

# Daily Nebraskan

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**Dramatic Jobs**  
Repertory Theatre gives theater students a chance to learn at work.  
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## The Streak

NU baseball team's winning streak grows after doubleheader victory. SPORTS, PAGE 16



# Professor named interim chancellor

■ Former dean of the law college will take over UNL's highest post in mid-July after James Moeser leaves.

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

An NU law professor will take the temporary reins as head of UNL's campus after Chancellor James Moeser heads for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith announced Monday that he appointed Harvey Perlman, a law professor and former dean of the law college, to the post of interim chancellor.

He will begin July 16, a day after Moeser's scheduled last day at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Moeser announced on April 14 that he would leave UNL to become chancellor of the flagship campus of the UNC system.

Smith said in a statement that he chose Perlman, 58, because of his administrative experience at the university.

Along with being the former dean of the law college, Perlman served as the acting senior vice chancellor for academic affairs during the 1995-96 school year.

"Harvey Perlman brings experience, expertise and sound judgment to the position of interim chancellor," Smith said. "He is a respected faculty member who has a wealth of administrative experience."

As an administrator in both the law college and the office of academic affairs, Perlman said he is in a good position to take on the temporary duties.

"I've worked with a lot of the people I will be working with now," Perlman said. "I have a

sense of the concerns of the various colleges.

"I haven't been gone so long to not have a sense of the planning going on, the initiatives in place and the restraints that the university currently faces."

Perlman said he is not sure what issues will take priority during his time as interim chancellor.

But he said filling vacant positions and preparing for the next legislative session are immediate tasks.

"I'm sure there will be some surprises," he said.

Perlman said he saw his job as one of guiding, rather than taking over.

"I think one of the rules of administration is to support the faculty and allow them to achieve the opportunities they have," he said.

Along with acting as the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs during the 1995-96 academic year, Perlman was one of the candi-

*"I think this is an extremely good appointment."*

Richard Edwards

senior vice chancellor for academic affairs

dates to fill that position permanently.

Richard Edwards, the current senior vice chancellor, was chosen instead.

Perlman said he was "not really" interested in holding the position as chancellor of UNL permanently.

Please see CHANCELLOR on 8

## Be Very, Very Quiet



Heather Glenboski/DN

LARRY HAYNE, A RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIST for the University, takes a nap over the lunch hour Monday afternoon on East Campus. Many faculty and students were outside taking advantage of the sunny weather, which resulted in highs in the upper 60s.

## Tensions rise as abortion case nears

■ Stenberg, Carhart voice their final opinions before today's case.

By Brian Carlson

Staff writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One day before their duel in the U.S. Supreme Court over the constitutionality of Nebraska's ban on what many have called partial-birth abortions, Don Stenberg and Dr. LeRoy Carhart squared off in news conferences Monday.

Today at 10 a.m. EDT (9 a.m. CDT), the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in Stenberg vs. Carhart, the first abortion case the court has heard since 1992.

The court's ruling could affect laws in 30 states that have banned partial-birth abortions and set an important precedent in abortion jurisprudence.

Stenberg, Nebraska's attorney general, will defend the state's ban on partial-birth abortions, which became law in 1997 but has been blocked from being enforced by lower courts.

Carhart, a doctor who provides abortions at his clinic in Bellevue, challenged the law's constitutionality just days after its passage.

Both the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled the law was unconstitutional because it placed

*"It is simply a practice ... that has no place in a civilized society."*

Don Stenberg

Nebraska attorney general

an "undue burden" on a woman's right to choose to have an abortion.

However, in a similar case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit disagreed, ruling that bans on partial-birth abortions in Illinois and Wisconsin were constitutional.

In a press conference Monday at the National Association of Attorneys General's headquarters

near Capitol Hill, Stenberg defended the law.

Stenberg, a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, based his arguments on two main points. He said the law bans only one "barbaric" procedure that is never medically necessary. Because other abortion procedures are

Please see ABORTION on 8

## Case tests mode of execution

■ NU Law College plays host to Scottsbluff case that questions the constitutionality of electrocution.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

A hearing to determine the constitutionality of death by electrocution began Monday at the University of Nebraska Law College.

A Lincoln attorney, Jerry Soucie, who represents a 26-year-old Scottsbluff man convicted of killing and dismembering his 3-year-old son in March 1999, is arguing that the death penalty is cruel and unusual.

The convicted man, Raymond Mata Jr., will be sentenced to either life in prison or death by electrocution.

Scotts Bluff County District Court Judge Robert Hippe is hearing the arguments at the law college this week. Hippe is one of three judges who will be on the sentencing panel in Scottsbluff.

Nebraska is one of two states that uses the electric chair for capital punishment.

According to court documents, Soucie and his co-counsel, Jim Mawbray, are using recorded botched electrocutions, such as the Nebraska executions of Robert Williams in 1983, Harold Otey in 1994 and John Joubert in 1996, to argue the method is unconstitutional.

Soucie also used examples from other states, such as an Alabama case where sparks and flames came from the electrode on an inmate's leg and a Florida case where 6-inch flames came from an inmate's head piece.

But Deputy Scotts Bluff County Attorney Doug Warner said the state provided evidence that showed death by electrocution was quick and not painful.

Charles Hohenstein, retired assistant warden of the Nebraska State Penitentiary, said according to protocol, executions have five intervals and are done properly.

The first is an eight-second, high-voltage charge of 2,400 volts, followed by a 22-second, low-voltage charge of 480 volts, then high, then low, then high, then off, Hohenstein said.

The first eight-second charge should be enough to kill the inmate, render the inmate

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