

Position secured for McLaughlin

BY BRAD DAVIS
Senior Reporter

Bill McLaughlin can now officially update his resume.



McLaughlin

After several weeks of discussions, student protests and contract negotiations, the visiting chemistry instructor has secured a job at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

McLaughlin, the recipient of this year's Outstanding Educator Award, signed a contract Tuesday afternoon to teach six beginning-level chemistry classes each year for the next three years.

Chemistry Department Chairman Lawrence Parkhurst said hiring the visiting instructor from St. Joseph, Mo., was an example of the department's commitment to teaching.

Normally, Parkhurst said, the department hires people based on their research ability, which he said makes this hire unusual.

As a "lecturer," McLaughlin will not have the research and service duties that a tenure-track professor would have, though McLaughlin said he may seek small grants for science education research.

But for right now, McLaughlin said he is eager to get back to the classroom.

"I'm relieved that this is a positive resolution for the chemistry department and for students."

Students had a major role in securing McLaughlin's position for the next three years, he said.

More than 1,000 students signed a petition urging administrators to ignore normal hiring practices and find the money to hire McLaughlin.

"(Students) work very hard in class and care a lot about their education," McLaughlin said.

"I'm relieved that this is a positive resolution for the chemistry department and for students."

BILL McLAUGHLIN
chemistry instructor

McLaughlin said. "That same kind of caring has carried to their interest in securing a quality education while they're here."

McLaughlin said he knew his situation was not typical, and appreciated the university's commitment to quality teaching.

Parkhurst said the student outcry was a testament to McLaughlin's teaching ability.

"It was heartening to all of us that he was so extraordinarily regarded as a teacher," Parkhurst said.

The money to hire McLaughlin, who will earn \$40,000 each year, was secured from the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Contracts offered to McLaughlin earlier this week were not acceptable, McLaughlin said.

After McLaughlin's three-year contract has expired, Parkhurst said, the position will be evaluated and a national search possibly will be conducted to fill the position.

McLaughlin said if the three-year position goes well, his application may be in the pile for a more permanent position.

"I think a good thing to learn here," McLaughlin said, "is that the students never really had in mind the wish to run the university, they just wanted their voices to be heard."

Dunagan ruled an adult

Judge says case factors dictate decision

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

Lincoln Pius X High School senior Matthew Dunagan will stand trial as an adult for the shooting death of his father, a district court judge ruled Monday.

Lancaster County District Judge Karen Flowers cited factors including the severity of the crime, Dunagan's age and the juvenile court's jurisdiction in her written decision.

Dunagan is charged with the first-degree murder of his father last fall. He was 17 at the time of the shooting.

Part of the reason for the decision, Flowers said, was because Juvenile Court would lose jurisdiction of the case in less than a year — on Dunagan's 19th birthday — if he was transferred there.

"These factors outweigh those supporting a transfer," Flowers said in her decision.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey, who sought the decision, did not return calls to the Daily Nebraskan Tuesday.

Dunagan's attorney, John Stevens Berry, refused to comment on the case.

The shooting followed an argument between Dunagan's parents on Sept. 30, 1997, in

which his father threatened to shoot his mother, according to court documents.

Police allege that after the argument, Dunagan went to his room and loaded a 12-gauge shotgun, which he then used to shoot his father three times in the chest.

When officers arrived at the Dunagan house on the 4400 block of Browning Place, he told officers everything that had happened leading up to and including the shooting.

The case will proceed with preliminary hearings to consider motions regarding the admissibility of evidence and witnesses.

Debate examines affirmative action

Local proponents and opponents discuss its importance at universities.

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

A local staunch advocate of affirmative action went to battle Tuesday at the podium with two critics of programs that support preferential treatment based on race in university admissions during a debate at the NU Law School.

The two sides squared off over the topic "Affirmative Action Policies on University Campuses: Equal Protection?" in the hour-long debate sponsored by the Nebraska Federalist Society.

The contenders were Matt LeMieux, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union Nebraska, who was the only proponent of affirmative action; Michael Greve, opponent and executive director of the Center for Individual Rights; and Glenn Freeman, opponent and local constitutionalist.

The debate focused on two recent affirmative action issues: the 1997 Hopwood ruling in the fifth circuit court appeals, which overturned affirmative action policies in University of Texas law school admissions; and Proposition 209, a 1997 California constitutional amendment that erased affirmative action policies in that state.

Three panelists discussed the merits of the arguments for affirmative action in the Hopwood case and Proposition 209, such as the need for diversity and using affirmative action as a remedy for past discrimination.

At the University of California at Berkeley law school, only one black student was enrolled this year. In Texas, about 1 percent of the 468 students admitted were minorities this year, down from 10 percent Mexican Americans and 5 percent blacks last year.

Some say these numbers show that minorities no longer feel welcome at the schools.

Some of the minority students may be going to other schools where scholarships that focus on minorities still are available, LeMieux said.

Greve said these decreases in numbers did not justify talks that Proposition 209 and Hopwood are causing resegregation in higher education.

Throughout the rest of the country, he said, minority admis-

"Let my color be so insignificant that it doesn't matter."

MATT LEMIEUX
American Civil Liberties Union

sions in law schools had increased.

Freeman said there was nothing odd about Proposition 209, which states that no preferential treatment can be given to someone because of race, religion, gender or religion.

"It's the American way," he said.

But studies have proven that whites receive more job offers and benefits than minorities, LeMieux said.

And, he said, people have to look beyond merely the number of students accepted. People need to look at other affirmative action efforts, such as the NU Law School's minority recruitment day.

"It takes so many different forms. It's not just quotas. It's not just set-asides," LeMieux said.

And affirmative action is important because the American society is not colorblind, he said.

Freeman agreed but said he wants to be judged on his qualifications, not on his color.

"Let my color be so insignificant that it doesn't matter. That's what we're talking about here," he said.

But LeMieux disagreed with Freeman about whether diversity should be a goal for universities.

The courts in the Hopwood case "didn't believe diversity was a compelling student interest," LeMieux said. Diversity is important in the classroom, though, he said.

Freeman said diversity should not be something universities strive for.

"If you're striving for diversity, you're just not going to get it," Freeman said. The proportion of whites to blacks in the United States is too high to ensure ideal diversity: There are about 30 million blacks compared to about 180 million whites, he said.

Patrick Pfaltzgraff, treasurer and law student, said the Federalist Society, which sponsored the event, was looking for a lively exchange between its participants.

"That's what the Federalist Society is all about," he said. "The Federalist Society supports an exchange of ideology."

Legislature

\$5.2 million vetoed from budget bill

BY JOY LUDWIG
Staff Reporter

In an effort to reduce spending in the Nebraska Legislature, Gov. Ben Nelson announced Tuesday his line-item vetoes totaling \$5.2 million from the state's main budget bill.

The governor, as expected, took his red pen to LB1108, while sending LB1110 back to the floor.

Nelson's move could be the first of a series of spending-related vetoes unless the Legislature shows more spending restraints, he said.

"I've maintained for years we should spend only what we must," Nelson said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

"We need to save some for a rainy day and return some to the taxpayers."

Nelson first will cut \$5.2 million in general fund spending for the remainder of fiscal year 1997-98 and 1998-99. The Legislature had passed the bill last week.

The funding for combining the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy and the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island received the largest single veto, with \$2 million of its \$12 million being cut.

Because the construction funds won't be spent all in one year, Nelson said he felt the \$2 million cut was justified.

"The Law Enforcement Training Center is an important element in the fight against crime, and we want to be supportive of this."

The other bill, LB1110, would provide funding of core services for Educational Service Units and repeal the property tax relief trust fund enacted last year in LB180.

Nelson said he vetoed this bill because when he had signed LB180 last year it was with the understanding that the state would set aside \$20 million in the Property Tax Reduction Incentive Fund.

The money would be used to assist selected local governmental services that were looking at alternatives for reducing spending. LB1110 would undo those measures, he said.

Nelson, however, did sign LB1110A, which will provide \$9.7 million to Nebraska's ESUs. The

Please see CUTS on 6

Gov. Nelson recognizes student athlete success

From staff reports

Gov. Ben Nelson Tuesday officially set aside one day this year to honor student athletes.

Nelson declared Monday student athlete day to recognize the hard work and dedication of the state's athletes, he said.

Nelson said it takes hard work and dedication to balance school work with a collegiate athletic

career.

"Students who have found that balance should be looked upon as role models," Nelson said.

The governor then presented certificates of Admiralty in the "Great Nebraska Navy" to seven University of Nebraska-Lincoln student athletes.

Nelson said the students represent some of the "best and brightest" Nebraska has to offer.

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