

# Charges dropped in Hibler lawsuit

■ Harassment charges against the former UNL English professor were dropped after a settlement was reached.

By JAKE BLEED  
Senior staff writer

A federal judge dismissed a sexual harassment lawsuit against former University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Professor David Hibler on Thursday, after the former student who issued the lawsuit filed a motion to dismiss it.

Valerie Giunca filed the motion to dismiss the suit to U.S. Senior District Judge Warren K. Urbom last week.

Giunca's attorney, Carole McMahon-Boies, said Hibler and Giunca reached a settlement outside of court, which led to Giunca's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

McMahon-Boies declined to discuss the settlement terms.

The lawsuit, filed in February

1998, alleged Hibler began harassing Giunca in the fall of 1996 and that the university mishandled the charges and did not provide her with a safe environment.

Urbom dismissed the university from the lawsuit in August, ruling UNL did not act with deliberate indifference once it became aware of sexual harassment allegations against Hibler.

Giunca alleged that Hibler required personal information from Giunca when she was his student in 1996, and that he later used the information to establish a personal relationship with her.

Giunca also alleged he forced his way into her apartment at least once, made her lay down and touched her while ignoring her demands to leave.

The university revoked Hibler's tenure and fired him June 20, 1998 after several additional sexual harassment charges were filed against the professor.

Hibler is also remembered for an allegedly racist e-mail he sent to more than 300 faculty members and students in the spring of 1998.

# City federal aid discussed

By JOSH KNAUB  
Staff writer

After taking U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter for a tour of public works projects in Lincoln on Saturday, Mayor Don Wesely said he was confident Lincoln would continue to receive generous federal aid.

Wesely, a Democrat, said he was a longtime friend of Bereuter. He said that friendship was one of the reasons he expected to continue what he said was a special relationship between Lincoln and its congressional representative.

Bereuter, a Republican, said Lincoln's city staff was another reason Lincoln had a good record of gaining federal grants for city projects.

"Lincoln has a very aggressive, quality city staff," Bereuter said. "Past projects have been an easy sell because of the quality of requests for funds."

Lincoln received nearly half of the federal aid to Nebraska's first congressional district last year.

Bereuter said Lincoln would have an even greater advantage because Al Abbott, former director of the Nebraska Department of Roads, was now working for the city.

"I anticipate we will continue to have a working relationship," Bereuter said of his relationship with Abbott.

Wesely said he and Bereuter had discussed federal aid for eight specific projects.

Those projects include:

■ Street construction around the new baseball stadium. Bereuter said funding for the improved streets would come from federal urban development funds.

"This is a neglected part of Lincoln," Bereuter said of the stadium's proposed 6th and Charleston streets location.

Bereuter said he had been privy to stadium plans for 18 months and wanted to see construction go forward.

■ Flood management plans for Antelope and Salt creeks. Bereuter said he anticipated funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development for the projects.

■ Improved transportation in central Lincoln.

■ Money to hire six additional police officers.

■ A new StarTran maintenance facility.

■ Construction of a community

“*Past projects have been an easy sell because of the quality of requests for funds.*”

DOUG BEREUTER  
House member

center at 27th and Holdrege streets.

■ The city's proposed South and East beltways. Congress has already approved aid of about \$4.5 million of the estimated \$200 million project.

■ Improved city water and sewage systems.

Bereuter said he was confident Lincoln would receive federal aid for at least some of the projects. His said his 21 years of service in Congress and his positions on transportation and urban development committees gave Lincoln an edge over cities in other areas.

"We are competing for a bigger piece of a smaller pie," he said. "But seniority does have its advantages."


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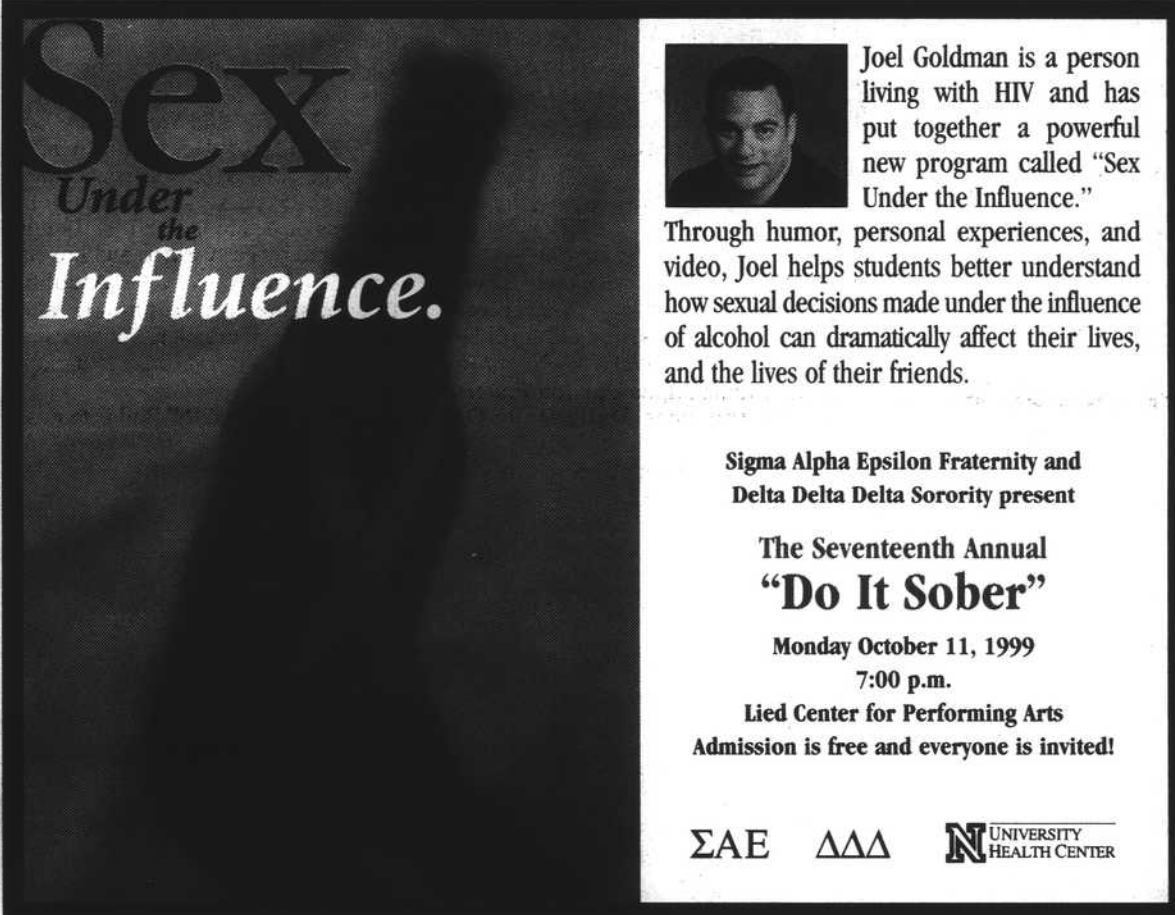
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