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View to a Swill
Sandy's offers infamous Elk Creek and entertaining view of O Street.
A&E, PAGE 9

How to get rich

Ruling your own sovereign nation is the key to earning money fast.
OPINION, PAGE 5



Photos by Nikki Fox/DN
KIM NEIGHBORS and Stephanie Eldam from Elkhorn High School dance the "Yamaga," a 600-year-old folk dance in Japan, Thursday afternoon in the Nebraska Union.

High-schoolers practice language skills at fair

By Sara Salkeld
Staff writer

High school students from all over the state swarmed the Nebraska Union on Thursday to attend the 24th Annual Modern Language Fair.

About 1,150 students from 37 high schools came to watch and participate in the day's contests, which included drama, folk dance and karaoke, music, poster and name tag and poetry reading. The events were held in French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Russian.

Gloria Epps, a German teacher from Omaha Benson High School, said Benson brought 35 Spanish, German and French students.

"It gives the students an opportunity to use the language and gives them enthusiasm for the language and a reason to stick with the language," she said.

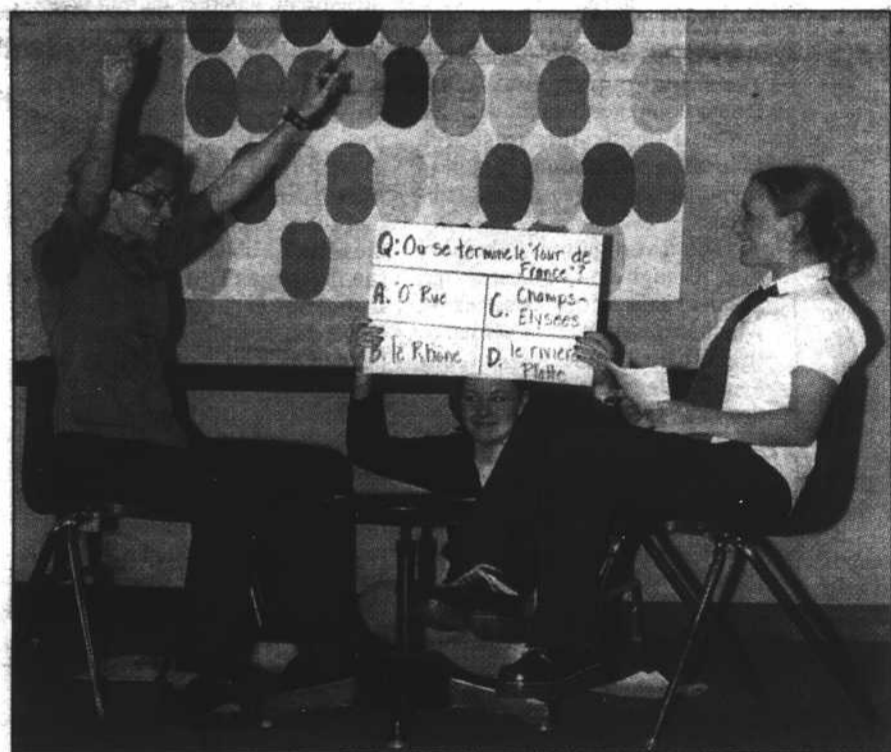
Katrina Sypal, a sophomore from East Butler High School in Brainard, said she came to watch rather than participate in the events.

"Our teacher mentioned it to us, and we all decided to go," Sypal said. "We went to some of the dances and plays."

The plays, held in the union, were performed by students in the foreign languages they study.

A popular event in which Sypal and her classmate Linda

Please see **FAIR** on 9



GINA MORGAN role-plays a contestant who just won a million dollars on "Que Vous ettes Millionnaire," a French version of the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," with **Amy Dix**, who plays the host. **Lacey Butler** holds a question up for the audience during the Lincoln Plus X High School students' performance in the Modern Language Fair's drama competition in the Culture Center on Thursday afternoon.

Professor's love for field leads to award

Editor's Note: This is the first in a weekly series of question-and-answer sessions with the recipients of the university-wide awards for teaching, research and creative activity. Today, we visit with Barbara DiBernard, winner of the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award.

By Kimberly Sweet
Staff writer

DiBernard

When women's studies and English professor Barbara DiBernard graduated from col-

lege, she didn't even know women's studies existed.

Twenty-four years later, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor considers the subject her passion and has dedicated herself solely to teaching women's studies courses.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents recognized DiBernard last month for her enthusiasm in teaching women's studies.

Q How did you get involved in women's studies?

A When I got my Ph.D. in 1976, there were no courses in women's studies at my school. I didn't know women's studies was a field — something you could study or major in.

When I got to Nebraska in 1978, they were smart enough to give an honorary degree to Tillie Olsen, who is a Nebraska author. I read a book called "Silences" by Tillie Olsen, and in that book she described why we know so few women authors and about how many women writers there are, what literature they write and why it's not wide-

ly known.

One line I still remember even though it was 22 years ago when I read it: "You who teach, read women writers." And I said: "Oh my gosh, she is speaking right to me." I had to give myself an education in women's lit.

Q What misperceptions about women's studies do you frequently come across?

Please see **TEACH** on 8

Past UNL leader back to politics

■ ASUN's 1997-98 president works on U.S. Senate candidate's campaign.

By Veronica Daehn
Staff writer

A former ASUN president is back in the political arena.

Curt Ruwe, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president in 1997-98, has signed on as field director for U.S. Senate candidate George Grogan.

Ruwe, now a second-year law student at the University of Nebraska, said helping with the Grogan campaign has allowed him to rekindle his first love.

"I enjoy my study of law, but this is a good chance to get back into politics," Ruwe said.

Grogan is a businessman from Omaha who announced his candidacy for Senate on Jan. 27.

Grogan, a former owner of a life insurance agency, sold his company to run for the Senate.

As Grogan's field director, Ruwe is in charge of creating a network of Grogan supporters across the state.

"(I focus on) getting people involved in the campaign and getting (Grogan) out in front of people," Ruwe said.

Ruwe said he met a lot of people across the state as ASUN president and was excited to have the chance to work with those same people again.

The campaign is going as well as it can, Ruwe said.

"George Grogan was not a name people knew three weeks ago," he said. "Now, a lot of people want to meet the guy."

Ruwe's press secretary, Brittany Kolste, said Grogan's office sought Ruwe out for the position.

"He has a lot of past experience at the university level, and he's doing a great job for us," Kolste said.

Grogan agreed that Ruwe had the political experience the campaign needed.

"We're honored to have the opportunity to work with Curt," Grogan said in a press release. "He's an asset to our team."

Ruwe said he was especially receptive to the offer because he had heard Grogan's message and liked it.

Ruwe ran for ASUN president under the Advance party and received 67 percent of the unofficial vote to defeat Scott Brauer of the Keg party.

Though Ruwe said he is enthused about his re-entrance into politics, he said he doesn't know what the future holds.

"It's too early to say," Ruwe said. "I always want to be involved with the (political) process, but I don't know what my role will be yet."