

UNL hit with lawsuits

Associated Press — Two lawsuits have recently been filed against the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

UNL chemistry professor Victor Day is suing his boss and the Board of Regents, alleging his salary is about half what his peers in the department make. The other lawsuit was filed Tuesday by Art Ode, former director of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Ode alleges that he was fired because of his age.

Ode alleged his contract was terminated in 1993 despite excellent performance evaluations and annual salary increases. Ode, who is 57, was replaced by a man in his 30's. He also alleges that Irv Omtvedt, vice-chancellor of UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, gave him a false performance evaluation in 1992. Omtvedt is named as a defendant in the suit along with the regents.

Omtvedt said that Ode's employment with the university was on a contractual basis, and that the decision not to renew the contract was based partly on budgetary concerns.

In 1993, Ode earned \$87,300. His replacement earns about \$50,000 a year. Ode is asking to be reinstated.

According to Day's lawsuit, he has been paid an average of \$41,124 a year since 1990, while other professors in the chemistry department earned a median salary of \$73,025.

The suit alleges that Pill-Soon Song, chairman of UNL's chemistry department intentionally directed the salary committee to retaliate against plaintiff for his exercise of academic freedom by conducting research through a consulting company Day owns.

The suit seeks \$858,000 in compensatory, punitive and other damages and an unspecified amount for emotional and mental distress.

Day, a tenured professor since 1979, also alleges that Song has purposely excluded from Day's personnel file information on academic research Day has done at his own consulting company.

He also alleges that Song lists Day as an associate professor in personnel files. Day is a full professor.

Song has declined to comment, and John Wiltse, the attorney handling the case for the university, was out of town and unavailable for comment.



Tom Stefkovich shows his colors as Beth Dickinson paints the U.S. flag across his face during Seward's Fourth of July celebration.

Jason Levkulich/DN

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ExpoVision highlights possible future careers

By Chris DeKalb
Staff Reporter

On July 6-8 there will be some new faces on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campuses. ExpoVisions '94, a youth education program, is being held on both city and east campus. The event is sponsored by 4-H as a means of helping youth throughout the state, said Larry Hammer, program specialist at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Studies.

Events include 42 learnshops, 17 career tours and several special programs. The activities focus on various academic areas, including law, engineering, journalism, aviation and zoology. Participating students will also take a trip to Omaha's Old Market and to Bellevue.

This is the fifth year for ExpoVision.

ExpoVision events help people who run 4-H programs achieve their goals with young students, Hammer said. Some of these goals are exploring a career, extending talents, learning self-expression and expanding horizons.

The 4-H organizations and the Center for Continuing Education devotes a lot of time on this project according to Hammer.

"We work on it year round," he said. "We get serious about it in December."

This year the event has 284 students between the ages of 13-18. The number of students participating in this event has been slowly growing. This number of participants is equal to last year and more than two years ago.



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Loan lectures required

Students who are receiving degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August and who have federal student loans must fulfill exit requirements, said Susan Frodyma, a loan specialist with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Federal regulations require all graduating students to attend an exit presentation if they have received one of the following forms of assistance: subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, or Federal Supplemental Loans for Students.

Exit presentations will be held at the City Campus Union on July 20, 21 and 22 at 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day. Room locations will be posted.

If a student fails to attend, a hold will be placed on their academic transcripts, diplomas and any future registration at UNL.