

# DailyNebraskan

Columnists Emily Moran and Yasmin McEwen explore the choice of love over religion in Opinion/4

Notre Dame, Huskers meet for first time in 27 years in SportsWeekend/10



The bodacious bard better known as Shakespeare takes a groovealicious turn this weekend in Arts/8



## Not all answer when opportunities to leave UNL knock

**Editor's Note:** With UNL in a state of flux because of vacant posts in its senior administration, the Daily Nebraskan this week examines those vacancies and their effects.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

If Irv Omtvedt had wanted to leave the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he could have. Throughout his 25-year tenure at UNL, the former vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources had offers from other schools willing to pay him more money. But unlike so many other administrators tempted by a high-

er salary and more benefits these days, Omtvedt stayed at UNL because of the chances he was given to excel.

"I had several opportunities to leave," Omtvedt said. "The University of Nebraska treated me very well in terms of giving me professional growth opportunities throughout my career."

The same is true for other administrators at UNL.

Like Omtvedt, James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he has had no desire to leave the university.

Griesen has been at UNL for 16 years and said he loves what he is doing.

"I have a very challenging and rewarding job right here," Griesen said. "So why move?"

Griesen came to Nebraska from Michigan in 1978 when he took a position as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In 1984, he moved to UNL as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and soon after became interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

Griesen liked the student affairs position at UNL so well that he has been there ever since, despite offers from other schools.

Griesen said two Big 10 institutions had aggressively recruited him since he'd been at UNL.

"I thought about (leaving)," he said. "But I like where I'm at."

Griesen said he enjoys being an administrator and wouldn't

change anything about his job at the university.

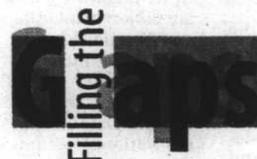
Cecil Steward, retired dean of architecture, agreed that UNL was a good place to grow.

Steward, who retired in January, said he decided early on in his 27 years at the university that it was the right place for him to devote his talents.

But Steward, too, was approached by other schools during the middle of his career at UNL. He stayed in Nebraska because it was a healthy program, he said.

"There was a sense of progress here that I could see and feel," he said. "I had no reason to go anywhere else."

Steward said the university's architecture program had a good



relationship with the community.

Nebraska business people and other state leaders recognized the importance of a quality school of architecture, he said. The respect UNL's school of architecture received made Steward more motivated to stay on as dean.

"(Nebraska) was a place to grow in and a good place to nurture the goals I had," he said.

James O'Hanlon, dean of the Teachers College, has spent 34 years at the university, mostly

because of an allegiance to the institution. O'Hanlon said he has considered leaving for another school, but has never taken it seriously.

His parents graduated from UNL, so O'Hanlon said he had been part of the university since he was young.

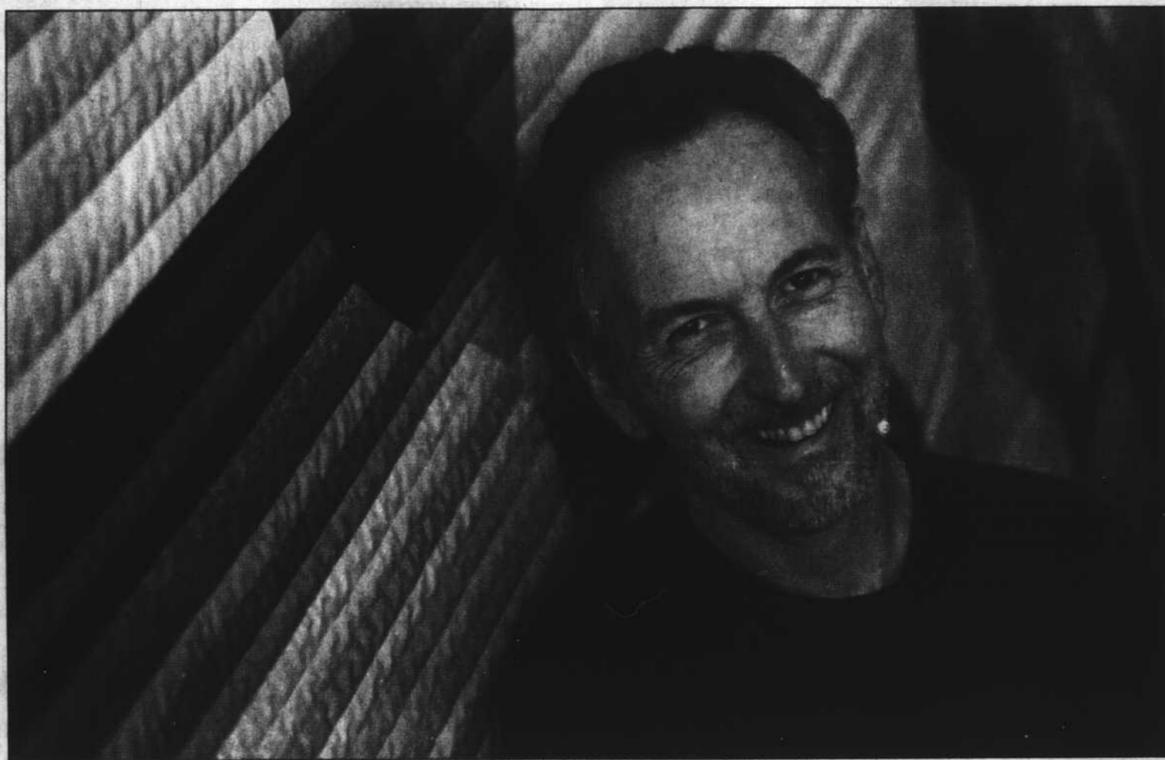
O'Hanlon went to college in Iowa and Ohio and said he moved back to Nebraska after graduation because of a loyalty he felt to the state.

"I sort of grew up leading this place," he said. "I believe in this university and the state."

O'Hanlon said UNL has provided him with opportunities to

Please see SCHOOL on 6

Michael James is in his first semester as a senior lecturer in the department of textiles, clothing and design. James has been a studio artist for 25 years and has work displayed in the Smithsonian Institute's permanent collection.



David Clasen/DN

## golden sewer

### New lecturer creates art one stitch at a time

BY BRIAN CARLSON

In his sunlit basement studio, Michael James resumes work on his latest project, a quilt designed after a historic 17th-Century flag from the Swiss canton of Bern.

Seated at his sewing machine, he pieces together the bluish-gray and blood-red hand-painted cotton fabric. As with his other pieces, James is trying to create a dynamic interaction between the quilt and the viewer.

"I want my pieces to arrest the

viewer and also confront the viewer in a provocative way," he said.

James, a world-renowned quilter, is widely credited with helping to make the quilt an art form. When he brought his artistic background to quilting in the 1970s, he led advancements in color usage and helped transform quilts from decorative objects for beds to wall hangings.

Now James has brought his passion for quilting and design to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This is his first semester as a senior lecturer in the department of textiles, clothing and design.

For three years, James has been on the board of the International Quilt Study Center in Lincoln, the largest public collection of quilts in the world.

James had always lived in Massachusetts, and last year he taught some adult classes at the University of Massachusetts at

Dartmouth. UNL offered James a teaching position, and he accepted.

UNL will have a chance to view James' work beginning Oct. 21, when a show presenting both his old and new works opens at the Robert Hillestad Gallery on East Campus.

In the March issue of Art & Antiques magazine, James' quilt, "Rhythm/Color: Spanish Dance," is listed as one of the "Top Treasures of the Century."

The magazine quotes Ulysses Dietz, curator of decorative arts at Newark Museum in New Jersey, as saying that James is "the single most important figure in the transformation of the quilt from a folk art to a fine art in the late 20th century."

"He arrived at quilt-making as a painter, not a stitcher, and thus has taken the quilt from the realm of the sewing circle and the quilting bee and placed it firmly on the gallery wall," Dietz said.

But James resists such analyses. He is modest about his contributions to the field of quilting, mostly because his study of the history of quilting in the United States has convinced him it has always been an art form.

"People have always considered quilts to be decorative objects," he said. "I look at 18th- and 19th-Century quilts as just as much art quilts as anything anybody's doing today."

James' works are presented in permanent collections at several museums, including the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the American Craft Museum and the Museum of the American Quilter's Society.

Abroad, his works have appeared

Please see QUILT on 5

## UNL works to diversify greek system

BY KATIE MUETING

Minority students wishing to belong to a multicultural greek organization will soon have an increased range of options.

Judy Webster, who was hired as UNL's first National Pan-Hellenic Council adviser, is working to bring more multicultural sororities and fraternities to campus, she said.

UNL has one Latino fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta, which became fully

chartered in the summer of 1999, but no Latina sororities, said Linda Schwartzkopf, director of Greek Affairs.

Webster, along with a group of interested students, are working to bring Sigma Lambda Gamma, a Latina sorority, to campus, she said.

Sigma Lambda Gamma members from the University of Kansas will present an informational session on Saturday at 3 p.m. in

the Nebraska Union.

Webster said that while any student can join a greek house, minority students can benefit from involvement in a multicultural greek organization.

These groups will provide the students with a forum to express their concerns to the university, Webster said.

"I think it will give the students more of a sense of community ... togetherness," Webster said.

Toshiko Nanez, a pre-physical therapy student, said the establishment of UNL's Latino fraternity helped her see the need for a Latina sorority.

She said many of the interested members are friends, and the next step is "to become sisters."

Wendy Barrera, a sophomore pre-criminal justice major, said most of the women

Please see GREEK on 5



GREEN DAY: Kent Wilcox, a Nebraska Press employee, climbs the stairs in the press's new building in the Haymarket at 233 N. 8th Street.

Josh Wolfe/DN