

UNL student pushes for open adoption records

By Julie Bird
and Gordon Johnson

cause her any pain she would not press the issue.

Amy can't find her mother. She's not lost, she's adopted.

Amy Gunderson's one hope of finding her mother, short of hiring a private detective, lies with passage of LB483, which would open up adoption records to allow adopted children to locate their biological parents. The bill was introduced by Omaha Sen. Dave Newell.

LB483 Monday was returned from final reading to the second stage of advancement so that a technical amendment offered by Lincoln Sen. Shirley Marsh could be added. The final vote should be late this week or some time next week observers said.

The proposal would allow adoptees access to their adoption records when they reach age 25 if the biological parent or parents consent. It would also provide full medical histories of the biological mother and father, if available, to the adopting parents.

Gunderson, a sophomore advertising student from Gretna, was adopted when she was a couple of months old. She said she would like to meet her biological mother to find her roots.

Help lobby

Gunderson advertised Thursday in the Daily Nebraskan asking other adoptees to meet with her to help lobby for the bill. She was the only one to show up.

"I can't really understand why others don't want to know," she said.

Gunderson said she wants to find her mother to learn about her medical background and to learn where some of her traits came from.

"I would just like to talk to my mother," she said. "It's just a weird feeling. I feel that I don't have any roots, biologically. It's real strange not knowing where I came from."

Opponents to LB483 claimed that one reason to stop passage would be the pain it might cause the adoptive parents. Gunderson says she disagrees.

"My mom told me she would like to meet my biological parents and thank them," she said.

Gunderson said if meeting her biological mother would

APU: coins sale is not a solution

Accepting the cash value of a donation to the NU Foundation in place of 1,300 Krugerrands would "not be enough," according to a member of the UNL African People's Union.

Hodari Sababu, national and international coordinator of APU, said in preview of a group statement, "I would believe they (APU) would say it's not enough."

Sababu said that APU will issue an official statement today about the Krugerrands donor's statement that he is willing to take back the coins and donate their cash value to the foundation.

James Coe of Arizona, an NU alumnus, donated 1,300 South African gold coins worth nearly \$1 million to the NU Foundation last week. The donation met opposition from APU, which referred to the coins as "blood money," and representative of South African racism.

ASUN passed a resolution last week advocating return of the coins.

D.B. Varner, chairman of the NU Foundation, said the Krugerrands are now legal property of NU, and are non-returnable.

"We are not going to return the coins," Varner said.

Varner added that NU will not contact the Coes concerning their proposed cash-in, but said that if the donors should contact NU requesting the Krugerrands to be liquidated, "we'd undoubtedly comply with them."

Varner said that taxes on the cash-in must also be considered. The transition from Krugerrands to cash would involve a capital gains tax, an expense which Varner said would have to be covered by the Coes.

"Coe might not have realized the tax consequences involved in cashing the Krugerrands himself," he said.

APU issued a news release on Feb. 6, written by Sababu, opposing the donation. The statement is printed on page 10.

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Mother's family

Her biological mother could conceivably have a family who does not know that Gunderson exists, she said. If that were the case she said she would not push for a meeting.

She also said that personal questions such as "why did you leave me?" and questions about her biological mother's family would not be asked.

A long-lasting relationship with her biological mother is out of the question, she said.

"I don't consider her my mother," she said. "The person who brought me up is my mother. I certainly wouldn't send her (biological mother) a mother's day card."

She said she also is curious about possible brothers and sisters, but again she would not push if her mother did not want her to.

Gunderson has sought legal advice on how to find her mother, but was told the only way would be to hire a detective.

"I think possibly this bill could open a lot of doors for a lot of people," Gunderson said.

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Photo by Mark Billingsley

Lloyd Moore, working the craft that makes him invaluable to the UNL Chemistry Dept. says that it is easy to spend eight hours on a single glass project.

UNL employee 'lives, eats' glass

By Mary Kay Wayman

Sitting at his desk crowded with dusty glass tubes, pipes, flasks and beakers, UNL's scientific glassblower is at home in the crowded environment of the basement of Hamilton Hall.

He forms a new neck on a glass flask as easily as a child might with play-dough. His work, however, involves rotating melting-glass over an extremely hot oxygen-natural gas flame, and seeing that it never loses the desired shape. He seems to have a child-like enjoyment of his work.

"I live and eat it," Lloyd Moore said, smiling.

Glassblowing has been his occupation and hobby for the last 27 years. Moore has worked at UNL since 1958.

When he's not in the basement of Hamilton Hall during working hours, he's often working in the basement of his home.

Scientific glassblowing involves careful use of the glass to make instruments with precise measurements.

Process difficult

"It's difficult to make, allowing for cooling, and expect it to hold its measurement," he said. "With time and work you can hold it fairly precise."

Moore said he doesn't make all the test tubes for the chemistry department, but what he does make saves the department money.

Moore estimated that there are from 375 to 475 scientific glassblowers in the United States and more who do creative work.

Moore makes parts for UNL's mass spectrometer, one of three of four in the United States. When a part becomes plugged up, Moore said he takes it out and makes a new one of special high-temperature glass.

If UNL didn't have its own scientific glassblower, Moore said the university would probably have to send to Denver or Chicago for someone to do the repairs.

Show at Pershing

When he isn't doing scientific work with the precise,

specially made apparatus in the chemistry department. Moore does creative work. He said he often shows off his work and it will be a part of an art show at Pershing Municipal Auditorium in April.

"As far as I know I'm the only one who makes glass blown pipes in one piece," he said. Moore said the pipes smoke cooler than wooden pipes and can be cleaned in a dishwasher.

"Pipe smokers freak out" over the glass pipes which Moore said he makes when asked.

But it is in scientific glassblowing that his work "hits every facet" from working with metal to locking metal inside glass.

Moore said he first attended the College of Emporia in Kansas to study to be a minister. He transferred to the University of Kansas to major in chemistry. It was while working part time in the chemistry storeroom that he became familiar with the craft of glassblowing.

No formal instruction

He received no formal classroom instruction. Instead, Moore said he was taught by "probably one of the most outstanding glassblowers around," Walter Logan, who was working at KU at the time. Moore expressed his interest in glassblowing only to be told by Logan, "I don't think you can learn it, but go ahead and try."

That challenge gave Moore the incentive to learn. "When somebody says you can't do something you work a little harder," he said.

Moore now teaches classes in glassblowing with the Parks and Recreation Dept. He has taught both beginning and advanced classes for ten years. He teaches the classes because he enjoys teaching others his craft, he said.

"I promised myself to teach people glassblowing," Moore said.

Students in beginning classes learn only the basics—glass rotation, flame temperature and glass gathering—before they work with glass. The advanced classes branch into creative glassblowing of such things as swans, bird-baths and cocktail glasses, he said.