

UNL named among elite research universities

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is considered to be among the top research institutions in the country. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement in Teaching has upgraded UNL's classification to "Research University I." The foundation's system is the standard when comparing schools, UNL officials said. The high rating represents a uni-

versity that grants at least 50 doctoral degrees and receives \$40 million or more in federal support annually. While UNL easily qualified on the first mark, it had not previously received enough funding. A letter sent by the foundation to Chancellor Graham Spanier explained the rating meant UNL "offers a full range of baccalaureate programs, is committed to graduate education, through the doctorate, and gives high priority to research."

Priscilla Grew, vice chancellor for research, said having a nationally recognized program would make it easier for UNL to recruit quality faculty and graduate students. But Grew said the ranking didn't just reflect on research. "I think they (Carnegie) share the view that you don't separate out research from teaching," she said. The rating is the highest classification by the Carnegie Foundation, awarded to only 86 universities na-

tionwide. Other universities include Stanford, Cornell and Columbia. Don Helmuth, associate vice chancellor for research, said the rating would heighten UNL's visibility in certain federal funding programs and make it easier to obtain grants. "It's a prestigious class," he said. "Many universities strive for it, and many have spent a lot of money to try and get there." UNL previously was classified a "Research University II" by the foun-

But last year, the university received about \$50 million in federal funds as part of a record high of nearly \$74 million in grants and contracts for the 1993 fiscal year. In 1992 UNL accepted \$45.5 million in federal money and received a total of \$66 million in all funds. Helmuth said while the honor was a psychological boost for the university, it wasn't a signal to relax. "It's not anything that will put us in a complacent state," he said.

Author challenges evolution theory

By Pattyewel
Staff Reporter

If humans are the products of an accidental universe, they have no one to answer to, a speaker said Thursday. Phillip Johnson, author of the book "Darwin On Trial" and a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley, challenged the theory of evolution Thursday in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union. Johnson said evolutionists who claimed humans developed through gradual changes as the result of chance and random mutation were unsupported. He said evolutionists, such as Richard Dawkins with his Blind Watchmaker Theory, contended that God never had an effect on

nature. The idea that there is no supreme being, not the theory that creatures changed over time, is what Johnson calls dangerous. Johnson said teaching evolution in schools was teaching a religious creation story. He said if society was taught they were products of an accidental universe — humans, independent of a god, would be responsible for finding their own purpose in life and their own definition of right and wrong. Johnson said he lectured at universities around the country in order to start a debate on this subject. Johnson offered several arguments as to why evolution should not be taught as a scientific theory. First of all, Johnson said, the examples evolutionists offered did not defend their theory.

One of these examples includes new breeds of dogs developed by humans. Johnson said this case did not support evolution because it was a purposeful event, not a chance happening. More importantly, Johnson said, only dogs resulted from these breedings, not a different species. As for gradual mutations, Johnson said, fossil records do not support this. Rather, he said, fossil records show huge jumps in structures of particular organisms instead of gradual changes. Not everyone at the lecture agreed with Johnson. William Benner, a junior physics and philosophy major, said Johnson tried to show that, by proving evolution wrong, he had in turn proved there was a creator. Benner said that was not logical.

Bjorklund

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prayer. Endacott reportedly said something like, "May God be with us." Born said she interpreted his words as a prayer for safe travel. The prayer had nothing to do with her decision and did not compromise her judgement, Born said. She said Bjorklund was treated fairly. "To me it was over when it was over because everything was presented and we took our time in going over evidence and thoroughly gave (Bjorklund) the benefit of the doubt," Born said. According to court transcripts, on March 23 Endacott overruled motions from Helvie for a new trial with a different judge. Defending his actions, Endacott explained to the attorneys he hugged the jurors to show his appreciation for

their services. "My business is to provide a fair and impartial trial," Endacott said at the hearing. "And I can say, 'cause I know in my heart, I have done everything possible to provide both sides with a fair and impartial trial throughout: absolutely impartial and absolutely fair." Helvie said he didn't think Endacott had acted wrongly. But, he said, because he could base that only on his own perception he was obligated, on behalf of his client, to make the motions. Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said at the hearings that he thought Endacott's actions were justified. "It's perfectly appropriate for a judge in the circumstances of this particular case to thank a jury for ... their services as it did at the end of the case," he said. Senior Editor Adeana Leftin contributed to this report.

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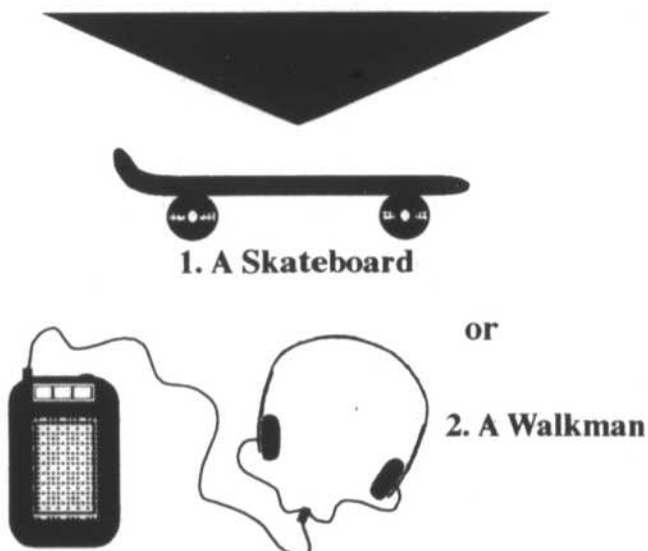
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Opponents

Continued from Page 1 Council Bluffs, said women must be able to discuss all matters related to abortion with a doctor. "It would have a devastating effect on Nebraska's women," she said. "Many clinics would shut down, and it would lead to more unwanted pregnancies." Kennedy said it was ironic that senators were opposed to "big government," but they wanted to pass laws allowing the government to intervene on abortion. Russ Alberts, president of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, said the bill would alter academic freedom across the state. Though AFCON takes no position on the issue of abortion, he said, the group opposed LB156 because of the threat it presented to academic freedom. He said since every public school, public university and public teaching hospital in Nebraska received funding from the state, LB156 would restrict counselors and educators in such areas as health, psychology and biology. The bill would allow the state to prohibit class outlines or lectures that mentioned abortion. Alberts said the bill would prohibit librarians from providing books and articles that mentioned abortion. "Most Nebraskans want a free and open discussion about such things as abortion," he said. "LB156 is a threat to democracy."

Baldwin

Continued from Page 1 the athletic department. Baldwin intends to continue taking his medication, which includes lithium, a calming agent, and Prozac, an anti-depressant, Stuart said. During cross-examination, Lacey blasted Stuart and questioned Baldwin's credibility. "I was told a year ago, by a doctor of your stature, (Baldwin) was going to stay on his medication," he said. "Why should I believe you?" Merritt sustained Helvie's objections to Lacey's line of questioning, and Lacey continued asking about Baldwin's history of not taking his medication. Stuart said Baldwin had said six times in the last week that he intended to stay on his medication. He said Baldwin had twice seen what happened when he did not take his medicine and was convinced of the medicine's importance.

