

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## SPORTS

### Down and dirty

Nebraska catcher David Crain uses hustle and aggressive play to help the Husker baseball team anyway he can.

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Friday

50/32

Today, mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain.

## UNL officials admit mishandling of money

### Two students funded through tax dollars

By Adeana Leftin, Steve Smith and Jeff Zeleny  
Senior Editors

UNL administrators admit fault in mishandling private monies donated to two graduate students, which resulted in tax dollars being used to fund their education.

Thursday's Lincoln Journal, the city's daily afternoon newspaper, reported that private funds donated specifically for the education and expenses of two UNL graduate students were misplaced in an unrestricted fund.

Friends and family donated \$22,500 to Xiaochuan He and \$23,000 to Hua Tong, both of China, to sponsor their economic department graduate assistantships.

Craig MacPhee, chairman of the economics department, put the \$45,500, specifically earmarked for the students, in an unrestricted department account in the University Foundation. Money can be withdrawn from the fund at the discretion of the economics department head.

Gary Schwendiman, dean of the College of Business Administration, said several letters accompanied the private donations.

Some letters, Schwendiman said, specified that the money was earmarked for the graduate students. But, he said, the one letter MacPhee saw simply said the donation was a gift to the

department.

Schwendiman said the other letters were not brought to MacPhee's attention until recently.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier said in a statement any errors in management of the fund had been corrected and steps would be taken to ensure a similar incident didn't occur again.

"The procedures involved were highly irregular and do not conform to approved practices of the University of Nebraska or the University of Nebraska Foundation," he said.

"While faculty member and departmental intentions appear to have had the best interests of the two students in mind," Spanier said, "the UNL administration will insist that proper financial practices are carefully followed in all circumstances."

Jim Knisely, UNL comptroller, said the reported improprieties were the result of a miscommunication.

"In my opinion there was some miscommunication about what the funds had been used for," Knisely said.

Knisely said donations given to the university usually were not targeted for specific students.

"This isn't something we normally run into at all," Knisely said. In Knisely's 15 years as comptroller, this type of student-sponsorship donation has happened only twice before.

Knisely said the funds would be returned from the foundation to the university general operating account at once. A trust fund account

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William Lauer/DN

Bruce Currin, director of the Human Resources Department, works on his computer with his 9-year-old daughter Toby.

## UNL daughters explore work options

By Angie Brunkow  
Senior Reporter

Some UNL Teachers College students got advice Thursday with the help of a girl half their age.

During "Take Your Daughter to Work Day," 10 year old Katie Will, worked alongside her grandmother, Pat Sim, as chief adviser for the college's health and human performance department.

"Some people came in and she told them what classes would be best for them to graduate," Katie said.

This year was the first time the University of Nebraska-Lincoln officially sanctioned the second-annual event for its employees.

Staff, faculty and administrators all were encouraged to bring their daughters to work to show what they did during the day.

The day, sponsored nationally by the Ms. Foundation for Women, was designed to

boost girls' self-esteem. Statistics show girls usually are not encouraged as much as boys to pursue careers.

Katie's day as a career woman began at 7:30 a.m., when she attended a breakfast with football coaches and recruiters.

"I got announced as a special guest," Katie said. "And I was the first one to be announced, too."

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## Four professors set for long haul in suit vs. UNL

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

The attorney for the four engineering professors who claimed they were unfairly denied tenure at UNL said his clients would take the matter as far as it could go.

"Until the last possible avenue of the court process is used, this is not over," Thom Cope said. "We will continue to challenge the university."

"This is well far from over — you can count on it and the university can count on it."

Russell Alberts, Gautam Batra, Michael Resch and Nisar Shaikh sued the NU Board of Regents, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chancellor Graham Spanier and the Dean of the College of Engineering Stan Liberty.

The suit, filed in U.S. Federal Court on March 29, claimed the four professors were "professionally hazed" when they were not told the requirements for tenure.

The professors then filed a motion for a preliminary injunction that would have required UNL to keep three of the four professors until a decision could be made on the case.

Shaikh has since moved to Sunnyvale, Calif., after being denied tenure.

The injunction was denied Tuesday by U.S. Federal Court Judge Richard Kopf.

Cope said the judge's decision was disappointing, but wasn't cause for panic.

"It certainly wasn't unexpected when we heard what (the judge) said in court," Cope said.

NU Associate General Counsel John Wiltse said the lawsuit had no constitutional grounds to stand on in federal court.

"They tried to make a federal case out of this and we disagreed with them," he said. "The judge did too."

Cope said the professors' next move was taking their case to the State Claims Board, which handles contract and personal injury claims. He said their fate there was doubtful.

"We anticipate it will be denied because they always deny them," Cope said.

Assuming they are denied, Cope said, the next step would be to take the case to Lancaster

See ENGINEERING on 7

## Busy weekend in store for Board of Regents

### Out-of-state tuition increase could get final approval

By Brian Sharp  
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents will have their hands full this weekend.

Issues involving residency requirements, UNMC expansion, Memorial Stadium and a student protest will highlight the board's agenda.

Discussion of a proposed parking garage on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus was withdrawn because all the data needed for its presentation was not available, officials said. Regents will get their first chance to discuss the

garage at their June meeting.

Regents will, however, have a chance to give final approval to another issue of controversy.

A recommendation from central administration that would change the waiting period for residency from six months to 12 months will be placed in front of the board.

The difference will mean that out-of-state students will have to pay higher tuition rates for a longer time.

Joe Rowson, NU spokesman, said the only opposition to the proposal had come from stu-

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### Student activists to protest contract with Mitsubishi

By Brian Sharp  
Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents has contracted Mitsubishi, labeled by environmentalists as the worst destroyer of the world's forests, for two \$3.5 million stadium replay screens, and the board will hear about it from some student activists on Saturday.

Students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of Nebraska at Omaha will conduct a protest rally outside Varner Hall on Saturday, following their meeting with the re-

gents.

Lisa Williams, a member of Nebraska Earth First! and the Rainforest Action Network, is helping to organize the event.

"This is such an unusual situation," she said. "We have so much of our studies ... centered on preservation and environmental concerns, and then to go and deal with (Mitsubishi)."

"It's kind of an atrocity. It's an inconsistency."

A letter sent to the regents asks that the contract be reevaluated, that all action on the

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