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Bands and Beer

Knickerbocker's bar builds its reputation on live music and lots of it. A&E, PAGE 10

Farming for Votes

GOP Senate candidates debate agricultural issues. NEWS, PAGE 6

Partner benefits possible

Student coverage could be inclusive of gay partners

By Dane Stickney

Senior editor

A new student health insurance plan that could include domestic partner coverage is in the final stages of being formalized by UNL administrators.

The Chickering Group, which specializes in student health care and is based in Cambridge, Mass., has been selected to be the health care provider of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Linda Herrman, director of the UNL Health Center, said the Chickering Group will provide broader coverage for students at a lower rate.

Chickering also has the capability of providing coverage to domestic partners of UNL students. The term "domestic partners" refers to two people who live together and share financial responsibility. This includes both heterosexual and gay couples.

"Chickering will cover domestic partner benefits if the university desires," Herrman said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said UNL has been exploring the possibility.

"If we structure the plan in such a way that individuals who are sharing financial responsi-

"It looks like this plan is an all-go."

bility with a UNL student would be covered, then why not make it available?" Griesen said.

Griesen said he was prompted to look into the possibility of providing domestic partner benefits to faculty and staff members after the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska voted overwhelmingly on April 4 to voice their support for the benefits.

Joel Schafer

ASUN president

Griesen then contacted three health care bidders, and none of them objected to providing domestic partner benefits.

"All of the bidders have had experience with providing domestic partner benefits at different institutions across the country," he said.

In the past, the term

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Party lines blur after election

President Joel Schafer appoints his former election rivals to leadership positions in student government.

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

As the storm of notoriety dies down from the ASUN presidential elections, many of the candidates have spent time reflecting on all that occurred.

They read about themselves and each other in the Daily Nebraskan's Inside the Campaign series.

They participated in debates, wrote letters and campaigned as much as possible.

You'd think they'd be pretty sick of each other by now, right?

Not quite.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer was recently given the responsibility to appoint leaders to ASUN groups, and some of his top choices were his opponents in the ASUN race.

Schafer appointed Impact presidential candidate John Conley and Empower presidential and first vice presidential candidates Heath Mello and Cecily Rometo to various leadership positions.

Schafer was quick to point out the rivalries between the parties were blown out of proportion.

"I can honestly say Heath and I are friends," he said.

Schafer said he felt the Daily Nebraskan's Inside the Campaign series was an accurate portrayal of what goes on during a campaign but did not reflect the true feelings of a candidate.

Schafer cited factors, such as the stress and emotion associated with the campaign, that contributed to criticism and harsh words exchanged between the parties. The Inside the Campaign series captured much of this, he said.

"It was the middle of the campaign, emotions were high, and we really didn't know each other that well," Schafer said.

When the series ran after the election, Schafer said he realized it brought up some hidden things within the campaign that he could've taken personally, but didn't.

"Heath and I basically sat back and laughed at it," he said.

In making his presidential appointments, Schafer said, he looked at the issues each student government group focused on in the campaign.

"It's a shame for someone who cares and wants to make a difference and try to make real changes (to not be able to participate) just because the votes didn't stack their way," he said.

"That doesn't invalidate their hopes or passions."

Mello, Schafer's opponent in the runoff election, said the race elevated his interest in politics, causing him to apply for a Government Liaison Committee lobbyist position, which Schafer appointed him to.

Despite their heavy competition, Mello said he was pleased he got to know Schafer.

"I got to know him as a person, not as a candidate," Mello said. "He's a really good guy."

Mello was enthusiastic about his new position as lobbyist and said he was pleased things turned out the way they did.

"We've all taken on different roles," he said. "ASUN is going to rock."

Mello gave nothing but praise of Schafer's leadership skills.

"He's bringing a new perspective, in essence, to the organization, and that's great," Mello said.

During his presidential bid, Conley focused on issues dealing with the improvement of UNL's Culture Center, and because of this, Schafer appointed him as project administrator for the center.

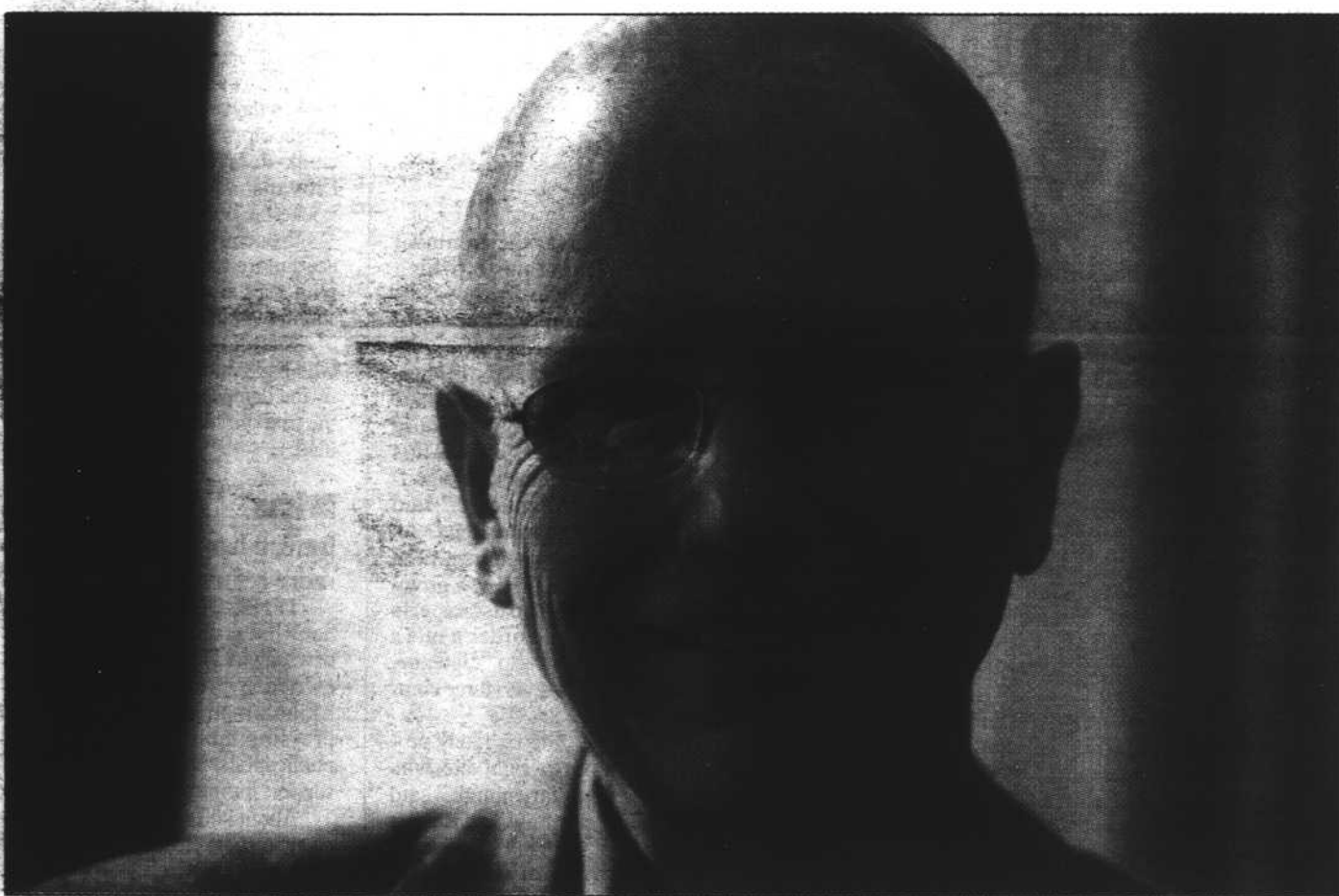
"He knew more about it than I did," Schafer said.

Conley said he was pleased to work on a project he emphasized throughout his run for ASUN president.

"One of the themes throughout Impact's campaign was that if you are elected, you're an ASUN senator, not an Impact senator," he said.

As Culture Center project administrator and newly

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Heather Glenboski/DN

CHANCELLOR JAMES MOESER will be leaving office in July to become chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Moeser said he hopes the next chancellor will have high aspirations for the university.

Moeser ends term with fond memories

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

Being a chancellor of a university never entered James Moeser's mind as a possible career when he was growing up.

At one time he wanted to be a lawyer. Later, a politician.

Then a clergyman. An architect. A musician. All were on the list of careers Moeser once aspired to.

Today, as chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and future chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Moeser is far away from any architecture firm, church, concert hall or courtroom.

But being a chancellor isn't too far from his childhood dreams, he said. Academia has given him a taste of all his interests.

Lobbying the Legislature, serving as dean of the College of Art and Architecture at Penn State and performing and teaching music as a professor have given Moeser a chance to pursue all his interests.

"Through the evolution of my career,

I've been able to involve myself in all those childhood fantasies — politics, religion and architecture," he said. "In a sense, I've been able to do all those things inside the framework of the academy."

Moeser's love of academia — developed as an undergraduate music student at the University of Texas at Austin — has led him to excel as a university administrator.

So much so, that Moeser told media in mid-April he had been sought out by numerous search committees to apply for positions.

It turned out that Moeser was hired just a week later by one of the most prestigious public institutions in the nation — UNC.

Moeser acknowledges the magnitude of the accomplishment.

As the former provost and vice president of the University of South Carolina, Moeser jokingly said he had at least one strike against him.

"North Carolina regards itself as very superior to South Carolina," he said.

But Moeser was serious when he said he

"He's been a good salesman for the university."

James Griesen

vice chancellor for student affairs

didn't think those in North Carolina would want him as the next chancellor.

"I remember telling my wife before I left for the interview, 'I don't know why I am doing this,'" he said.

But, Moeser's administrative credentials and talents were enough for him to get the job. He will be the first chancellor of UNC to have no connections to the university.

"I am not a graduate and not a North Carolinian," Moeser said. "There has never been a chancellor who didn't have some ties there."

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