

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

dailyneb.com

Vol 99, Issue 102



Rasta Rhythms

Reggae bands, new and old,
play tonight at the Royal Grove.
A&E, PAGE 7

Coin Controversy

New dollar featuring Sacagawea
gets mixed reviews
NEWS, PAGE 6



Merger talk riles industry leaders

■ UNL's agronomy and horticulture departments may be combined.

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

A faculty decision that would combine two departments within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL has some industry leaders in the state upset.

The decision, which would integrate the horticulture and agronomy departments, has horticulture industry leaders rallying against the decision.

Combining the programs, they say, could weaken the horticulture program, sending prospective students elsewhere.

That would be bad news for an industry horticulture leaders say is booming in the state.

"It's not a very good vote of confidence," said Bryan Kinghorn, owner of Kinghorn Gardens in Omaha, a landscape design firm. "Instead of trying to integrate, we should focus on making the premier horticulture program in the Midwest."

Members of the horticulture industry are holding a special meeting today at the Lancaster County Extension Office at 1 p.m. to discuss the implications of integration.

Horticulture involves studying row crops such as potatoes and dry beans. It also includes ornamental flowers and plants used in home landscape.

Agronomy deals with the agricultural production and the science behind it, said Edna McBreen, associate vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Agronomists look at soil and the factors that make plants grow.

Benefits of combining the programs include saving money on administrative costs and spending it on developing both programs, McBreen said.

Integrating the programs would also allow the science aspects of one program to support the other, she said.

"It would allow for a much stronger department that would be able to offer very strong graduate and undergraduate degrees," she said.

Industry leaders say combining the programs would weaken one of the only programs in agriculture that is experiencing a boom right now.

"The horticulture industry is one of the most rapidly growing segments of agriculture," said Harlan Hamernik, owner of the Bluebird Nursery in

"We need to be getting more distinguished professors instead of diluting and diverting."

Bruce Maunder
UNL alumnus

Clarkston. "Even though agriculture prices are down, horticulture has zoomed ahead."

Faculty in the horticulture department have mixed feelings about the proposed integration, said Garald Horst, a professor in the department.

While some see the benefits, others are afraid to change, he said.

Dave Lewis, the chairman of the horticulture department, said combining the programs would strengthen the plant science units that are required for both majors, he said.

Agronomy faculty also have mixed feelings, said Stephen Baenziger, a professor in the department.

But Baenziger said the move would be positive in that a combined department would combine the urban aspects of horticulture and the rural aspects of agronomy — allowing the department to be more connected to the state.

Bruce Maunder, a 1956 UNL graduate who has worked in agronomy for more than 30 years, said he may stop contributing scholarship dollars to the program if it becomes integrated.

Maunder said he was afraid the special needs of each program would be ignored because a chairman of one specialty or another would be appointed.

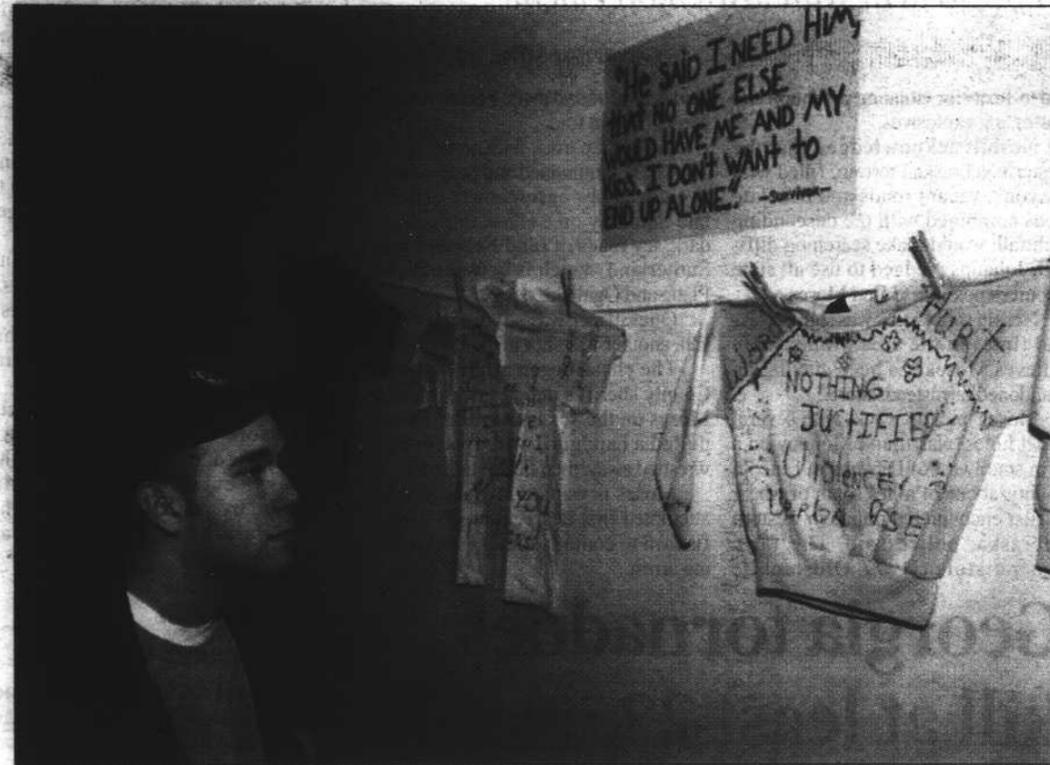
Instead, focus should be put on strengthening both programs.

"We need to be getting more distinguished professors instead of diluting and diverting," he said.

In the end, the reality of tight budgets will probably drive the final decision, said Kenneth Cassman, the chairman of the agronomy department.

Kinghorn said if the departments merge, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will lose out, as potential students choose nearby schools with separate horticulture departments.

"Iowa State University will be interested in taking our horticulture students for sure," he said.



MUSIC MAJOR BRIAN COREY takes a break to view the Clothesline Project exhibit showing in the Nebraska Union Rotunda Gallery on Monday. The exhibit honoring Nebraska victims of violence also will be displayed today.

Lydia S. Gonzales/DN

Victims get artistic outlet

By Margaret Behm

Staff writer

More than 60 people visited the Clothesline Project display in the Nebraska Union on Monday to view T-shirts made by victims of violence.

Katie Scheer-Williams said the shirts show that the people who are victims aren't just numbers.

"I think that you hear the statistics, but by having the T-shirts as physical objects means that you see that it's not a statistic," said Scheer-Williams, a sophomore general studies major. "It's an actual, normal person that this happened to."

About 20 shirts are on display again today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Rotunda Gallery. The T-shirts feature both words and pictures.

Each color of the T-shirts represents a different form of violence. White represents women who have died from violence; yellow or beige are for women who have been battered or assaulted; red, pink and orange are for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted; blue and green are for women survivors of incest or child sexual abuse; purple and lavender represent those attacked because of their sexual orientation; and black and gray represent children living in abusive situations.

Stork, coordinator of groups at the

"I've seen women crying while making the shirts because they're finally getting rid of their feelings."

Stork

Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center coordinator

Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, said making the shirts is part of the healing process for victims.

"I've seen women crying while making the shirts because they're finally getting rid of their feelings," said Stork, a woman who only uses one name.

The T-shirts, which are usually kept in the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, show some victims how they can express their feelings, Stork said.

"I've seen people come into the building who didn't know how to express themselves," she said. "And they look at the shirts and say that is how they felt."

The T-shirts are made by people from all types of lifestyles, Stork said.

Laura Andersen, a Prevent member, said violence against women is a problem, even at UNL.

Prevent sponsored the project with the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center and the Women's Center.

"I think it is a problem on campus,"

said Andersen, a sophomore biology major. "That's why we have Prevent. We recognize that it is a problem not only in the Lincoln community but also at UNL."

People who have experienced violence should go see the display, so they realize other people have been through the same thing, Stork said.

"You may see a shirt that lets you know you aren't alone," Stork said.

Scheer-Williams witnessed the exhibit's impact on visitors.

"There's been a couple of people that are obviously choked up," she said. "If they don't have an emotional reaction, they are in complete awe because it's a moving display."

Stork said that the audio effects help people realize how often violence against women occurs.

"When you realize that every time you hear that gong," Stork said, "someone in the U.S. has been hurt by someone that says they love them. It makes no sense."

Environmental Resource Center gets reorganized

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

In a sunlight-filled room on the second floor of the Nebraska Union is the Environmental Resource Center.

Pamphlets and fliers about various local and national conservation groups line the walls. Potted plants fill the windowsills. The office is neat, organized and abounding with resources.

It hasn't always been that way. Graham Johnson, director of the office, has spent the past several months sorting through old files and

boxes of papers, recycling outdated materials.

Finally, after a few years of what Johnson described as "organizational disrepair," the 9-year-old office is almost up and running again.

Jeff Riggert, a UNL alumna, is one of the co-founders of the office.

"Some of the students involved in other conservation organizations saw the need for some type of referral-type service," Riggert said.

So he and a few other students decided to form one, and the Environmental Resource Center was

born.

The center got off to a quick start, and soon its volunteers were involved with projects throughout campus.

Working in conjunction with other conservation groups such as Ecology Now, the center started a campus recycling program.

Later, it convinced the university to install energy-efficient lights, called green lights, in new university buildings.

There was even a program that allowed students volunteering in the office to earn credit hours in the

Environmental Studies Department, Riggert said.

However, after Riggert and the other original volunteers at the center graduated, things began to fall apart, Johnson said.

"The people running the office were full-time students, had part-time jobs and ran the organization," Johnson said. "They felt like they were always responding rather than acting."

Another problem, Johnson said, was the high turnover rate of the student volunteers and directors.

Eventually, the center became so

cluttered and disorganized that it nearly shut down. Johnson said it was inactive for about four years.

Last year, Johnson took over as director of the office. After extensive cleaning, sorting and organizing, the office is almost back on its feet.

The office has already participated in several campus conservation projects.

Volunteers have mapped the location of every garbage can and recycling bin on campus and are looking

Please see **RESOURCES** on 3