

# Beginner's fear of flying outweighed by benefits

By Vicki Ruhga

Learning to fly has definite advantages, I told myself as I hesitatingly considered becoming a pilot.

If I learn to fly, I could go to any airport in any city and leave any time I want to. Statistics show that flying is safer than driving. Another advantage is that airplanes are economical, getting 18 mpg.

It sounded exciting, so I headed for the Lincoln Municipal Airport. On the way, I weighed the disadvantages. The worst thing that could happen would be a crash, and if I did that, at least I wouldn't have to take that awful broadcasting exam tomorrow.

When I arrived at the airport, I learned that my instructor would be Pamela Mitchell, national spokeswoman for the "Cessna Flight Plan" learn-to-fly program. We proceeded to the plane, and she gave me a brief explanation of its controls.

"The steering wheel doesn't work on the ground," she said as I grasped it tightly. Mitchell said when the plane is on the ground, you push the right pedal to go right and the left to go left. I asked her where the brake was.

## Flight history

To put me at ease before the takeoff, Mitchell told me how she became interested in flying. Her father bought a plane, and she began flying when she was 16 years old. She told of taking friends and flying to Dallas, Texas, for a football game, Las Vegas for the weekend or to Kansas City for dinner. I was ready to fly!

The takeoff sounded simple enough. Just pull out on the throttle until you reach a certain speed, and then use

the steering wheel to lift the nose of the airplane. As the plane soared up into the sky, I wished I hadn't eaten lunch in the food service before my lesson.

Once the plane leveled off, I was able to circle the city and the campus. It was such a clear day I could almost see to Omaha. After a few turns, I headed for the airport to land.

Mitchell said landings involve a combination of everything you learn about flying. Students usually do not attempt a landing until three or four flights so I decided to watch my instructor as she took the plane down.

The landing was smooth, and I sighed with relief as my feet touched ground again.

Mitchell said in order to become an actual pilot, a person must pass written and flying tests given by the Federal Aviation Administration. However, once a person earns a pilot's license, it is good for the rest of his or her life. Biannual flight reviews are given to make sure the person is a safe pilot, she said.

## Step by step

"Most everybody can fly," Mitchell said. "In the Cessna program, we take it step by step, at the individual's pace."

She explained that the training program is unique because the student is charged a flat rate of \$2,990, rather than charged by the hour, and there is no maximum number of hours.

Most companies charge beginners by the hour to learn to fly. The flat rate includes everything you need to fly, such as books, ground schools, the plane and fuel.

# Accountants honor Hubbard with gift

September has been a good month for Thomas Hubbard, newly appointed chairman of UNL's accounting department in the College of Business Administration.

Hubbard's appointment was approved by the NU Board of Regents at their meeting Sept. 10, and Monday, he was awarded the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants first Chair of Professional Accountancy.

The honorary chair also includes a \$5,000 gift from the society's foundation.

The award was to be made to a distinguished professor from the UNL accounting department, and Hubbard certainly fits that description, said John Goebel, UNL vice chancellor of business and finance, who was on the chair selection committee.

Goebel described Hubbard as "as very positive pro-

fessional, with credentials of the highest order." When Hubbard was presented with the honor Monday at the luncheon of the Mid-America Accounting and Auditing Conference, the 270 accountants attending voiced their approval, Goebel said.

The conference, in its fifth year, was started through the efforts of Hubbard and the Nebraska Society of CPA's, said Gary Schwendiman, dean of the College of Business Administration.

According to Patricia A. Dostal, executive assistant to the Nebraska Society of CPAs, the purpose of awarding the honorary chair is to "support the basic objectives of the department of accounting in the areas of teaching, research and service to the professional accounting community."

Dostal said she hopes the award will be continued. The three-member selection committee was composed of Schwendiman, Goebel and J.B. Dresselhaus, a Lincoln CPA who represented the Nebraska Society of CPAs. They submitted their proposal, which was approved in turn by the chancellor and the regents, who approved the award.

Hubbard has been a professor in the accounting department since 1977. Last year, when Goebel left the chairmanship of the accounting department, Hubbard served as interim chairman.

## Police Report

The following is a list of the calls and complaints received by UNL police from 7 a.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday.

12:08 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen at Oldfather Hall.

12:41 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen at Hamilton Hall.

3:25 p.m. — Car reported vandalized in Area 1 on 19th Street between T and U streets.

9:13 p.m. — Report of a missing person turned out to be unfounded.

11:22 p.m. — Disturbance in the Harper-Schramm-Smith courtyard settled by officers.

12:32 a.m. — Theft cleared at Smith Hall.

2:41 a.m. — Disturbance on the 400 block of North 16th street handled by officers.

3:25 a.m. — Trespasser reported at University Health Center. Building checked and secured; no intruder found.



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Although the cost of buying a plane can be staggering, Mitchell said rental rates are very reasonable. "You only pay for the time you are actually in the air, and the rates are reasonable, at about \$32 an hour," she said.

Mitchell said planes are very popular with businessmen because they save time.

Among the people who have become pilots are students, housewives, and an 82-year-old woman who enjoyed flying so much she went out and bought a plane, she said.

There are numerous careers in the airline field beyond just being a pilot, Mitchell said.

"There are testing jobs, charter flights, air ambulance, pipeline patrol and photographic careers, in addition to airlines," she said.



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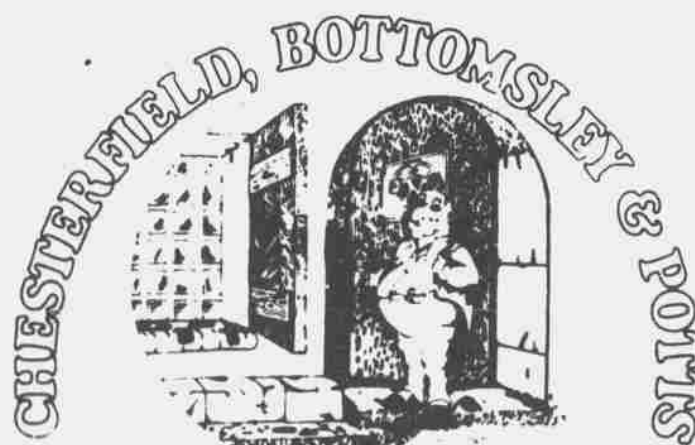
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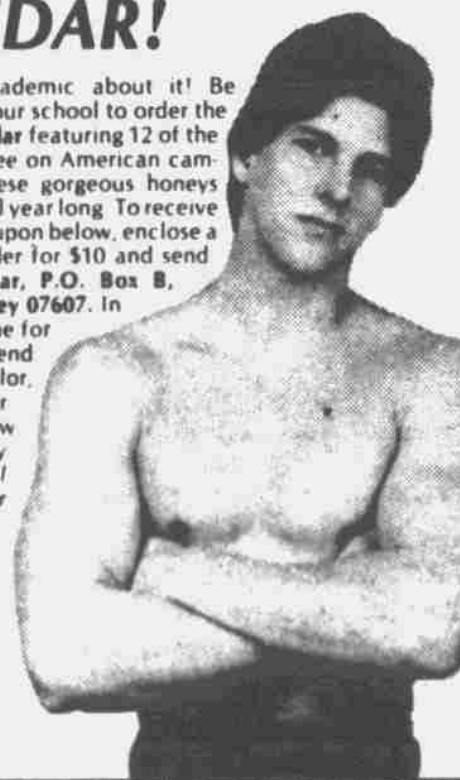
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