteers help make the public aware of the needs of the house and the public responds. Donations are always appreciated in support of the Frank House."

Loper Low Brass will also be performing at the Merryman Center later that day as part of the "Let it Snow!" holiday celebration presented by Crane River Theater. For more information about Loper Low Brass, including photographs and steaming music, visit: [www.EuphoniumUnlimited.com](http://www.EuphoniumUnlimited.com).

Upcoming Saturdays at the Frank House include: Dec. 17, "Happy Holiday Tours." The Annual Christmas Walk is set for Dec. 3-17 during regular Frank House walk-in hours. For more information, visit: [www.frankhouse.org](http://www.frankhouse.org).

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Students weigh in:

# How does your finals week look?



**"I'm pretty** worried about my history final. I'm just going to have to study, study, study for it."

Alyssa Bruce  
Freshman/Elementary education  
Sidney



**"They're all** going to be good except organic chemistry. It's a tough class, but it's my last chemistry class. I'll be glad to have it done."

Jennifer Frisch  
Junior/Wildlife biology  
Lindsay



**"I just** have a couple of finals, but the ones I have are going to be tough."

Cody Gaylord  
Sophomore/Business management  
Denver



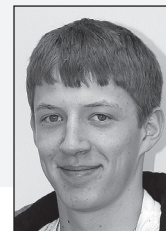
**"I've got** one day with two finals, but the rest of them will be alright."

Colby Jurgens  
Freshman/Construction management  
Beatrice



**"I'm stressed** out about studying, but I think I'm going to do pretty well."

Kylie Lewis  
Freshman/Elementary education  
Mitchell



**"Finals week** is looking pretty crazy. I've got two days with two finals each back-to-back. I've got a lot of studying to do before then."

Alex Whitmore  
Freshman/Wildlife management  
Beatrice

Compiled by Adam Konruff



## Final touches

Photo by Courtney Fletcher  
Junior Jennifer Dieckhoff, multimedia major from Grand Island concentrates on her final art painting. "I have been working hard in this class, so hopefully my final project is an A+," Dieckhoff said.

## Sudoku answer:

Upside down, from page 3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

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## Job outlook from page 1

For Renter, searching for work has become a job in itself. The Scottsbluff native stuck around Kearney after graduation. To pay the bills, she works two part-time retail jobs.

"I've applied for literally every open position where I can use even just a little of what I've learned, but it just seems like there are so few opportunities. I was so passionate about studying biology. I put everything into getting that degree and now I'm wondering if it was all worth it."

Despite her flexibility, Renter's job hunting efforts have not paid off—in any way.

"I was really excited when I applied for a lab tech position at the Henry Doorly Zoo and I even got a call back, but I didn't get it because there were hundreds of people applying for two open positions," she said.

Her only two full-time job offers, one at a Lincoln veterinary hospital and the other at Swine Biomedical Resource Center in Oakland, came with a starting salary that pays just above minimum wage.

"I'm willing to take low pay, but I just couldn't get by on what they were willing to pay me," she said.

Renter said her resume has been sent to dozens of places including Benchmark Biolabs in Lincoln, Schering Plough Animal Health Corp. in Omaha, MVP Laboratories Inc. in Omaha and Colorado Biolabs in Cozad.

And that's just the beginning.

"The worst part is that Nebraska is actually doing better economically than most of the U.S., so I would be even worse off if I left the state," she said.

According to Glenn Mclakey, a labor market analyst for the Nebraska Department of Labor, the Cornhusker state boasted a 4.2 percent unemployment rate

compared to a national unemployment rate around 9 percent.

"Fiscally, Nebraska has been very prudent," he said from his office in Lincoln. "Without going into a lot of the specifics, our conservative policies have really paid off for us when it comes to our economy."

In addition to a low unemployment rate, Mclakey said Nebraska has lower than average layoff numbers and fewer citizens collecting unemployment benefits.

What's more, he said the Nebraska economy is getting stronger every month, increasing pros-



**"I did all the right things and there's no doubt that helped, but I know I was kind of in the right place at the right time."**

**Blake Pithler**  
2010 UNO graduate

pects for college graduates looking for work.

"We have seen an increase in job opportunities over the last few months and signs of an improving economy," he said. "I know it's hard for the college grads out there right now, but the situation is getting better here in Nebraska."

While the down economy accounts for unemployment across the board, some professions are hit harder than others.

Abby Doleij, a UNK senior elementary education major from Columbus, is grateful for the many job prospects she's already come across. Doleij will graduate in May, and although she hasn't officially landed a job, she isn't too worried.

"I feel pretty sure that I'll have a job by the time I graduate. It might not be my dream job, but I'm just happy to have the opportunities," she said.

Doleij credits her student teaching experience to helping her find employment. She said she has a "very good" chance of getting hired as a third grade teacher at a Grand Island elementary school for the 2012-2013 school year.

She believes hands-on training, like student teaching opportunities and internships, are the key to post-college employment. However, she also knows her particular profession is faring better than most.

"I know teachers are kind of in demand right now, but I think being able

to put that in-the-field experience on my resume really helped out. I think people are realizing more and more that internships and things like that are going to do a lot for their opportunities after college," she said.

According to another study by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2009, degrees in technology, education and mathematics are yielding the highest job rates, while graduates with degrees in humanities, the arts and even science are struggling to find work.

The study also reveals a shocking 22

percent unemployment rate among recent college grads. In addition, it shows that less than 50 percent of the jobs landed by new graduates even require a college degree.

In addition to a dismal job market, new college grads are facing other issues, like increased competition and sky-high student loan debt, making the job search more stressful than ever.

According to Daake, there are around five unemployed workers for every opening, making each job offer worth its weight in gold. She added that employers have more rigorous minimum requirements. A company that might have considered hiring a graduate in the past now might instead hire someone with five years' experience because that person is willing to work for the same salary, she said.

"My biggest concern as an advisor is the long-term outlook. There's research that says students who graduate during a recession are more likely to struggle with finding a job and holding a job even after the recession ends."

She said she knows many people who graduated during the U.S. recession of the early 1980s who still hold lower paying jobs and suffer from higher unemployment.

"Of course every situation is unique. I still believe that students who apply themselves in school and are able to get some

professional experience will come out ahead," she said.

For Blake Pithler, that's exactly what happened.

The Kearney native said he feels "lucky" to have gotten a job at Paypal in Omaha. During a phone interview, Pithler explained that his decision to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha made the difference in his career.

"I went to UNO after I graduated high school because I was attracted to the bigger city life," he said. "I figured there would be more opportunities to network and I was right."

The business administration major said an influential economics professor lead him to his current job as a product sales engineer, a job he landed just one month after graduating in December of 2010.

Although Pithler is a self-described perfectionist and graduated with a 3.9 GPA, he believes luck played a role in his employment.

"I did all the right things and there's no doubt that helped, but I know I was kind of in the right place at the right time. I think that's a big part of it though. They say it's not always what you know but who you know," he said.

But even Pithler's situation isn't 100 percent ideal. "I'm going to be paying on my student loans for ages."

For Renter, the tough times have forced her to think about other employment options like unpaid internships or entry level positions that traditionally do not require a college degree.

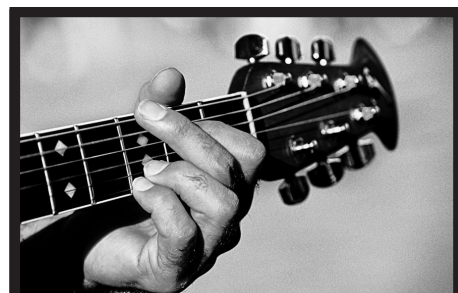
"I have to think about the future a lot harder. I know I don't want to be doing what I'm doing for the rest of my life, but I'm not ready to settle for something long-term that I know I'm over qualified for."

When asked about graduate school, Renter shifted in her chair and thought quietly for a moment.

"That might just be what I have to do," she said.

Despite her discouragement, Renter said she still has the same hopeful feelings she did as a college freshman, although they are fading fast.

"I'm trying hard to stay positive. I know that having a degree will pay off eventually, but I feel like our generation got the shaft," Renter said. "I just hope I can say in five or ten years that it was



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