



Jump around

NU long jumper Chris Wright turned down basketball scholarships from UCLA and North Carolina to pursue his track career. PAGE 7



Building blocks

"In Appreciation Of..." a new Daily Nebraskan series, opens today with an installment on architecture. BACK PAGE

HERE WE GO AGAIN ... Snow, high 36. Flurries tonight, low 26.

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Ruwe: Students get to voice opinions

■ Diversity, sensitivity and e-mail issues take center stage at the forum moderated by ASUN.

By LINDSAY YOUNG  
Assignment Reporter

Five days after a press conference-turned-circus, civility reigned Monday in a student-organized forum discussing a professor's alleged racist e-mail.

About 100 people gathered in the Nebraska Union's main lounge for a forum focused on the recent uproar over English Professor David Hibler's e-mail prose, which some say contain racist remarks, including the word "nigga."

The forum, moderated by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, was held to give students the opportunity to let their opinions be heard. ASUN President Curt Ruwe said.

The e-mail was sent unsolicited to more than 300 people at the beginning of February through a university listserv. According to Hibler, the e-mail was a result of a programming error.

Event organizers gave equal opportunity to speak for 20 minutes, including Hibler, who attended and read from a prepared speech.

Ruwe, moderator of the forum, outlined questions he wanted speakers to address:

- Does the university do enough to promote diversity and sensitivity issues?
- What responsibility does the university have for the information posted on its e-mail systems?
- What measures should the university take to promote diversity and sensitivity issues?

Despite the e-mail's intentions, some members of the audience said something had to change.



UNL LAW STUDENT Nasim Zawadi, speaking at a student forum Monday, called for students to come together to work toward improving diversity and sensitivity training among all members of the university. ASUN moderated the forum at the Nebraska Union to hear students' opinions on English Professor David Hibler's reputed racist e-mail.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN

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## Former student: UNL has age bias

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

A former UNL student is suing the university because he says he was discriminated against because of his age.

Gerald Egan, 63, says the University of Nebraska-Lincoln did not hire him as a student assistant because of his age. He is suing UNL in federal court for age discrimination and damages totaling more than \$300,000.

Egan's attorney, Robert W. Chapin, said when Egan tried to find out why he was not hired, he was encouraged to apply again.

"But then someone told him they were never going to hire him," Chapin said Monday.

University attorneys Monday declined to comment on the case because they had not had time to review the charges.

Egan applied for the SA job in spring 1996.

A 30-year veteran of secondary and post-secondary education, Egan needed to recertify his teaching certificate so he could take advantage of teaching opportunities in Iowa or Australia in August 1997.

Egan said he was unable to attend the university without getting the free room and board the SA job provided and is now suing to reclaim wages lost from the SA job and his teaching opportunities.

Service in the Korean War would have allowed him to

Please see EGAN on 3

## Leaders unite conferences

By LINDSAY YOUNG  
Assignment Reporter

Two groups of UNL student leaders took steps Saturday toward a "more total community."

UNL's Minority Leadership Conference and the University Leadership Conference joined together to form one conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Wick Alumni Center.

Because both conferences shared the same underlying theme, student planners decided the conferences, which are usually held separately, should join.

"We're all leaders together," Bradette Hemmerling, ULC chairwoman, said.

Kris Baack, ULC adviser, agreed, saying cooperative efforts should be consistently strived for on campus.

"If we want to build community, we ought to build more of a total community," Baack said.

The merger brought the ULC to a new level, Hemmerling said.

"It's more productive. There's no reason to split minorities and everything else apart."

LINDA TRAN  
planning committee member

Hong Phrommany, MLC chairman, said the combined conference would now attract more minority students, address minority issues and bring in more minority speakers.

There was a high percentage of minority students at the conference, said Chuck vanRossum, assistant director for the Minority Assistance Program in the office of Multi-Cultural Affairs. VanRossum ran a workshop at the conference.

Organizers hope that percentage will increase and include a more diverse group of minorities.

The merger also helped both groups financially because resources were pooled, organizers said.

"It's more productive," said Linda Tran, a junior planning committee member. "There's no reason to split minorities and everything else apart."

Baack said she hoped the Woman's Leadership Conference, which will be held next month, will consider joining the MLC and ULC in the merger next year.

Sharon Auw, a junior planning committee member, said the variety of speakers and number of workshops on diversity issues was good for the conference.

Workshops held included

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