

Proposed center to offer classes on the history, culture of Judaism

By Mindy Leiter
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will gain a new center for Judaic studies, thanks to \$4 million in contributions from alumni and the fund-raising group, Friends of the University, an official said.

The proposed Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies will allow UNL students to take classes on Jewish culture, history and religion, said John Peters, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The NU Board of Regents is set to approve the center's name.

The center will offer classes to students majoring in history or philosophy, in which the study of Judaism would be relevant, he said. In addition, the center will establish professorships and offer a major in Jewish studies.

Peters said the \$4 million also would go toward faculty scholarship, library collections and community outreach programs on the Jewish experience.

"I'm proud of (the center)," he said. "It's a very good thing for all of UNL."

Peters said UNL had an interest in Judaic studies for a long time, but was unable to create a center until it received the \$4 million in contributions.

Norman and Bernice Harris of San Diego provided the cornerstone of the center's funding with a gift of nearly \$3.5 million as part of a trust agreement in their wills.

The Harris also gave their rare collection of Native American art and pottery to the Nebraska State Museum for permanent display.

Norman Harris, who graduated from UNL in 1941 with a degree in political science, said the university was "a part of his good memories."

"If I were to do anything for a university, it would be for Nebraska," he said.

"Some of my happiest days and experiences were spent during those four years. I think this is my way of giving back."

Harris said he hoped the classes offered by the center would help dispel stereotypes about Judaism and foster a greater understanding about the Judeo-Christian culture.

"Judaic studies is a noble purpose," he said. "It is an American duty to

teach people to understand each other for the sake of peace and justice and decency.

"If students learned this, then maybe it will change the way they treat their fellow man."

Harris said people must work to find the similarities in other cultures, rather than emphasizing the differences.

Few Midwestern universities have Judaic studies centers and establishing one at UNL will place the university in a leadership position, he said.

Two professorships have been created to foster Judaic studies at UNL.

Zella Rosenberg of Lincoln donated \$100,000 for a professorship to honor her late husband, Hymen Rosenberg.

The professor will teach modern European and Jewish history, Peters said. The university still is searching for someone to fill the position.

James and Elaine Wolf of Albion gave \$100,000 to establish a Col. Melvin H. Schlesinger Professorship of Social Justice to honor Elaine Wolf's father, a 1916 UNL graduate.

Gifts from Gretl Wald and Norman and Helene Krivosha, all of Lincoln, will establish lectureships in Judaic studies.

Election

Continued from Page 1

Democratic nominee Bill Clinton on foreign policy, Forsythe said, it often is assumed that Bush has the upper hand.

Forsythe said he did not make that assumption.

In the past, he said, Democrats have stayed away from discussing foreign policy issues because they were viewed as too weak on communism. Now, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Forsythe said, the Republicans have lost their hold on foreign policy issues.

"The conventional wisdom is (foreign policy) would be a Bush strength," he said. "I don't think Clinton necessarily sees it that way."

"The changes in the world, I think, actually work to Clinton's advantage."

Forsythe said he thought Bush would stress his handling of Operation Desert Storm, his role in the collapse of communism and Clinton's inexperience in foreign

policy issues.

Clinton, he said, would attack Bush for being indecisive about Iraq after Desert Storm, for not being tough enough on China for human rights abuses and for being slow to help disaster victims in Somalia.

Forsythe gave Bush high marks for his handling of Desert Storm, but was critical of his overall leadership in foreign policy.

"I am not that impressed with U.S. foreign policy at the moment," he said.

However, Forsythe said it was unclear whether Clinton would be able to do a better job.

"I don't know that we know for sure," he said. "We don't have much to go on — he doesn't have much of a track record."

Neither candidate, he said, is significantly better than the other on foreign policy issues.

"I think it's a very mixed picture on both sides," he said. "I don't think it's black vs. white either in favor of Bush or Clinton."



BE A RED CROSS VOLUNTEER

Lottery profits would reach NU, coordinator says

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

Profits from a proposed state lottery would reach the University of Nebraska only indirectly, an official said.

Randy Moody, coordinator for the Friends of Education and the Environment campaign that supports Amendment 1A, said the lottery legislation directed profits only to schools within the kindergarten through 12th-grade range. Amendment 1A would allow the creation of a state lottery.

But he said NU ultimately would benefit from the lottery's effects on education in Nebraska because the university would gain better-prepared students.

Amendment 1A, approved by the Legislature in 1991, would amend the Nebraska Constitution to allow the state to establish, operate and regulate a lottery. The amendment will be voted on in November.

LB849 is the part of the lottery legislation that deals with the allocation of the lottery's profits. According to the bill, proceeds from the lottery would go to education, environmental and landfill cleanup projects. Some of the funds also would be used to help people with gambling addictions.

Gov. Ben Nelson spoke in support of Constitutional Amendment 1A at a press conference last week.

The governor would allocate 49.5 percent of the lottery funds for grants to school districts. Nelson said the state would decide what school districts would receive the money on a yearly basis.

The lottery would provide funds for one-time grants to go toward education, including educational facilities, he said. The lottery also would provide funds to set up an environmental trust fund to aid in conservation.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday

12:42 a.m. — Vehicle window broken, parking lot at 17th and Holdrege streets, \$150.

7:35 a.m. — Vehicle pushed from stall, parking lot at 19th and S streets.

8:30 a.m. — Auto accessories stolen, parking lot east of Abel-Sandoz Complex, \$20.

2:27 p.m. — Vehicle scratched, parking lot at 14th and Avery streets, \$500.

7:35 p.m. — Camera stolen, Cather Residence Hall, \$72.

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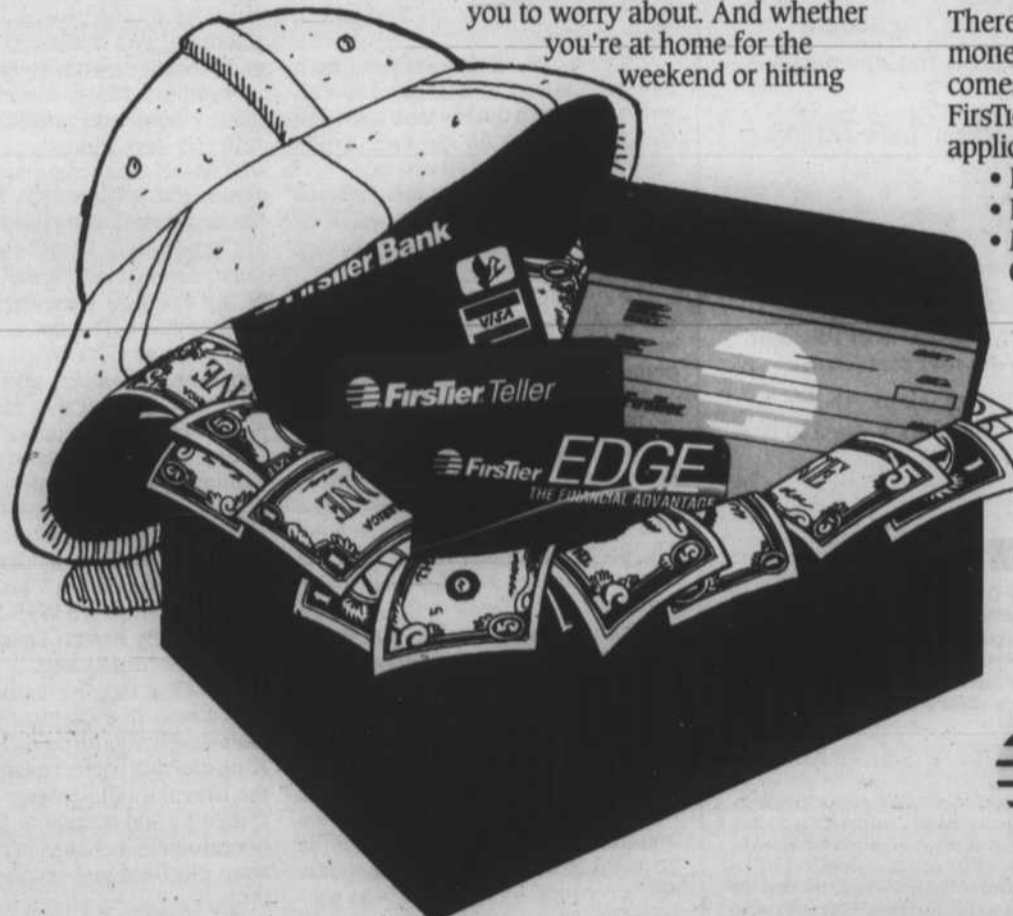
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