



John Janovy . . . student concern is refreshing.

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## Janovy encourages students to challenge, test teachers

By Kathy Stokebrand

Students can be too courteous to faculty members when they fail to challenge and test them in class, according to Prof. John Janovy Jr.

Janovy, speaking in the Nebraska Union Main Lounge Wednesday, said he felt students were too courteous in accepting the NU Board of Regents decision to take away funds for political and ideological speakers. He called current student concern for the educational quality at the UNL one of the most refreshing things he's seen students involved in.

Adding that he had nothing against football, Janovy said students should continue to wear blue, as they did at the Colorado football game Oct. 27, and pursue their goal of improving educational quality.

A professor of life sciences since 1966 and the author of *Keith County Journal*, Janovy explained what he'd "like to be able to teach." One of the most important things he said he would like to teach students is to budget time for intellectual development of a self interest.

Human brains are capable of levels of creativity hundreds of times higher than those achieved by most, he said. He encouraged students to do something just for their brain's nourishment. Janovy said this would be a difficult task but would become easier each time it is done.

Janovy urged students to seek classes

taught by instructors who have a good reputation among students. Students should promote teachers that are beneficial to the educational community, he said.

The most damaging influence on intellectual development is grade pressure, Janovy said. He cited the "tell me which paragraph in the book I am responsible for" syndrome as an example showing how grade pressure causes students to limit their intellectual growth.

Janovy said he would like to teach students to make sure somebody at the university knows them. There are thousands of opportunities for students to prove themselves through talents and interests outside of the classroom not directly related to a student's grade point average, he says.

Janovy said he would like to teach students to challenge instructors who follow textbooks closely because every textbook is at least three years out of date when it is printed. If books are too helpful, then the information is old.

He said students should ask instructors to apply the information they convey to students' lives.

Finally, Janovy said students should rely more upon faculty members as an untapped resource.

Janovy, who begins his day at about 3 a.m., said all human beings have a time of the day that is most productive for them. They should find this time and utilize it in solitude, he said.

## APU says firing was unfair; insist worker be reinstated

By Lynn Mongar

A black UNL custodian worker who was fired Sept. 10, should be reinstated with full back pay and without loss of seniority, the African People's Union (APU) said in a press conference Wednesday.

The firing of the black worker, Girlean Woods, is an "insult to all black people," group member Hodari Sababu said.

Another group member, Shomari Ashebei said that Woods has a "solid case" and that the firing was clearly a demonstration of racism at UNL.

A position paper, which was supported by Lincoln's Coalition of Black Men, said that the criteria used to fire Woods was not based on how well she did her job, but on the fact that she was black.

APU Chairperson, Doreen Charles said that Woods had received letters of commendation in January for her job performance.

Charles said that Woods was fired because of the "resentment of white workers," and her position as "team leader" of the custodians.

Woods, she said, was in a position to "check up on the whites, and they don't like that."

Charles also said that Woods was harassed by her supervisor, who gave her too much work to do. Charles said that Woods' schedule was changed so that she was "continually given too much work, and would not have enough time to take a break."

"This is clearly abuse for an elderly

woman," Charles said.

State Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha, also in attendance, said that he referred Woods to the State Ombudsman's office so that the university could not "cover over and placate" the university's system.

Seven subpoenas were issued to university employees Oct. 22, by the State Ombudsman Murrell McNeil, so the office could investigate the matter.

Chambers said he would use his influence in the Legislature to demand action on racist practices at UNL.

Ashebei said that if Woods is rehired, this matter will not be "quickly dropped." He said APU will investigate other charges of discrimination at UNL, as well as the ineffectiveness of UNL's system to handle such complaints.

Charles said the group has already begun investigating other charges of discrimination at UNL.

She said that one specific area being investigated will be discrimination in the classroom.

"A black works twice as hard as a white to get an A," she said.

She also said UNL's affirmative action program is ineffective.

"Affirmative action would be a lot more effective if the people really wanted affirmative action, rather than just a job," she said.

APU members accompanied by Chambers took the position paper and a petition protesting Woods dismissal to Chancellor Roy Young's office after the press conference.



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