

# Daily Nebraskan

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TODAY'S WEATHER

78/53

Today, partly sunny and breezy. Tonight, mostly clear. Wednesday, partly sunny, high in the upper 70s.



Susan Rosowski, an English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, specializes in the study of works by Willa Cather.

Staci McKee/DN

## Passion for Cather

English professor devotes 20 years to research of novelist

By Sarah Scalet  
Staff Reporter

When Susan Rosowski moved to Nebraska two decades ago, she had hardly heard of novelist Willa Cather.

But once she picked up "A Lost Lady," she was hooked.

"I found Cather exciting in all kinds of ways I hadn't with other writers," she said.

Rosowski, an English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, grew up in Kansas. After attending Whittier College in California and the University of Arizona-Tucson, she moved back to the Midwest in 1969 when her husband accepted a job at UNL. Since then, Rosowski has done

extensive research on Cather, a Great Plains novelist who attended UNL from 1890 to 1895.

Rosowski first became interested in Cather when Rosowski was teaching a temporary assignment at UNL. She included "A Lost Lady" in the class curriculum and decided to write an essay on the novel.

At the time, she was completing her doctorate on Laurence Sterne, an 18th-century novelist. However, Rosowski soon discovered that what she really wanted to explore was "A Lost Lady."

"I'd play games with myself," she said. "If I would work for three hours on my dissertation, I'd kind of reward myself with an hour of playing with this essay on 'A Lost Lady.'"

Cather moved to the center of Rosowski's intellectual life while Sterne became more and more peripheral, she said.

"For the first time, I was working with

an author who was inviting questions and a reading that involved personal dimensions of life," she said. "It involved questions of what it is to be female and what it is to live in this country in the Midwest."

In 1986, a position opened at UNL in studies about Cather. Although she enjoyed teaching British Romantics and women's studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Rosowski took the opportunity to focus on the area of her interest.

Since then, Rosowski has devoted much of her time to writing about Cather.

She has completed one book, "The Voyage Perilous: Willa Cather's Romanticism," and is currently working on a book about woman writers in the West, tentatively titled "The Birth of a Nation."

She also edited "Approaches to Teaching Cather's 'My Antonia'" and is

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## BRRC told home ec essential to NU, state

Proposal to cut 2 courses from human development

By Roger Price  
Staff Reporter

Preschool assessment and gerontology courses are essential pieces of the Human Development and Family department, faculty, students and community members told UNL's Budget Reduction Review Committee Monday.

The courses were recommended for elimination in a budget-cutting plan offered by Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs. The plan is in response to a legislative mandate that UNL cut its budget by 3 percent over two years.

Suzanne Ortega, associate professor of sociology who specializes in aging, said that no official gerontology program exists at UNL, but the courses related to aging in the human development and family department have been designated for elimination.

It does not make sense to "reach into one department and pull out the faculty related to aging," she said.

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## Officials: Cuts hit nonexistent UNL home ec programs

By Wendy Navratil  
Senior Reporter

Proposed cuts in the department of human development and the family were based on a fundamental misunderstanding, said home economics college officials at budget hearings Monday.

The programs targeted for elimination — the gerontology and preschool assessment programs — do not exist, said John Woodward, chairman of the department of human development and the family in the UNL College of Home

Economics.

The elimination of the programs was part of a budget-cutting proposal submitted by Stan Liberty, interim vice chancellor of academic affairs, to the Budget Reduction Review

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## Officials: Mental health help exists

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on student health.

By Wendy Mott  
Staff Reporter

From test anxiety to severe psychosis, students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln suffer from a range of mental illnesses, officials said.

Dr. Robert Portnoy, clinical psychologist and department head of mental health at the University Health Center, said 668 students visited the mental health department during the 1989-90 school year.

The majority of students visiting the mental health department are diagnosed as having "no mental disorder" or "adjustment disorders," he said. Adjustment dis-

orders include reactions to stressful factors, such as the loss of a relative or sudden changes in environment that lead to mild anxiety or depression, he said.

"These are very stressful times (for students)," Portnoy said. "Students are dealing with the issues of identity formation, career direction and independence."

Portnoy said students may find it difficult to deal with their problems because their identities are in formative stages.

Many students are away from home for the first time, he said. They are in a new environment and have left their friends behind, and this can cause feelings of isolation, he said.

"Students are making decisions without their parents and are dealing with the responsibilities of freedom," Portnoy said.

Exposure to alcohol and drugs adds to the pressure of these decisions, he said.

The most common problems students have are relationships involving spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, roommates or parents, Portnoy said.

One mental disease common to all college campuses is anorexia, and Portnoy said UNL is no exception. Of the mental health center's patients, 4 percent are treated for anorexia or bulimia, he said, but this number is an underrepresentation. Many cases go unreported, he said, and some cases are not detected on first analysis.

Portnoy said college stress may seem insurmountable, but on reflection, most people see this time as "the golden years." Stress is a constant factor in most people's lives, he said.

Portnoy said the mental health center, like all psychological counseling centers, has more female than male patients. He attributed this to a greater willingness in women to admit they have a problem and to seek help

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### TUESDAY

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Grant enhances Department of Geography. Page 3

Cornhusker reflects on fumble. Page 7

Cross country team takes 4th place. Page 8

Jason D. Williams honky-tonks at the Zoo. Page 9

Movie hurt by unbelievable ending. Page 10

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## Racial grouping possibly illegal, professor says

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

The placing of minority students together in first-year law classes has sparked disagreement in the law college.

Richard Duncan, a law professor, said the practice of separating students on the basis of race is "almost certainly illegal."

"I think the purpose here was a very good-hearted purpose," he said. "But I think it is of questionable legality."

Harvey Perlman, dean of the college, confirmed that minority students are intentionally grouped together.

"In assigning students to each class, we made an effort not to isolate minority students from other minority

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