

## Sign here

Twenty high school seniors signed letters of intent Wednesday to play football for the Cornhuskers next fall. PAGE 9

## First impressions

Impressionist painter Edgar Degas publicly displayed only one sculpture, and now Nebraskans can see it at Joslyn Art Museum. PAGE 11

February 5, 1998

## Fun With Flurries

Possible flurries, high 32. Cloudy tonight, low 16.

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MICHAEL WARREN/DN

CHUN-KEAT KHOO from Malaysia (left) meets with his English conversation partner, Nathan Johnson, on the steps of Canfield Administration building. Johnson, an economics and international business major, volunteers his time through the International Affairs office to speak with Khoo at least once a week to help him improve his English skills.

## Program helps foreign students

BY LINDSAY YOUNG  
Assignment Reporter

American students who spend hours chatting with international students are experiencing things most people only encounter overseas.

Nathan Johnson, an economics and international business major, is a participant in the English Conversation Partners program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He said he has learned a lot about the culture and customs of his conversation partner Chun-Keat Khoo's home country Malaysia.

"It's almost like studying abroad," Johnson said.

The English Conversation Partners program is designed to bring U.S. and international students together informally to share each other's culture and language.

Participants in the program meet with their partner regularly to talk, go to movies, eat out or study. International Affairs, which sponsors the program, also holds informal get-togethers for participants.

During the fall semester, 128 students participated in the program. This semester about 60 students were paired, said Jason Felker, a program

assistant in International Affairs.

A majority of the participants are from Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia and Korea. There are also participants from Bolivia, Nepal, Turkey, France, Mexico, Germany and Nicaragua.

U.S. participants usually are involved because they have studied abroad or study a foreign language, Felker said.

However, not all international students get matched because fewer American students participate than

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## Diversity Plan under scrutiny

■ Some forum members say the current proposal leaves out certain university groups.

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS AND BRAD DAVIS

Daily Nebraskan Reporters

Before UNL's Diversity Plan can work, the campus community needs to better define what it means by "diversity," participants in a forum said Wednesday.

About 20 faculty members and graduate students met with University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators to explore how the Diversity Plan and Implementation Initiatives can be improved before they are finalized.

Many forum attendees were concerned that the issue of sexual orientation was ignored in initial Diversity Plan outlines.

"If you are going to have a plan that deals with diversity, you have to deal with all diversity," Pat Tetreault, co-chairwoman of UNL's Committee on Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, said.

The Diversity Plan lists three goals for improving diversity on campus: increasing faculty and staff diversity; understanding and appreciating diversity; and providing programs to support diversity education.

Many forum participants said they were unsure why the university only mentioned ethnic, racial, geographical and gender diversity in the report.

"This is a very crucial point for the university," Tetreault said, "in terms of how it will deal with diversity issues, and how inclusive it really will be."

Luis Diaz-Perdomo, a psychological counselor for Counseling and Psychological services, said UNL should not commit the "sin of silence" by ignoring certain groups like homosexuals and the disabled.

"Often times I find that students are desperately looking for acknowledgment of who they are," Diaz-Perdomo said. "The university needs to acknowledge their presence."

Because of events in the past year, Diaz-Perdomo said, UNL has proved it is not a welcoming campus.

But gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered students and others are part of the community and need to be welcomed, he said.

English Professor George Wolf agreed and said UNL had to be clear that the plan is inclusive.

He said prospective employees would examine the university's policies when making decisions on whether to come to UNL.

UNL's current anti-discrimination policy should be used as a basis for the Diversity Plan, Tetreault said.

The policy says UNL will not discriminate on the basis of "sex, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation."

"I don't think you can avoid this issue with language or omitting language," Wolf said.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard Edwards said he would think about using UNL's current statement but advised that any plan must comply with state and federal laws.

"We are attempting to develop a plan to move the university forward," Edwards said.

He said not only will the final plan

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## Grant application approved for UNL

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Assignment Reporter

ASUN

UNL wants to prevent student binge drinking, even if it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen told Association of Students of the University of Nebraska members Wednesday night that the university will apply in March for a grant to help combat binge drinking.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been chosen as one of five universities to apply for the \$700,000 grant, which will be awarded to two universities.

Griesen said he and Senator Chris

Linder were putting together a coalition of community and campus leaders to work toward receiving the grant, which is awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Griesen said members of the foundation would visit UNL in April.

"A lot of problems occur to students because of binge drinking," Griesen said. "Assault cases and violence on campus are usually related to drinking."

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the 1998 fall football migration game

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## Conference set to discuss e-mail

BY TED TAYLOR  
Senior Editor

As students and faculty Wednesday were once again surrounded by talks of racism at UNL, an English professor whose e-mail ignited the discussions planned a news conference for today hoping to set the record straight.

But David Hibler, the English professor who over the weekend distributed e-mail to more than 300 faculty members and students using the word "nigga" several times, had little to say Wednesday about two messages some perceived as racist.

He said he wouldn't discuss the issue in detail until he spoke to the media at 2 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union's Pewter Room.

But he did tell the Daily Nebraskan he had no plans of taking the messages off the university listserv.

"Short of a district court order, I'm not taking it off," he said.

Hibler also called the Daily Nebraskan Wednesday to offer directions on how more people could subscribe to the listserv.

He urged people to send an e-mail to listserv@unl.edu and write *subscribe mmliterature* in the text field.

The text of the e-mail was available exclusively on the Daily Nebraskan Web site Wednesday morning and can be found in the online edition's archive.

Parts of the e-mail tell of Hibler's love for his "Black but beautiful son," and his now-disputed "amicable resolution" between himself and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Afrikan People's Union to use the word "nigga" in his messages, which he does several times.

APU's adviser said Tuesday she knew nothing of the resolution.

Word of the e-mail and Chancellor

James Moeser's quick condemnation Tuesday night spread quickly across campus and the city.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, the only black state senator, brought up the issue during floor debate at the Nebraska Legislature, calling for the university to discipline Hibler.

Hibler's news conference was originally scheduled to take place in Moeser's office, but Wednesday afternoon the chancellor said it had been moved to the union, and he would not be present.

Moeser did not return phone calls to the Daily Nebraskan Wednesday afternoon, but The Associated Press reported he had nothing more to say on the issue and that there were no plans for disciplinary actions against Hibler.

"This is clearly protective of free speech," Moeser said. "The Internet was created to help share scholarly work as well as opinions, as is the case here."