

# Leader heralds progress

■ Senate president says faculty have been involved in budget, parking decisions.

By ERIC RINEER  
Staff writer

At the halfway point of the semester, Gail Latta says she is "extremely pleased" with the progress of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate.

Latta, the senate's president and an associate professor of libraries, broke the progress into a dozen categories, saying she felt each one of those areas was improving tremendously.

Some of the more important areas, she said, were the senate's role in helping the university with budget planning, its role in the future of UNL's parking and its support of university-related human rights issues.

At a Parking Advisory Committee meeting last week, members of the senate on the committee assisted in denying a motion that would have recommended student, staff and faculty permit rates be the sole funding source for a proposed garage near 17th and R streets.

The senate's input at the meeting, Latta said, was instrumental in the rejection of the motion.

"I was pleased that everyone on the committee had an opportunity to give their views and that they really did take a vote," Latta said.

"It resulted in some change and practices for the university in a very positive direction."

Latta said the summer discussions that took place between the parking committee and the senate members on the committee were key in the motion's rejection.

"The summer discussions were very instrumental," she said. "This is when the PAC really engaged in the decision-making progress."

Another issue Latta deemed important was the senate's role in assisting the university with its priorities for the biennial budget, Latta said.

"Last year the senate had not really been involved in helping to identify budget priorities," she said.

"I think it speaks particularly well of both the senate and the university administration that we're able to work collaboratively to identify priorities that clearly have been whittled down."

Human rights, Latta said, were also a focus of the senate's this year.

Senate members have spent much of their time this year forming a coalition between campus faculty, student organizations and faculty senates at other NU campuses. The coalition supports health insurance benefits for domestic partners, or same-sex partners.

John Gaber, Academic Senate member and assistant professor of community and regional planning, said UNL was part of a shrinking minority of universities that did not provide benefits for same-sex domestic couples.

## Academic Senate

"We want to make sure everyone is treated equally and fairly," Gaber said. "If faculty and staff are not treated equally in terms of benefits, that's a human rights violation."

Latta said the senate had received support from the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska, the chancellor's committee on the status of women and the University of Nebraska at Omaha's faculty senate.

"It's a serious issue because the university does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation with regards to its hiring practices," Latta said.

More than half of the universities ranked in the upper tier of universities by magazines such as U.S. News and World Report provided health benefits for domestic partners, Gaber said.

The senate passed a motion recently to support health benefits for domestic couples. In order for the motion to pass officially, it would have to be approved by NU President Dennis Smith.

"We're trying to push this issue to the forefront," he said.

Latta said she was pleased at the overall performance of the senate this year.

"I'm just really grateful to the faculty for their contributions," she said. "I'm very optimistic about the progress we can make the rest of the year."

# ASUN Web page gets updated look

By VERONICA DAEHN  
Staff writer

Students surfing the Web may want to check out the improved, more comprehensive ASUN Web site to find out about student government and its representatives.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska has redesigned its Web page to be more accurate and up-to-date.

"This is an additional opportunity for students to get involved and find out about current projects," said Andy Schuerman, ASUN president.

The site, at <http://www.unl.edu/asun>, was finished about two weeks ago, but Schuerman said constant updates were being done.

The Web page will be updated weekly with new information about ASUN.

Rob Glaubius, a junior computer science major, was in charge of the site's redesign.

Ideas for what the Web page would look like were discussed last May, and Glaubius began working on the site this summer.

"I changed (the site) around," he said. "I made it look more professional and less playful."

Schuerman said students should find the site more visually appealing and more helpful in obtaining information about ASUN.

ASUN

"The old page was grossly outdated," Schuerman said. "In today's competitive world, we need to do what we can to keep it up to date."

There will soon be a new link on the site called "ASUN this week."

General Studies Sen. Grant Vicich said the link will be updated weekly with what's happening in ASUN and its committees.

Minutes from past ASUN meetings will be available, as well as the agenda for the current week's meeting.

"This link will keep the public up to date," said Vicich, who helped Glaubius redesign the site.

Glaubius became involved because he didn't like the way the old page looked.

"I was displeased with the old page," he said. "It didn't make me proud to be a UNL student."

E-mail links to all of the ASUN senators and executive members are available on the new Web page. Students who visit the site are encouraged to use them, Vicich said.

Schuerman is happy with the visual outcome of the site, but he said the content was most important.

"This is an opportunity for us to say 'OK, here's the information on the Web site. Here's what ASUN is about.'"

# NAACP honors Omaha leaders

■ Omaha chapter of NAACP awarded local residents who worked for racial progress at fundraiser.

By JOSH KNAUB  
Staff writer

"Making Democracy Work" was the theme of the Omaha Chapter of the NAACP's annual fund-raising dinner.

Held Thursday at downtown Omaha's Double Tree Hotel, the event was designed to honor those who have helped extend the rights and privileges of democracy to all people.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented two Omaha leaders with

Freedom Fighter awards. The awards are presented annually by the chapter to Omaha-area residents who work for racial progress.

Z. Clarence Barbee, a retired Omaha principal, and L.C. Menyweather-Woods, pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, were named this year's Freedom Fighter award recipients.

The featured speaker for the dinner was Dennis Courtland Hayes, general counsel for the national NAACP.

Steva Hall, a coordinator of the dinner, said Hayes' legal work was important in extending equal rights to all Americans.

Hayes directs the NAACP's legal program at a national level. He coordinates litigation in areas such as voting rights, equal housing, fair employment practices and equal education.

Karla Ewert, another event coordi-

nator, said Hayes addressed the fact that racism had become more institutionalized and less blatant in the United States.

Hall said Hayes had actively advised the Omaha NAACP chapter on legal issues.

She said she was unaware of specific cases Hayes had helped with or advice he had given but said that Hayes had assisted the chapter with education policy.

Hall said the \$40-per-plate dinner was the chapter's only annual fund-raiser.

Ewert said the dinner would also commemorate the national NAACP's 90th anniversary.

She said the theme "Making Democracy Work" had been chosen by the national NAACP office and would be the theme of fund-raisers for all local chapters.

# Law & Order

## Man arrested in connection with garage burglaries

Police arrested a 28-year-old man Wednesday on suspicion of burglarizing the garages of eight Lincoln homes over the last eight months, Sgt. Dennis Duckworth said.

Starting in April, police allege Shawn Durham broke into the garages, took a variety of goods, including bicycles and golf clubs, and later sold the goods to Omaha pawn shops.

Duckworth said the total value of the goods stolen was \$6,800.

## Couple held at gunpoint, robbed of money at hotel

Two men armed with a sawed-off shotgun walked into a Lincoln hotel room and robbed a couple of their money and unauthorized Tommy Hilfiger brand clothing around mid-

night Wednesday, Duckworth said.

The men knocked on the door of a room at the Inn At Lincoln, in the 5200 block of Cornhusker Highway, Duckworth said, then entered the room and held the people inside at gunpoint.

The men took about \$1,100 in clothing and money before leaving, Capt. Al Soukup said. Police were able to identify one of the men and arrested him at his apartment in the 1100 block of E Street, Duckworth said.

Duckworth said Titus M. Williams, 19, then led police to a home in the 3200 block of South 40th Street where he'd stashed the shotgun. The gun was a Winchester 1200 shotgun.

Police are still looking for a 26-year-old man they believe was also involved in the crime.

Compiled by senior staff writer Jake Bleed

# Residence hall to hold poetry reading

By DANE STICKNEY  
Staff writer

In the residence hall named after one of Nebraska's most famous poets, John C. Neihardt, UNL students will be sharing their favorite poems.

The residence assistants in Neihardt Residence Center have scheduled a poetry reading for students who want to share their favorite poems. The event will be held Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Neihardt's Blue Parlor.

Andrew Shaw, a sophomore residence assistant, said students were encouraged to share their own original poetry.

"We'd love to see a lot of people come and share what they've written," he said. "There really aren't that many opportunities to read poetry on campus, so hopefully a lot of students will see this as a chance to read their poems."

Shaw said any University of Nebraska-Lincoln student was welcome to attend the event.

"We'd really like to see a lot of people there," he said. "We just want

this to be a fun and creative event."

Melissa Ellenson, a senior residence assistant, said the poetry reading was an educational program. Each residence assistant is required to organize one educational program every month.

"This activity will be educational, but it will also be interactive," she said. "It will be a nice break for people because it is different than most programs. It should be fun."

Ellenson said the event would be low-key, with cookies and beverages.

"It will be really laid back," she said. "Whoever wants to read, just reads. They can read their own poems or poems they like, or they can just sit there, watch and listen."

Shaw said he hoped the event would foster a strong appreciation for poetry on campus.

"Poetry is something that people don't seem to focus much on in college," he said. "It's such a great form of collecting and projecting thoughts. I hope this event will give poetry a presence on campus."

Shaw plans on holding more poetry-related events in the near future.

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ANDREW SHAW  
residence assistant

On Nov. 11, Bill Kloefkorn, Nebraska's State Poet, will present an informal reading of his poetry at Neihardt.

"(Kloefkorn's) poetry is great," Shaw said. "It's a huge honor to have him come here, and I hope a lot of people get the chance to come hear him read."

# Daily Nebraskan

Questions? Comments?  
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