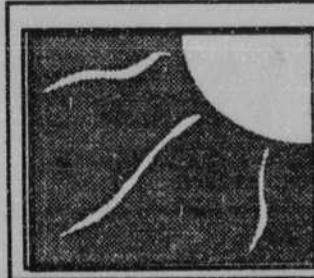


# Daily Nebraskan

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny and warm today with the high in the low- to mid-80s and a southwest wind 10-20 mph. Tonight, mild with the low 45-50. Saturday, mostly sunny with the high in the mid- to upper-80s.

## Multi-Cultural Affairs at UNL gets KKK letter criticizing conference

By Kim Spurlock  
Staff Reporter

The Ku Klux Klan sent UNL's Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs a derogatory letter, just one of several found on campus recently, after it hosted a conference on black student government, the office director said.

Jimmi Smith said KKK members have sent racist letters to him and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs over the past two years. Fliers printed on KKK letterhead also have been found posted on campus.

Smith said that just after UNL hosted the Big 8 Conference on Black Student Government the first week of February, his office received a derogatory letter on KKK letterhead.

In poem form, the letter contained insults related to Black History Month.

"... during Black History Month let's all do our share, and deport a nigger, no true white folks will care," stated the letter, which was written on letterhead labeled "Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

"Why, oh why, were some born black, when all they can do is steal and sell crack," the letter also stated.

Smith said the letter was the first on KKK letterhead mailed to the of-

ice this year. Two were received last year, he said.

Smith said he also has received several letters from the KKK at home and thinks his address is on the KKK's mailing list.

He said he doesn't open all of the KKK letters he receives at home. The one sent to the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs was brought to the attention of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, who also was notified after a student discovered fliers on KKK letterhead attached to several trees on campus.

Smith said Griesen is looking into the problem of racism on campus.

"It's been an issue that (Griesen) has sought to attack. As a major part of his goal for the next several years, he's listed improving race relations through cultural diversity," Smith said.

Griesen was out of town and not available for comment.

Smith said the authors of the letters and fliers are unknown and may be students or faculty members.

"I'm sure that there are probably some students who are probably good supporters of the Ku Klux Klan and other oppressive organizations, because they bring that from their homes; they bring it from some of their communities," Smith said.

## Search committee

## Consideration of women, minorities emphasized

By Lisa Donovan  
Senior Reporter

The UNL Chancellor Search Committee met Thursday to discuss hiring criteria, including the importance of considering women and minority candidates, the committee chairman said.

Harvey Perlman, dean of the College of Law, said Brad Munn, Affirmative Action officer, met with the 12-member committee to discuss equal opportunity hiring practices.

Before a search for any administrator begins, Perlman said, the Affirmative Action officer informs the committee of Affirmative Action practices.

"He emphasized what the committee is already sympathetic with, and that is that women and racial minorities should be considered," Perlman said.

So far, the committee has received about 200 nominations and applica-

tions for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellorship, with several coming from within the university.

Perlman declined to say how many university officials were in the pool of candidates. UNL Interim Chancellor Jack Goebel has been reported as being nominated for the position.

The committee took no final votes on candidates Thursday and decided to continue taking applications and nominations for the position, Perlman said.

Perlman said he could not give a date for the final selection of the chancellor.

The committee is not "under any specific time schedule," he said.

Once the committee narrows its list of candidates, it will present its choices to NU President Martin Massengale.

After Massengale, former UNL chancellor, decides who should be the next chancellor, the NU Board of Regents will vote on the selection.



Staci McKee/Daily Nebraskan

Joseph Young, professor of horticulture, Anthony Starace, chairman of physics and astronomy, and Richard Keesing, doctor of physics at the University of York in England, plant the tree that was grafted from the tree that first inspired Sir Isaac Newton. The tree was planted near Behlen Physics Lab.

## Newton's tree flourishes at UNL

By Michael Hannon  
Staff Reporter

It may be a few years before another apple falls from its branches, but part of the tree that inspired Sir Isaac Newton is now growing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The "Flower of Kent" apple tree, produced by grafting a twig from Newton's original tree to the roots of another plant, was dedicated south

of Behlen Lab on Thursday afternoon after spending three years growing on East Campus.

The people who played a part in bringing the tree to UNL used a gold shovel to finish the planting before about 75 people.

"This tree has a special symbol for us. It ties us with the past. It reminds us of what we owe the past and what we owe the future," said James O'Hanlon, dean of the Teachers College.

Joseph Young, professor emeritus of horticulture, said he was inspired to investigate the tree when Ed Lyman, professor emeritus of horticulture, read a biography of Newton and "wondered what the variety of apple was."

Later, Young and Lyman contacted Richard Keesing professor of physics at York University in England.

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## FRIDAY

Yeltsin wins sweeping powers in the Russian republic. **Page 2.**

UNL student breathes new life into Graduate Assistant Association. **Page 3.**

Condensed version of spring football kicks off Saturday. **Page 5.**

Audience at Lied Center for Performing Arts discovers its Southern roots. **Page 6.**

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## Gun-control bill withstands changes

By Kara Wells  
Staff Reporter

A bill calling for the purchase of an annual permit to buy handguns Thursday withstood an attempt to alter it into a competing bill calling for an instant records check on gun purchasers.

The amendment offered by Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha would have changed LB355, a bill in first-round consideration in the Nebraska Legislature, into LB801, a competing gun-control bill.

LB355 requires an annual permit to buy handguns, exempting law enforcement personnel, gun dealers and selling of guns

members. LB801 would require gun dealers to cooperate with police in conducting an instant background check on a gun purchaser.

The amendment fell one vote short of being passed.

Although Ashford sponsored the amendment, he voted against it.

"I oppose the amendment although it has my name on it," he said. "I just want to make sure the (legislative) body has an opportunity to vote on instant check."

LB355, Ashford said, is a "piece of legislation that is a good, solid effort to deal with the gun-control problem." Eighty percent of Nebraskans want some sort of gun control, he said.

Ashford said he prefers LB355 over its competing bill, LB801, because LB801 cannot work. The bill is too expensive, requiring all

gun dealers to have direct access to the police department for instant background checks, he said.

Ashford said that with LB355, there would be one background check on gun purchasers each year. With LB801, a background check would be required every time a gun is purchased, he said.

Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha also voted against the amendment, saying that LB355 is the "least offensive" of the two bills.

"Under LB801, you must get a background check every time you purchase a handgun... not once, not twice, but every time," he said.

Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton argued that LB801 is the better bill.

Schellpeper, who co-sponsored LB801 and

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