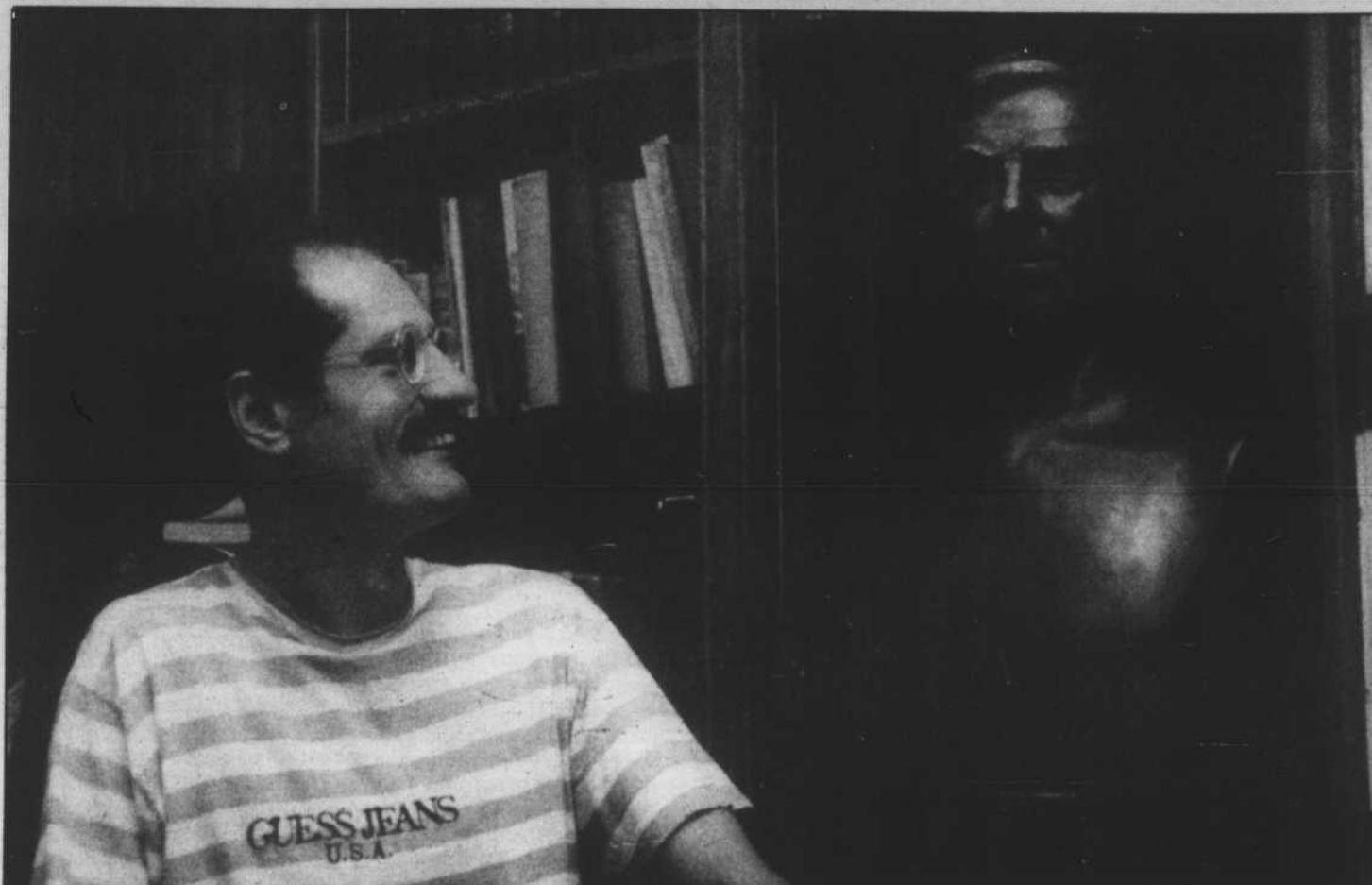
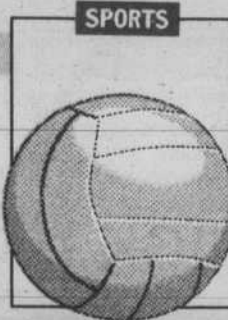


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Jody Price/DN

Neil Adkin, an associate professor of classics, says he gains inspiration from important figures of the past, such as the man immortalized by a bust in the English department lounge. "I don't know who he is, but he must be important," Adkin said.

Classics scholar

British professor fled 'poverty and deprivation' for work

By Mark Harms
Staff Reporter

After studying at universities in Oxford, Munich, Glasgow and Liverpool, Neil Adkin had enough of European academia.

"I fled the poverty and deprivation of the old country to get away from the snoot, sloth and stupidity of my fellow countrymen," said Adkin, an associate professor of classics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Adkin, 38, grew up in Yorkshire County, England, and was living in Liverpool before he moved to Lincoln three years ago.

He said cutbacks in academics by England's conservative government forced him to look for work in the United States.

"I came to the United States because of Mrs. Thatcher," Adkin said, referring to Margaret Thatcher's term as British prime minister.

He was pleased, he said, when he got a job at UNL.

"I arrived at Chicago's O'Hare Airport full of gratitude, tugging my forelock and clutching my green card," he said.

He has found a home in Lincoln and would like to spend the rest of his days here, he said.

"I like the dynamics of this country, the work ethic, the wallpaper suits me," he said. "Lincoln is clean and safe — just the place for a run around the park on a Saturday afternoon."

Europe's loss is UNL's gain. Adkin is an accomplished scholar of classical rhetoric.

Over the past year, he has submitted 20 articles for publication in Spanish, French, German, Italian, British and American journals. He also has translated, or helped to translate, many Latin texts into English.

But his main area of study is patristics, the study of the fathers of Christianity. Adkin specializes in the study of St. Jerome, who lived in the fifth century and was a contemporary of St. Augustine.

"I'm exposing him as a pompous, anal, vulgar exhibitionist; in short, a charlatan, a buffoon, a clown," Adkin said. "We have much in common."

Although Adkin said he preferred research

and publication over teaching, he recently won the College of Arts and Sciences Award for Outstanding Teaching.

He said classics was relevant in today's world.

"Classics is the basis of modern civilization, also the basis of the entertainment industry," he said. "All the TV soaps go back to Euripides and past him to Homer."

Many people think the classics are lofty and high-minded, he said, which is not the case.

"Classics is very down-to-earth, dirty and everyday," he said. "Classics covers the whole range of human experience with special emphasis on effective self-expression."

Last year, UNL's administration considered cutting the classics department to reduce the budget. Adkin said he started looking for jobs elsewhere and was relieved when the administration decided to keep the department.

He has little interest in academic politics and would rather concentrate on research and teaching, he said.

"I'm the least in the department anyway — a mere child," he said.

Boosters say wrong pick made during director hunt

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Almost three months after UNL's new athletic director was appointed, the decision still has some Cornhusker athletic boosters seeing red.

Dan Hergert, president of UNL's Touchdown Club, said he would give his full support to Bill Byrne, the former athletic director at the University of Oregon and Nebraska's new athletic director.

But he said he thought the choice was the wrong one.

"Generally, based on my association with athletics here, you don't hire from the outside unless something is going to pot," Hergert said. "That's not the case here. I think there should have been a promotion from within."

Byrne was named in June by Chancellor Graham Spanier to head UNL's athletic department after he was chosen by a majority vote of a 10-member selection committee that included UNL professors, administrators and coaches.

Hergert said he thought Al Papik, assistant athletic director for administrative services and compliance coordinator, was the obvious choice for the position, "because he's been here for so long, he's not an outsider and he's done a fine job."

Papik, who has been at UNL since 1987, was not among the three finalists voted on by the selection committee.

Hergert said the committee that voted on Byrne consisted of "a lot of people . . . who didn't know what they were doing."

"They didn't have (outgoing Athletic Director) Bob Devaney, who we owe the success of our entire athletic department to," Hergert said. "But we did have the women's basketball coach (Angela Beck)."

Hergert said he didn't know who else should have been included on the committee, "but it shouldn't have been the women's basketball coach."

"I sure as hell wouldn't have had a women's basketball coach who loses the athletic department \$700,000 or \$800,000 a year."

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said the women's basketball program cost about \$450,000 a year, and does not make money for the athletic department. But, he said, that is typical of any other university athletic department, where football and men's basketball are the moneymakers.

Hergert said he was unconvinced that Byrne could handle an athletic program the size of UNL's.

"Oregon is a very small operation, and Nebraska's is about four times larger," he said. "He has never done anything like this before."

See BOOSTER on 3

Parking grace period is over, official warns

No more breaks for staff members, faculty or students

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

All good things must end, and the grace period for UNL parking just did.

Michael Cacak, manager of Transportation Services, said UNL police had been giving students, faculty and staff a break during the first few days of classes and issuing warnings, rather than citations, for most violations.

But the grace period is over, he said, and now UNL police will punish violators with citations.

"Students shouldn't count on getting warnings any more," Cacak said.

The warning period was an effort to educate drivers of the parking rules, he said, and to provide a service to new students.

Cacak said this semester was the first time he could remember UNL police giving violators a warning before issuing a citation.

"I hope the students, faculty and staff appreciated it," he said.

Cacak said UNL police issued several hundred warnings during the first few days of classes, and he said he hoped the grace period would reduce the number of future citations.

Most warnings were given to drivers who parked their cars in reserved parking areas, he said. Violations also were made by drivers parking in the wrong lots altogether.

But Cacak said he believed most of the drivers just made honest mistakes.

"The first week of school, as far as parking goes, is really confusing," he said, "especially for new students."

Many students, he said, were unaware that they had parked illegally and would immediately move their cars.

Cacak said he did hear of a few students who tried to take advantage of the program.

He said because word of the program got out through newspapers and radio, some students intentionally parked illegally, knowing they would not receive a citation.

UNL police issued some citations for obvious violations, he said.

Cars parked in reserved spots for the disabled or in fire lanes received citations rather than warnings.

See TICKETS on 3

Cost of parking permits

Annual (expires Aug. 22, 1993)	\$54
Fall semester only (expires Jan. 10, 1993)	\$33
Remote/night (annual only)	\$17
Short-term permits	
monthly	\$17
Weekly	\$5
Daily	\$2