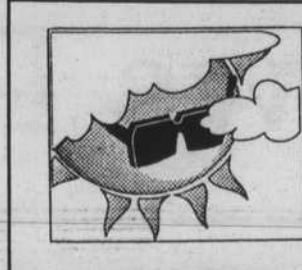


# Daily Nebraskan

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TODAY'S WEATHER

45/22

Today, partly sunny, north winds at 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Tonight, cloudy with a few flurries. Tuesday, cloudy and colder with flurries and a high around 30.



Al Schaben/DN

Jimmi Smith, director of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, has guided minority programs since taking the position in 1974.

## Equal opportunity architect

Director says education important ingredient for change

By Michelle McGowan  
Staff Reporter

Ever since Jimmi Smith set foot on the UNL campus, he has dedicated himself to furthering the opportunities of racial minority students.

Smith, the director of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from Pennsylvania in 1967 on a football scholarship. A product of the welfare system and the oldest of 10 children, Smith said he knew he could do better — and he knew that the only way he could better himself was through education.

Smith had to deal with more than classes and football after he arrived at UNL. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, one year

after Smith came to UNL, encouraged black students to stand up to how the university was treating them.

"In 1969, UNL claimed there was no such thing as racism, and in order to quiet the students down, the university claimed they would send us all back home," Smith said. "We knew it was a bluff because mostly these were students here for baseball, football and track."

Smith said many black athletes stood up to racist administrators and faculty. The athletes went on strike, burning coffins on the lawn of the Administration Building and locking administrators in a meeting room, he said.

"Students insisted on change, and there were results," he said. "The multi-cultural affairs office was born, and other organizations sprang up as well, such as the Afrikan People's Union."

The Culture Center, the Academic Success Center, ethnic studies and Minority

Special Events at the Nebraska Union also were born.

Smith said many changes had occurred since he was a student at UNL, although "a lot of our white students don't feel that racial minorities have a place here at UNL."

"Today's white students' behavior restricts minorities," he said. "They won't support minority causes. They don't attend events with minority themes. And they think that's all right."

"We're in a troubled state because the learner is misunderstanding what's necessary to enable every student to reach their potential. Minorities need support since they are a strong part of America's future."

While many people believe they can be successful if they try hard enough, Smith said, this is not true for racial minorities.

"Prejudice and bias are real," he said. "Discrimination is real. The men in charge,

See SMITH on 3

## Senator hopes firearm bill mends flaws

By Andy Raun  
Staff Reporter

A legislative bill meant to clarify Nebraska's two-day waiting period for handgun permits was not criticized Friday during a public hearing at the State Capitol.

However, a bill that would ban firearms in and around schools was met with stiff opposition at the judiciary committee hearing.

Both bills were introduced by Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha.

The first measure, LB1034, would correct flaws in LB355, an Ashford bill passed in 1991 that required Nebraskans to apply for a handgun purchase permit with their local police chief or county sheriff, said Gene Collins, an Ashford aide.

Under LB355, police and sheriff's offices had two days from the time they received a handgun application to investigate the applicant's background.

LB1034 more clearly defines what the background investigation should entail, Collins said. The bill also allows law enforcement agencies to deny or delay issuing a permit when they know an application contains incorrect information.

Collins said the measure would help clarify

See LEGISLATURE on 2

## Student court hears lawsuit

By Kara Morrison  
Staff Reporter

The ASUN Student Court on Friday heard Speaker Steve Thomlison's lawsuit to recall a resolution that made ASUN the co-sponsor of a gay, lesbian and bisexual human rights day.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Law Sen. Gene Collins, who, along with ASUN President Andy Massey, defended the senate, called the lawsuit "a black eye to the senate."

"If this resolution wasn't in support of homosexuals, we probably wouldn't be here," Collins said.

"That it had to come this far and be put in the spotlight, I apologize," Collins told the court. "There are things that could have been worked out."

See ASUN on 2

## UNL alumnus uncovering ancient city

Archeologist leads hunt for remains

By Dionne Searcey  
Senior Editor

University of Nebraska alumnus Juris Zarins wanted to be an archeologist even when he was a young boy, his mother, Maria, said.

"When he said he wanted to be an archeologist, we didn't say anything," she said. "We just let him go."

Zarins has more than fulfilled his childhood dream.

Today Zarins is in Oman, digging up the remains of the ancient city of Ubar.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that archeologists, with the help of pictures taken from the space shuttle Challenger in 1984, had located Ubar buried beneath Arabian sands.

Mrs. Zarins said her son was the chief archeologist of the dig, which already had uncovered Ubar's octagon-shaped stone walls, towers and pieces of pottery.

Archeologists found the city by examining Challenger photos that revealed ancient desert roads, The AP reported.

Five thousand years ago, Ubar was a trade center for frankincense, a fragrance as precious as gold. The AP reported that the city might have been inhabited from about 2800 B.C. until A.D. 100. If this is true, urban development in this region began nearly 1,000 years earlier than believed.

According to Islamic legend, the city became so corrupt that God caused the desert sands to swallow it. Researchers have discovered that the city fell into a sinkhole created when an underground limestone cavern collapsed, according to The AP.

Mrs. Zarins said her son's interest in Near Eastern archeology began at the University of Chicago, where he studied with other Saudi Arabian students. Zarins has written several articles on the subject, she said.

Zarins was a 1967 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he studied anthropology, she said. He completed his doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1976. The 47-year-old is a professor of archeology and anthropology at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield.

While he attended UNL, Zarins accompanied Smithsonian archeologists on several digs.

Zarins' work as an archeologist has earned worldwide fame. He once met the former king of Sweden, also an archeologist, and accompanied him on a dig.

"We're very proud of him," Mrs. Zarins said. "Everyone is."



Brian Shellito/DN

### MONDAY

Support for President Boris Yeltsin continues to dwindle. **Page 2**

The Huskers let one get away on Saturday as Kansas State won 70-66. **Page 7**

New job guide for the disabled yields little help. **Page 9**



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