

A Bigger Battle

Nebraska freshman forward Amanda Cleveland fights a battle against aplastic anemia, a rare and life-threatening disease.
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Dial 'M' for Murder

Nebraska Educational Television revives the classic series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."
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EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

Morning clouds, high 35. Cloudy tonight, low 15.

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Professor's e-mails pose racism concern

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

Some have condemned it. Some don't mind it. And others aren't quite sure what to think about it.

But either way, an English professor's e-mail that could be considered racist has raised many eyebrows at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

David Hibler, an English professor at the UNL, sent pieces of prose that contained the term "nigga" to several UNL faculty members through a university e-mail server.

Chancellor James Moeser said in a statement Tuesday that he condemned the e-mail because he thought parts of it

could be considered racist.

He said he regrets "that the university's e-mail system has been used in this way."

Contacted on his cellular phone Tuesday night, Hibler said he could not talk to the Daily Nebraskan.

One piece of prose, obtained by the Daily Nebraskan, is entitled, "Scene 02: Two old Niggas Talkin'".

"You can't say that. Say what? What you say. What you say what? What you say. Nigga? Yeah, Nigga. You can't say Nigga. Who say you can't say Nigga? Da Man say you can't say Nigga. ..."

In other parts of Hibler's e-mail, which read like news briefs, Hibler is quoted as saying he has been the legal parent of "a Black but beautiful Young Nigga whom I am proud to call my old-

est son. If this doesn't make me a Nigga outright, then it certainly makes me a certified Nigga lover."

The 'news brief' also reported that there was an "amicable resolution of any concern about the use of the word 'nigger' between Hibler and Afrikan People's Representatives."

However, Afrikan Peoples Union Adviser Venetria Patton, also an English professor, said she had not heard about this resolution.

"I would imagine that as their adviser, I would know about it," she said.

APU President Donny White did not return phone calls to the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday. Other APU members said they had not read the prose and directed questions to White.

Patton said she deleted the e-mail without reading it.

"I figured it was a waste of my time," she said.

Justin Kallhoff, a junior premedicine major, is in one of Hibler's classes. He said he was not aware that Hibler mailed the prose to faculty members, but said the prose also was sent to members of the class.

Kallhoff said he did not believe Hibler was being racist.

"I knew that he would get attention and I knew that people would take it wrong," Kallhoff said.

Kallhoff said when some people hear the word "nigger," they respond strongly despite its context.

Gerry Brookes, vice chairman of the English department, said Hibler's

freedom of speech was at issue.

Matt LeMieux, executive director for the American Civil Liberties Union Nebraska, said Hibler's message was a legal expression of free speech.

In his statement, Moeser said "while recognizing every individual's fundamental right to free speech, I absolutely condemn such racist commentary."

Patton said she appreciated Moeser's immediate rebuke of Hibler's message.

Hibler's actions also may be a result of other problems with university officials, Patton said, "concerning him and whether or not he will be staying on at this university."

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DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

GOV. BEN NELSON speaks on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before the Nebraska Legislature Appropriations Committee Tuesday. Nelson was asking for a \$79.5 billion bond issue that would provide funds to help renovate or replace 14 buildings in the NU system.

Future of NU's buildings rests with bill

BY JOY LUDWIG
Staff Reporter

Love Library, Avery Hall and Hamilton Hall are just some of the buildings that need a facelift.

And \$54 million in state money might be just what the doctor ordered to fix those ailing buildings and others at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As part of LB1100, the University of Nebraska would receive \$5.5 million a year for the next 10 years beginning in 2000 to

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pay for deferred maintenance, which now totals \$108 million. State colleges would receive \$400,000.

NU would match the state's \$5.5 million each year, for up to 10 years.

The money would pay for repairing heating and cooling systems; updating buildings to meet fire codes, safety codes and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; and renovating or replacing other buildings such as Lyman and Bancroft halls.

NU President Dennis Smith said the maintenance has been put off too long on 14 of the selected buildings and cannot wait any longer.

"Every year we defer the maintenance, the cost (of construction and renovation) is up 4 to 5 percent," he said.

Smith said the money from the state would allow NU to pay off about \$79.5 million of its revenue bonds to complete the work.

In addition, he said the time was right because the interest rates for 10-year bonds are 4.6 percent, which would cover the inflation rates of

construction and renovation costs — about 4 to 5 percent.

"This would make the net cost of borrowing nearly zero," he said.

Since 1982, NU has done projects in a "cyclic way," Smith said, meaning some years, many projects were completed and others years, very little was done.

"This is the approach we've been taking for the last 15 years or so," he said. "If we continue on this path we will never solve the problem."

The bill would force NU to com-

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Legislature

No decision reached for 'brain gain'

BY TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter

While the governor's "brain gain" legislation has garnered widespread support, there may be better ways to solve the state's growing worker shortage, a state senator said Tuesday.

Twelve speakers, including Gov. Ben Nelson and NU President Dennis Smith, testified in favor of LB1176, which would create the Quality Work Force Academic Loan Program — known as the Nebraska "Brain Gain" program.

But Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison questioned the effectiveness of the bill in keeping more skilled workers to fill empty positions in Nebraska.

Using the simple economic idea of supply and demand, Wickersham said increased demand would raise the salaries of desired positions and create incentive for workers to stay in Nebraska.

If supply isn't meeting demand, he said, there must be several reasons why graduates of Nebraska's universities and colleges choose to leave the state to go elsewhere.

David Powers, chairman of the Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education, said demand for workers has increased while the supply has decreased.

He said the two would eventually merge in the long run, but something needs to increase worker supply.

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha,

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