

Redress sought on remains

Treatment of American Indian bones raises concern

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Senior staff writer

It all started with the discovery in UNL's Bessey Hall of possible American Indian remains protected under state and federal laws.

Since, it has created a snowball effect, with the unearthing of other incidents that have caused unrest inside and outside of the university community.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln may have possession of American Indian remains covered by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

UNL may have violated the act by studying bones without tribal permission, said Priscilla Grew, UNL's NAGPRA committee chairwoman.

And, on Aug. 15, it was made public that an anthropology department chairman incinerated American Indian remains in the 1960s.

In addition, it has come into question as to whether a loss of American Indian bones reported by an anthropology professor is a partial result of this incineration, or if, in fact, the university has lost up to 20,000 bones not reported in NAGPRA inventories.

The act, signed into law in 1990, required museums, federal agencies and institutions, such as UNL, to inventory human remains and associated funerary objects to the National Park Service by November 1995. After that date, the institutions must continue to provide the service with updates.

Then, the remains and objects are returned at the request of the tribes affiliated with them.

"We want to return affiliated and unaffiliated remains," said Grew, who is also the vice chancellor for research.

In his state of the university address Friday morning, Chancellor James Moeser addressed the issue.

"We will take all appropriate steps to ameliorate past wrongs and to heal our relationships with Native peoples," he said.

Steps taken to deal with the issues raised by the discoveries include two investigations - one by Lincoln attorney Robert Gruit and one by the Nebraska State Patrol - to determine whether NAGPRA laws were violated by the university in its storage and study of possible American Indian remains.

If it is found laws or university policies have been violated, Moeser will report the violation to appropriate authorities, and disciplinary action will be taken, Grew said.

Two reports were done by Peer Moore-Jansen, an independent consultant who was hired to examine UNL's inventory of human remains in the anthropology department, the University of Nebraska State Museum and other campus units. He is a professor of biological anthropology at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan.

Moore-Jansen said he studied about 1,000 specimens at UNL to determine if they might be eligible for inclusion in the university's NAGPRA inventory. A specimen ranges from an entire skeleton to one bone, he said.

Moore-Jansen said he found that only a small amount of the remains might be eligible for inclusion in UNL's NAGPRA inventory.

His reports were submitted to Gruit and the State Patrol for further investigation.

In a separate but related issue, talk continues to surround the discovery of the incineration of American Indian bones between 1965-67.

Grew said the following is report-

ed to have happened:

The late Preston Holder, then-chairman of the anthropology department, believed some collections of human remains had limited research value because of their incomplete condition. He decided the remains should be disposed of.

He then asked some graduate students to take the bones, put them in the back of a car and take them to UNL's East Campus, where they were incinerated in an animal pathology building. The building was torn down in the 1970s.

In his Friday address, Moeser said the university is now consulting with tribal leaders around the country to seek advice and counsel on how to "redress this desecration."

Tribal groups, as well as many university officials, have been working for the return of the bones to their affiliated tribes from UNL.

Moeser said: "Our own Native American faculty and staff have been extremely valuable in helping us learn about how to deal with these sensitive issues."

Temptations Dance Club

1600 "O" Street

The 1998 Fall Schedule!!!

| Day | Theme | Age | Cover | Specials | Open |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Wednesday | Country Night | 19 & Over | \$2 over 21 \$3 minors | \$1.75 J&B '88 '10 \$1.25 Domestic | 8 pm - 1 am |
| Thursday | Lipstick Night | 19 & Over | \$3 Over 21** \$5 Minors | \$1.00 Wells & Domestic (Ladies Only) | 8 pm - 1 am |
| Friday | Top 40, RnB, R&B, Country | 21 & Over* | \$3 Over 21# \$5 Minors# | \$1.75 Run U Call it 8-10 | 8 pm - 1 am |
| Saturday | Modern R&B | 21 & Over* | \$3 Over 21# \$5 Minors# | \$2.50 Economy 8-10 | 8 pm - 1 am |
| Sunday | Amateur Strip Night | 19 & Over | \$3 Over 21 \$5 Minors | No Pitches Bald | 8 pm - 1 am |

*Designated Driver Program: 1 minor for every 3 people over 21. Must Come Together. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

**Lipstick Night: No Cover for anyone over 21 wearing lipstick.

#\$1.00 off cover with College ID. No VIP Cards can be used in conjunction with College ID.

Fall Schedule Begins August 26th!!
Be There!!!

ASUN chief proposes new student assembly

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Staff writer

Students may have more say in student government if ASUN approves student body President Sara Russell's idea of creating a new student assembly.

Russell said there isn't a good cross section of students within ASUN.

"ASUN is heavily dominated by the Greeks," Russell said. "Student government needs representation from every place."

Creating a new assembly composed of residence hall, commuter and Greek students would help diversify student government, she said.

Russell said the assembly would serve as a check and balance to student government.

Russell also assured that the new assembly would not take away from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association.

"It gives the university more representation," she said.

RHA President Ben Wallace agreed.

"The assembly will allow for groups not being represented on campus to have good representation," he said.

Wallace said the assembly would make ASUN more effective to students because it would give input to overall university concerns.

Russell said the assembly would serve as a universal body of residents.

"It will deal with issues and concerns of residence halls on a university-wide scale," she said.

Members of the assembly would have the authority to introduce bills for discussion, Russell said.

If passed, the bills would advance to the ASUN Executive Committee for committee assignment. The selected committee would then take the legislation to the senate floor.

During Wednesday's ASUN senate meeting, Senator Heather Swanson asked if the creation of a new assembly would make it look as though ASUN senators are not doing their jobs.

"I was elected to represent my college," Swanson said. "That includes the Greeks, residence hall and commuter students."

Russell acknowledged Swanson's concern, but said, "the assembly would just increase representation, not take any away."

Russell will gather input on the idea, which may see an ASUN vote as early as next week.

Russell and Wallace plan to keep lines of communication open between ASUN and RHA.

"(RHA) will have input, but we will not try to take power away from Sara and the senate," Wallace said.

If created, assembly appointments will be made this fall through an application process and go through the ASUN Appointments Board. Next semester, assembly positions would be elected side-by-side with ASUN senate positions.

"It's inherent that the assembly will be elected in the March election," Russell said. "It's too expensive to hold a special election in the fall."

Russell said a special election costs about \$9,000.

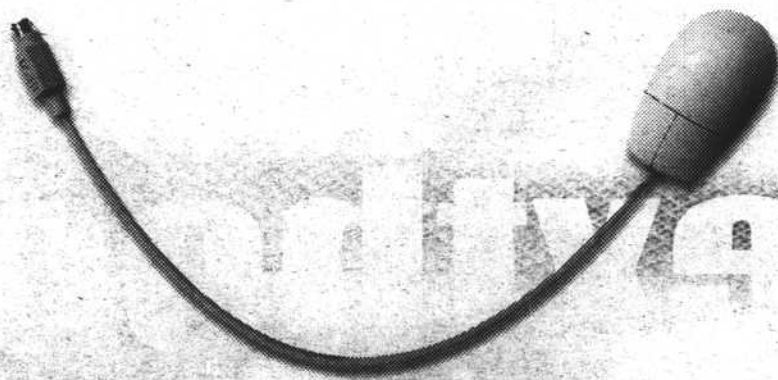
Wallace supports Russell in the election of a assembly.

"With or without (the assembly), there will still be a strong dedication to work," Wallace said. "RHA and ASUN are both dedicated student bodies supporting students."

Your roommate snores.

Your biochemistry syllabus is 8 pages long.

You get 5 free hours of online time every month with Navix:



(Hey, at least there's something to smile about.)

Happy news! If you're a UNL student, faculty or staff member, you get 5 free hours of Internet access every month when you sign up for one of these Navix plans:

Low Usage Plan: Get 15 hours of online time for just \$6.50 a month.
(With your 5 free hours, it's like 20 hours for the price of 15.)

Medium Usage Plan: Get 40 hours of online time for just \$10.00 a month.
(With your 5 free hours, it's like 45 hours for the price of 40.)

High Usage Plan: Get 250 hours of online time for just \$19.50 a month.
(With your 5 free hours, it's like 255 hours for the price of 250.)

Additional minutes for each plan are just \$.02 and activation is free! And if you keep your usage for that month is also free!

Navix is fast, easy and reliable, letting you go online at speeds up to 56kps. There's a local Help Desk and even an 888 access number to use when you travel.

Call University Telecommunications at 472-5151 (students) or 472-3434 (faculty or staff).

Or, stop by 211 Nebraska Hall.



Visit our websites: www.navix.net www.aliant.com

Aliant
Communications

MAKING IT EASIER TO COMMUNICATE.™