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# Grambling, UNL to unite

## Partnership will diversify both campuses

By Julie Sobczyk  
Senior Reporter

Two years ago, Ruby Higgins envisioned a plan that would unite UNL with a historically black university.

This semester her dream will be realized, as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln begins a partnership with Grambling State University in Grambling, La.

"It's something I really wanted to do between these two institutions I've been a part of," said Higgins, assistant director for student support services at UNL's Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

She received her bachelor's degree from Grambling State and her master's degree from UNL.

The partnership will involve exchanging faculty, students and university resources, she said.

"We will have access to students who have been academically successful," she said. "We will broaden the scope of UNL into an area it hasn't been before."

Although the project began Jan. 1, some Grambling State faculty got a feel for UNL last summer.

Several professors from Grambling State taught at UNL last summer, Higgins said, and a group of UNL administrators will visit there this spring.

Preparation for the plan began two years ago when Higgins approached

*"We are eager to share the Grambling experience with Nebraska's student and faculty. At Grambling we have a lot to offer that will ensure this partnership will be professionally rewarding."*

**RAYMOND HICKS**  
president of Grambling State University

Joan Leitzel, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, with her idea.

Leitzel and Merlin Lawson, UNL's dean of graduate studies, contacted administrators from Grambling State about the partnership.

Lawson, UNL's coordinator of the partnership, said many UNL programs would be enhanced by the project.

Some areas of enhancement include faculty development, undergraduate research, grants, exhibits, workshops and performances, he said.

"We're going to try to encourage the interaction and interchange of tech-

nology," Lawson said.

Students from both universities will benefit from the partnership as well, he said.

"It will provide students with more educational opportunities from a combination of resources, improved program quality, and promote diversity," Lawson said.

But the best part of the arrangement is that both campuses will benefit.

"This isn't just one campus helping another," he said. "It's about both campuses trying to move forward."

Raymond Hicks, president of Grambling State University, said he looked forward to the partnership.

"We are eager to share the Grambling experience with Nebraska's student and faculty," Hicks said. "At Grambling we have a lot to offer that will ensure this partnership will be professionally rewarding."

In the future, Lawson said, he hopes to have student exchanges between the two universities.

"We hope to have the opportunity for them to spend time on our campus," he said.

Leitzel said the partnership would push UNL into the future.

"I'm very excited about it," Leitzel said. "It will permit us to combine the strengths of the two universities and to share those across our campuses."

# ASUN lobbies for Richards Hall to top Regents' improvement list

By Kasey Kerber  
Staff Reporter

Students in Richards Hall may not have to be smelling turpentine much longer, if the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska has its way.

Improved ventilation is among the improvements sought for the home of many UNL art classes.

ASUN president Shawntell Hurtgen recently sent letters to NU officials urging that a renovation of Richards Hall be the priority on the NU Board of Regents' Capital Im-

provement List.

The letters — sent to the NU Board of Regents, NU President Dennis Smith and UNL's Chancellor's Cabinet — were in response to a recent ASUN bill requiring Hurtgen to lobby for Richards Hall to be placed at the top of the list.

The list is created every two years by representatives from all the campuses of the University of Nebraska.

Ben Strain, the ASUN senator who submitted the bill, said Richards Hall was in desperate need of such improvements.

"The most obvious improvements that need to be made deal with the danger involved," Strain said. "Students complain about the smell of turpentine, which needs to be removed with a new ventilation system, as well as fire hazard precautions that need to

be updated."

The building is safe by university and state standards, he said, but improvements were still needed to improve safety "beyond the minimum level."

Other improvements in the hall include providing adequate classroom and laboratory space, relieving crowded office conditions and providing facilities for the newly established College of Fine & Performing Arts.

But even if Richards Hall were to be placed at the top of the Regents' Capital Improvement List, change would come about slowly.

"Since this is a biennial affair, we would not see anything happen for at least another two years," Strain said.

"But it's already long overdue."

# Festival seeks to unite Africans of all cultures

By Joshua Gillin  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Union will be the focus of a world's worth of culture Sunday night.

The First Annual Afro-UNITY Festac (short for Festival of Arts and Culture) will feature a meal of various Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Hispanic foods, followed by several performances celebrating the diversity of African-related peoples.

The festival is sponsored by the African Students Association and will be in the Union Ballroom.

Cecil Howell, vice president of ASA and coordinator of the project, said the festival was long overdue at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"We've got a lot of student organizations out there for a lot of different kinds of people, but this is the first all-encompassing umbrella event we've had," Howell said.

He said the festival would focus on all kinds of African cultures, including the Latino and Indo-European societies that have mixed with Africans in the past few centuries.

"There are a lot of students out

there who don't know about the common ancestry Africans have with the people of Ghana, Somalia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and other places," he said. "We'd like to really expose the community to those kind of things."

Planned performances include songs performed by the Afrikan Peoples Union Gospel Choir and regional dances and singing by several students of African descent. Nigeria, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago are a few of the countries scheduled to be represented.

A special history session also will be given. Local historian Jean-Claude Nzal will be on hand to discuss the past few centuries and their impact on African history and culture.

The focus of Nzal's lecture will be the Diaspora, the network used by Europeans during the slave trade.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday, and more than 450 people are expected to attend.

Tickets can be purchased at Student Involvement at 200 Nebraska Union or 300 East Union, or the Culture Center at 333 N. 14th St. The cost is \$5 for students, \$10 for non-students and \$100 for a table.

## Cartoons

Continued from Page 1

glasses-wearing dog (Dogbert) asks questions and provides commentary.

"At the Zü," created by the Tennessee-based Ron Ruelle, is a funny take on life, the universe and feeding time, all shown through the eyes of zoo inhabitants.

Characters include Evelyn, a feminostrich; Darwin, a small primate who is chained to a word processor; and Carl, a pacifist lion called "The Slacker King."

In addition to the daily cartoons, three other cartoons will run once a week.

"Migraine Boy," a nationally-syndicated strip drawn by Greg Fiering, will run each Wednesday. Migraine Boy's picture was on the inside of R.E.M.'s Monster album, and the strip used to run in the "Reader," an Omaha alternative weekly.

"Yuk-eteria," a one-panel cartoon drawn by local artist Matt Piersol, will run each Thursday.

And for the end of the week, the nationally-syndicated comic strip "Red Meat" will run.

This strange strip, which is published in 16 alternative news-weeklies and more than 20 college newspapers around the country, takes an interesting look at father-son relationships.

— Sarah Scalet