

# Prospect: Liberal arts key

BY VERONICA DAEHN

A liberal arts education is the most important thing a student can obtain - that's what the third candidate for UNL's dean of arts and sciences Richard Hoffman said.

Hoffman, current dean of arts and sciences at the State University of New York in Albany, spoke to faculty members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Thursday.

Hoffman, a biologist, has been the arts and sciences dean in New York since 1998. He said enrollment in an arts and sciences college was the best way for students to learn.

"I am the product of a liberal education, and there are important things about it," Hoffman said. "A liberal education opens windows on the world to students."

UNL has a strong College of Arts and Sciences, Hoffman said - better than the one he governs now.

Hoffman said he normally threw away nominations asking him to look into working at other

*"A liberal-education opens windows on the world to students."*

**Richard Hoffman**  
arts and sciences dean candidate

universities.

But when he saw the letter from UNL, he couldn't get rid of it, he said - UNL was noticeably above the other institutions.

"The University of Nebraska is much better known than the one I'm at," he said. "It has a much more complete College of Arts and Sciences."

Hoffman, who worked at Iowa State University in Ames for 18 years, said the location of UNL was also appealing. Hoffman and his wife would both like to move back to the Midwest, he said.

George Wolf, associate English professor, asked Hoffman what he thought about the amendment that, if passed in November, would ban domestic partnerships and civil unions in Nebraska.

Hoffman was surprised that was even an issue but said it

wouldn't affect his decision to come here.

"That's a really hard problem," he said. "I think the university has to be welcoming and open to that."

University employees are not eligible to receive health-care benefits for their domestic partners, despite efforts by faculty members to change that.

Hoffman said that was odd. "I'm surprised a university in this day and age doesn't have those kind of benefits," he said.

Ted Parady, a biological sciences professor, said it was difficult to tell the difference between the two out of the three candidates he had heard so far in the past week at UNL.

The dean will need to be fair, honest and forthright, he said.

About 35 faculty members showed up to hear Hoffman talk.

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A jackhammer rhythm section and torrents of thick guitar riffs establish a formidable backdrop for the vocals of Tennessee-born singer Josh Brown, whose wrath-fueled voice is capable of summoning both heaven and hell as he searches lyrically for the answers to questions that no one alive may be able to answer. Wherever Brown gets his inspiration, his emotionally wrenching vocals perfectly complement the twisting musical pulse of his bandmates.

**JOHN WESLEY HARDING**  
*The Confessions Of St. Ace*  
\$9.88 CD

John Wesley Harding's new album vividly shows the further development of one of today's most unique and enduring singer-songwriters. Long an artist appreciated by discerning critics, he has returned with his first pop album in almost seven years. With a crack band, and under the production of Gary Burnette and Rob Seidenberg, John Wesley Harding, ironically, traveled to the home of country music to make his most polished pop album yet.

**RELATIVE ASH**  
*Our Time With You*  
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The stunning first album from Chicago heavy rock quintet Relative Ash, is an emotion-packed collection that celebrates life, mourns death, and deftly considers nearly everything else in between. The eleven heart-stopping songs found on Our Time With You... explore with disarming honesty such topics as the worsening AIDS crisis; both the death and birth of loved ones, and being a socially conscious human being in a time that's more generally associated in pop music with man's inhumanity to man.

**JESSE JAMES DUPREE**  
*Foot Fetish*  
\$12.88 CD

As the frontman for the infamous rock band Jackyl, Dupree was ready to explore another fork in the road to see where it would lead. The result of this journey is Foot Fetish. Foot Fetish shows a more musically mature side. From the searing intensity of "Mainline", a scathing, timely roar about overdosing on the internet to "I Don't Share Your Pain" with its undertones of The Who and Duane Allman - it's clear that he has not gotten politically correct, grown inhibitions or compromised his rock 'n' roll edge.

**DAR WILLIAMS**  
*Green World*  
\$13.88 CD

One of the most acclaimed and evocative artists of her generation, Dar Williams crafts tunes that resonate with passion and integrity. On her new CD, The Green World-her fourth solo outing and first since 1997-the singer/songwriter pushes her art to the next level with a collection of songs that are personal, dynamic, and poignant. The rich, vibrant sounds of Williams's newest work showcase her characteristically thoughtful lyrics with an ambition and reach not yet heard from this artist.

**NINA GORDON**  
*Tonight & The Rest Of My Life*  
\$13.88 CD

Nina Gordon, the striking former singer/songwriter/guitarist for Veruca Salt, makes her spectacular solo debut with Tonight and The Rest Of My Life. Showcasing Gordon's sweetly emotional voice and deeply personal, powerful lyrics, backed by stellar collaborators such as Jon Brion and producer Bob Rock, Tonight and The Rest Of My Life is a pure pop album for serious rockers.

**BAHA MEN**  
*Who Let The Dogs Out*  
\$12.88 CD

Baha Men are a 9-member group from the Bahamas, specializing in a hybrid of their native junkanoo rhythm and R&B influenced pop. It's THE party album of the year with "Who Let The Dogs Out" quickly becoming this year's summer anthem.

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*Loud Rocks*  
\$13.88 CD

This 13-song album offers more than just historic pairings from the rap and rock worlds, a list that includes Wu-Tang Clan with System of a Down and Rick Rubin; Everlast with Mobb Deep and others. It looks beyond the mere surface to build a musical bridge to tomorrow's playing field in the rock-rap arena. LOUD ROCKS crosses the threshold to provide the blueprint for how the rock-rap movement can evolve and dislodge itself from its complacent infancy.

**NUCLEAR BEES**  
*God Shave The Queen*  
\$12.98 CD

5 local boys from Nebraska, that's what makes the sound of the Nuclear Bees. This their 3rd CD has a bluesy pop rock sound with a hard edge. While capturing the hearts of local rock fans, they have opened for Quiet Riot, Verve Pipe, Poison, Cinderella and Nightranger.

**VAST**  
*Music For People*  
\$13.88 CD

Vast's 1998 debut, Visual Audio Sensory Theater, scored an underground hit with "Touched" and earned heaps of praise from critics and celebrities like Metallica's Lars Ulrich. Vast now brings us a second album, Music for People, once again drawing skillfully on the multiple influences of goth, metal, classical, electronic and pop. The first single from Music for People, "Free" is layered with guitar crunch and ethereal, sky-high harmonies.

**DIDO**  
*No Angel*  
\$12.88 CD

Talk about finally getting your due - this little songbird has been touring non-stop since this CD's release. Thanks to exposure on the Eminem CD and the teen alien TV show Roswell, people are starting to take note of the former Faithless singer. See what the buzz is about!

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