

# Dictionary recognizes 'Cornhusker'

By Heather Heinisch  
Staff Reporter

Last year, a cornhusker was just one who husks corn or a social gathering for husking corn.

Now a cornhusker officially will be recognized as a resident of Nebraska or the Nebraska athletic teams, according to the 1991 edition of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary.

Leslie Manganaro, a publicist for Merriam-Webster in Springfield, Mass., said words are added to the dictionary as they come into broad usage.

Although editors tracked the first usage of cornhusker to 1948, she said, it was not a widely known word outside the region.

Nebraskans, however, were well aware of the term coined at the beginning of the century by Charles "Cy" Sherman, a sports editor at The Nebraska State Journal, in reference to the University of Nebraska's athletic teams.

**corn-flow-er** (-flōwər) *n.* an annual plant (*Centaurea cyanus*) of the composite family, with tiny, raylike, white, pink or blue flowers forming a round head at the top of the stem.

**corn-husker** (korn hus kər) *n.* 1 one who husks corn 2 a social gathering for husking corn. 3 a resident of Nebraska or the Nebraska athletic teams

**cor-nice** (kor nis) *n.* [Fr<It<L *coronis*, curved line, flourish in writing <Gr*koronis*, curved object: see CROWN] 1 a horizontal molding projecting along the top of a wall, building, etc. 2 the top part of an entablature 3 a projecting, decorative strip above a window, designed to



CORNHUSKER

Manganaro said a staff of lexicographers scan published works such as newspapers, magazines and advertisements for new words.

Once the staff finds a word and tracks its meaning and usage, an editor decides whether to include it in the dictionary.

"It's not a scientific process that I'm aware of," said Robert Haller, a UNL English professor who is interested in lexicography. "I think it's a decision made by the seat of the pants."

William Long, a UNL associate professor of English who also is inter-

ested in lexicography, said a dictionary is open-ended and cannot include every word because new words always are being coined and dropped from usage.

Haller said it is wrong for people to think that dictionaries are a final authority of the language, "as if God handed down the meanings."

Long agreed, saying there is often an exaggerated view of the authority of dictionaries. People who try to prove a word doesn't exist because it's not in the dictionary misconceive dictionaries authority, he said.

# Improving research standing may hurt teaching, official says

By Michael Hannon  
Staff Reporter

The emphasis on research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is threatening teaching, UNL officials and instructors said at a program in Selleck Residence Hall Thursday.

Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, said UNL has been attempting to improve its standing as a research institution at the risk of de-emphasizing teaching.

Sheldon Stick, a member of a Study Group on Classroom Research, said faculty members tend to be judged more on research, but teaching should be recognized as a large part of scholarship. Stick is a UNL professor of special education and communication disorders.

Liberty said UNL should reward good teaching in the same way it rewards research, but added that ways to measure teaching performance need to be devised.

English Professor Robert Narveson, co-director of the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education Project on Rewarding Education, said

the project is looking into other methods of evaluating teaching because student evaluations, though effective, are not enough.

Narveson said the project is considering peer evaluation, self-evaluation and evaluations by supervisors.

Speakers at the program, titled "The Scholarship of Teaching," also instructed professors on how to become more effective teachers.

Joy Ritchie, an assistant professor of English, said instructors can benefit from classroom research that reveals the values students hold and how students' lives outside the classroom affect their learning.

Robert Sorensen, a professor of agronomy, said teaching can be improved by evaluating tests used to measure students' performance and by using learning-style inventories to determine what teaching methods are best for particular students.

Robert Fuller, a professor of physics and astronomy, said the most effective way to evaluate teaching is to ensure that students have learned something by demanding feedback from them.

## POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Wednesday, April 24

12:28 p.m. — Vehicle damaged by flying gravel, 17th and Court streets, \$400.

12:36 p.m. — Hood ornament stolen, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex parking lot, \$25.

5:16 p.m. — Bicycle stolen, Henzlik Hall, \$750.

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# Nelson announces project to research coal byproduct

By Dionne Searcey  
Staff Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson said Thursday that an "extremely important" joint research effort will help UNL researchers uncover more uses for a byproduct of coal, an effort that could help the environment.

Nelson spoke at a press conference in the Walter Scott Engineering Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to announce the \$165,000 research project, which will focus on finding more uses for fly ash, waste material left over when coal is burned to create electric energy.

"We worry about how we're going to find ways to dispose of waste products. We can be heartened by an effort... whose results will be beneficial for Nebraskans," Nelson said.

The cooperative research effort is sponsored by the Omaha Public Power District, the Nebraska Public Power District, the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Charles Vrana & Son Construction Co.

Ron Watkins, president of the

Nebraska Public Power District, said about 200,000 tons of fly ash each year are buried near power companies in Nebraska. The material pollutes groundwater, he said.

Disposing of fly ash costs power companies \$3 per ton, Watkins said. But the power plants plan to sell the fly ash to concrete companies that currently use the material, he said.

Dalyce Ronnau, engineer of research and tests materials at the Nebraska Department of Roads, said fly ash can be used by organizations such as the Department of Roads in concrete and asphalt mixes.

Using fly ash as a filler in mixes saves the department \$1 per cubic yard, Ronnau said, but the department only can use a "relatively low" amount of the material.

Maheer Tadros, UNL interim director of the Center for Infrastructure Research, said the research effort will focus on "higher volume utilization" of fly ash.

Researchers will explore using fly ash to insulate ground pipes, he said.

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