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Teaching, creativity award bestowed upon UNL professor

GRUHL from page 1

nection between the material, government and their lives.

Finding those minutes is more difficult than a few years ago, Gruhl said. Students come to UNL feeling cynical about politics now, and political science enrollments nationwide are suffering.

In the years following Watergate, students came to UNL ripe to confront politics. Today it takes more effort to turn students on to American government, he said.

But Gruhl will not give up the fight. Gruhl's colleague, David Forsythe, a political science professor, said when Gruhl slipped and broke his jaw in spring 1994, he would not give up his courses.

He attended lectures with his jaw wired shut, even though a substitute lecturer was hired for his larger class.

In his smaller class, Gruhl kept teaching.

He spoke into a microphone

“*He simply communicates very, very well with Nebraska students.*”

DAVID FORSYTHE
political science professor

through clenched teeth, and continued to reach out to students.

His devotion to government has also led him to write three textbooks on government, one of which remains a leading textbook nationwide, Forsythe said.

As a result, Gruhl is well-known and respected both at UNL and nationwide, Forsythe said.

But Gruhl's greatest impact remains on the students he interacts with everyday.

“He simply communicates very, very well with Nebraska students,” he

said. Gruhl teaches in a unique, low-key style that does not intimidate students, Forsythe said. Students respond, and they remember Gruhl long after they leave UNL.

In the past, this skill in communication has won Gruhl a college-wide award for teaching and induction into the UNL Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Gruhl views his awards with modesty.

“There are things I can do better, though,” he said.

Bill would define, prohibit physical punishment in school

PUNISH from page 1

fine and prohibit corporal punishment in public schools, but would allow school employees to use physical restraint in circumstances such as self-defense, protecting other students or stopping a disturbance.

Kiel said teachers had no legal alternatives right now if they were in a situation where they needed to use physical force.

“They’re flying by the seat of their pants,” she said. “Most teachers are afraid to do anything.”

Madaline Fennell, a first-grade teacher, testified in support of the bill.

“I have never hit a child,” she said. “I don’t think any teacher should.”

But sometimes, she said, if a teacher does not use physical force to stop a fight, other students might be hurt.

“If there is a fight in the hallway, (teachers) think, ‘If I touch this kid, am I going to get sued?’” she said.

She relayed a story about an out-of-control first-grader who was biting,

kicking, hitting and swearing at another teacher, and she had to step in and restrain him.

Bob Daily, a Bridgeport teacher for 32 years, also supported the bill. Last year, he kept two students after class and one continued to be disruptive. Daily said he tapped him on the back of the head to get his attention, and the student said, “You hit me.”

The student told the principal Daily had hit him, and Daily was suspended without pay and then asked to resign. Although people supported him, he was suspended for 30 days without pay after a public hearing, he said.

Daily said he later found out the boy had told other teachers he wanted to get Daily fired, and told another student that he was not hurt by the tap but just wanted to get Daily in trouble.

But Virgil Horne of Lincoln Public Schools spoke against the bill, saying, “It puts every teacher and administrator in the position of being a law-enforcer.”

Speaker says world fighting racial battle

MAZRUI from page 1

the past works of black leaders.” Mazrui also stressed that racism has spread into discrimination based on religion, ethnicity and origin.

“It’s not neat black and white racism any more,” Mazrui said.

Mazrui bridged the gap between past and present by comparing Shakespeare’s tragic hero Othello and the O.J. Simpson murder trial as an example of progress in human relations.

Mazrui said both Simpson and Othello show the sensitivity of the views on interracial relations because both involve the interracial relations of a black man and white woman.


“Othello is portrayed as a tragic hero, not a tragedy of race,” Mazrui said. “These two tragedies juxtaposed together show the golden age of overt racism.”

11 DAYS 'TIL

St. Patrick's Day

bw-3
Grill & Pub

Green Eggs and Kegs



Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

DRUNKEN-DRIVING PLEA

Former Husker Jon Vedral pleaded guilty to drunken-driving charges in Lancaster County Court Monday for an incident that forced him to sit out the 1997 Orange Bowl.

Vedral, 22, was picked up on drunken-driving and negligent-driving charges Dec. 15 after officers watched him run over several curbs and run a stop sign near 17th and J streets.

In exchange for the plea, the city

attorney's office agreed to drop the negligent driving charges.

Vedral, a Gregory, S.D. native, will be sentenced April 11 when he could face up to 60 days in jail and fines up to \$200. He also faces a driver's-license suspension of up to six months.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

An 18-year-old woman reported to police she was sexually assaulted early Sunday morning at a party on North 50th Street.

The woman said she went to the party on the 2000 block of N. 50th St. and became intoxicated, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said. She said she went into a room to lie down, and when she woke up, a man was sexually assaulting her. The woman told police the incident occurred between 3 a.m. and 4:15 a.m.

Heermann said the woman had a physical description of the man, and police were close to having a suspect Wednesday.



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