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Lied Center candidates to visit UNL

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

The two candidates for the director position of the Lied Center for Performing Arts will bring vastly different backgrounds and experiences when they arrive on their campus visits in early September.

Susan Sheppard, the president of the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Del., will visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Sept. 5.

Charles Bethea, associate executive director of the Arizona State University Department of Public Events, will arrive on Sept. 9.

For the past 10 years, the two candidates have been in the same profession, but prior to their current work their lives took different routes.

Bethea, a native of Arizona, has worked in fine arts professions since college. In 1973, after receiving his bachelor of education in choral music and master of music degrees from Arizona State University, he was an elementary school music teacher.

Since 1980, he has been at Arizona State University in various positions at the Department of Public Events and School of Music. He is not married.

Although he said Arizona provided him with great professional opportunities, he was willing to leave his home state.

"It's just sort of a base level curiosity about new places and new opportunities," he said.

Another reason to leave Arizona is the Lied Center itself.

"The Lied Center has become one of the new shining stars of the performance industry," Bethea said.

The performance schedule at the Lied in the last few years is "remarkably similar" to programming at ASU, he said. He said balance was important in programming for performing arts centers.

"I like to take a chance on new artists," Bethea said. "Also, you have to pay a lot of attention to traditional arts and performances, to recognize and honor traditions."

Bethea said arts and music were not only his business but also his hobby.

"I've been involved in the performing arts all of my life — it's hard to say what other kinds of interests I have."

Please see **SEARCH** on 10

Band in a can



MATT MILLER/DN

CHRIS BAUER, a UNL employee; Evan Brown, a junior psychology major; and Peter DeMarco, a sophomore music major, jam at the Greenpoint sculpture between Andrews and Burnett Halls Wednesday afternoon.

Garcia anxious to promote multiculturalism

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Ricardo Garcia wasn't even going to apply for the director of affirmative action and diversity job at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Garcia had never had an affirmative action job — didn't really want one either. He had spent his 30-year career in education focusing on diversity.

But he got the job using ideas that most affirmative action officers don't use. Ideas like shifting the focus from compliance to affirmative action laws to promoting diversity and decentralizing affirmative action.

Garcia is now just days away from assuming his duties as assistant to the chancellor and director of affirmative action and diversity. He is coming to Nebraska from the University of Wis-

“
What I would like to do is get people started looking differently at diversity. I see my job as a catalyst.”

RICARDO GARCIA

Director of affirmative action and diversity

consin-Stevens Point, where he was assistant chancellor for multicultural affairs. He said he would be on campus Sept. 3.

The words "and diversity" in the job title initially struck his curiosity. He called UNL and found that diversity was as important in the job as affirmative action.

After applying and interviewing, Garcia was selected for the job.

Never having been in an affirmative action role hasn't daunted Garcia or his ideas.

"It's exciting," he said Wednesday. "I am nervous in that I want to do a good job, and I will."

"And I am nervous in that it is a big job. But I am not nervous about taking affirmative action to the next step."

The next step for affirmative action,

Garcia said, is not simply compliance with existing laws. It is using affirmative action to promote diversity.

"A diverse faculty and a diverse curriculum is in the best interests of all students," he said.

All students must be prepared for a global work-world now, Garcia said, and the university should prepare students to succeed in such a world.

"That's a skill that you are not just born with," he said. "The university should be taking the lead in preparing students for diversity."

And, Garcia said, a component of promoting diversity is decentralizing affirmative action. Decentralizing the program meant every department on campus needed to have an affirmative action plan.

"The whole idea is to create ownership in the idea that diversity is in everyone's best interests," Garcia said.

Please see **GARCIA** on 10

Big Red race car just around the corner

BY DOUG PETERS
Senior Editor

If you say them just right, "NASCAR" and "Husker" almost rhyme.

Soon, they might be synonyms — at least that's what UNL officials hope.

NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne, Chancellor James Moeser and former Nebraska football All-America Trev Alberts announced plans Wednesday for the first-ever university-sponsored

race cars in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing.

Alberts approached the Athletic Department this summer with the idea of sponsoring a race car in the university's name, saying it would provide both revenue and exposure for the university.

Byrne was intrigued. Moeser, on the other hand, wasn't so sure.

"I thought Bill (Byrne) was crazy," he said.

The cars — one red, one black (for

home and away races, Byrne joked) — will carry the Nebraska "N" with a Husker insignia. They also have two national championship decals, one for football and one for volleyball.

Alberts hopes to add another for stock-car racing.

But the sponsorship isn't just about winning races, of course, it's about money — money from the hats, shirts, radio-controlled cars and other merchandise that will carry the new cars'

Please see **NASCAR** on 9

Nebraska's entry into the NASCAR circuit will be unveiled at the State Fair Block Party, Friday, Sept. 6 at 9 p.m.

