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## 'Black history is U.S. story'

UNL sponsors a full month of film festivals, speakers and workshops to highlight black contributions to society.

BY LINDSEY BAKER

This February, university students will have a chance to get in touch with America's roots.

A month-long series of events on campus will celebrate Black History Month, established originally as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson in 1926.

"He and a cadre of other black scholars began doing work to make sure African-Americans were not forgotten," said Venetria Patton, an associate professor of English and African American and African studies.

Patton said Woodson set out to ensure

blacks received credit for contributions to the United States and to the world. The week eventually expanded to a month. Patton said, because a week wasn't sufficient time to celebrate black contributions to society.

Walter Rucker, an associate professor of history, said the month should be a learning experience for people of all colors.

"There's a general stereotype and misconception that African Americans have not done much," Rucker said. "African American history at its base is American history."

He said the wealth the United States has today stems from that gained through slavery.

Woodson, Rucker said, intended for the commemoration to eradicate racism and remind all Americans of African-American contributions.

University events include a month-long film festival, where free, historical films will

run every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Specific dates, times and locations will be posted in the Nebraska Union.

Patton said the films are sequential, beginning with blacks in Africa and moving to blacks in the United States.

"We provide a number of different times so we hit a wide (number of people)," Patton said.

Career Services is sponsoring a networking workshop on Feb. 5 to prepare participants for the Fourth Annual Students of Color Recruiter Reception, which will be held Feb. 13.

"The reception gives (students) a chance to meet businesses and employers looking to diversify," Patton said.

Feb. 12-16 brings a bit of love to the Nebraska Union with "Black Love Week," a series of love-related, brown-bag lunch dis-

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### Bridging the African Diaspora Conference

February 23, 24

Visit the Web site for more information and registration.

<http://www.unl.edu/unlies/symposium/symposium.html>

### "Black Love Week"

Sponsored by the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs

February 12 - 16

brown bag lunches with guest speakers

Melanie Falk/DN

### Legislature

## Bill targets booze

BY GEORGE GREEN

Sen. Mark Quandahl of Omaha aims to stop underage drinking by slapping guilty minors with stiffer penalties that suit their crimes.

But some law enforcement officials and students caution disarming thirsty minors isn't a simple or easy task.

LB114, introduced by Quandahl, would allow police to arrest minors who have been drinking and are in the proximity of alcohol even if they don't have booze in their immediate possession.

The bill also ensures guilty youths face beefed-up penalties, including a driver's license suspension, a hefty fine and a note to mom and dad explaining their violation.

Quandahl said his bill seals off a legal loophole, which lets minors drink their fill without fretting over legal consequences.

Police officers can arrest minors for possessing alcohol, but not for drinking it.

Quandahl said he hopes the new legal requirements and the extra penalties will deter young drinkers.

"The current penalties aren't working. This is a different approach," he said.

Mylo Bushing, assistant chief of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police, said he hadn't had an opportunity to take a close look at the bill.

Based on what he has heard, though, he said the bill, if



Derek Lippincott/DN

Titus Childers checks IDs at the door of Buffalo Wild Wings, better known as BW-3, 1328 P St. A newly introduced legislative bill is aimed at changing laws associated with minors and alcohol.

passed, could discourage would-be drinkers.

But, he cautioned, young and ambitious drinkers will continue to party no matter how much the state threatens them.

"Minors are still going to take their chances," he said.

If the state's potential threat becomes a reality, Bushing said, he doesn't anticipate police having to write more tickets.

Officers still will have to obey the letter of the law, which forces them to have probable cause to confront an individual, he said.

Assistant Chief John Becker of the Lincoln Police Department said the bill has the potential to have a positive effect on police workloads.

A bill like Quandahl's, Becker said, helps citizens make informed decisions about their behavior.

"They'll know that if you do it, something bad will happen to you," Becker said.

He said he hoped informed minors would steer clear of alcohol and sidestep potential legal problems while allowing the police to focus on more serious problems.

But, he said, the state keeps countless laws on record with a variety of penalties, and it still wrangles with crime problems.

Rooting out crime takes a concerted effort by more than just the cops, he said.

Please see DRINKING on 3

## Students say no to MIP bill

BY MARGARET BEHM

The debating grounds of the student senate floor were silent Wednesday evening as bill after bill was passed without discussion.

The first bill that passed by acclamation will send a Government Liaison Committee lobbyist to fight LB114. The legislation proposes changes to the laws on alcohol violations by minors.

Urrvano Gamez, ASUN special topics chairman, said the bill passed without debate because senators had already made up their minds.

"I feel it was a pretty clear-cut issue," he said. "Many senators saw that it would have a negative effect on students."

LB114 was presented to the Legislature by Sen.

### ASUN

Mark Quandahl of Omaha. According to the bill, to be charged with MIP, two factors need to be present.

The first factor is that someone under 21 has to be within the proximity of alcohol. What qualifies as proximity will be at the discretion of the police, he said.

The second factor is that a person would have to exhibit signs of consumption of alcohol, also determined by police, he said.

Shelley Stall, head of Student Legal Services,

Please see BILLS on 3

## UNL students delegate, manage funds

BY MARGARET BEHM

It's all about the Benjamins to a committee that right now is engaged in the process of allocating student fee money to student groups.

The Committee for Fees Allocation is the major deciding factor in how much money some on-campus groups receive, said Brent Stanfield, its chairman.

"CFA is the deciding body on how student fees will be allocated - on how much student fees will be collected," said Stanfield, a junior economics and political science major.

The committee makes decisions about student fees - what every student is charged each semester to fund services and student groups. Students taking seven or more credit hours pay \$270 each semester in fees.

CFA is composed of 11 students. Five are members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. One student is from a residence hall, two are from Greek houses and three live off-campus.

ASUN members who serve on CFA cannot vote on the recommendation for student gov-

ernment's budget.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said it's rare among colleges for students, instead of administrators, to serve on this type of committee - one that divvies the fees that students pay each semester.

"We are the most democratic campus that I know of in terms of having a representative student group be the primary body that assigns the appropriations of student fees," he said.

CFA meets once a week during the first semester, Griesen said.

Stanfield said during the first semester, student members study the services provided by student fee-funded groups, such as student government, the University Program Council and the Daily Nebraskan.

"We learn as much about the fee user as we can," he said.

During second semester, CFA holds hearings on budgets, Griesen said.

Student fees come in two parts: Fund A fees, which total \$11.74 each semester, are used to fund student groups, including ASUN, the Daily Nebraskan and the University Program

Council, whose funding includes UPC programming and Lied Center student discounts for events.

Fund B fees are used for bond payments such as those to pay for the Nebraska Union renovations, staff salaries and operating costs for student services, including those at the Campus Recreation Center and the University Health Center.

Students can ask that all or part of their Fund A student fees be refunded, Griesen said.

The refund was allowed in 1978 by the Board of Regents so students wouldn't be forced to financially support groups they might disagree with, he said.

But if a student requests a refund, he or she won't be able to use the services that student fees pay for, Griesen said.

"If you take your ASUN refund, you are not entitled to use Student Legal Services," he said.

After CFA determines a group's budget, that group can have one chance at appealing the amount determined for it to receive.

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## Families distraught over Reeves decision

BY JILL CONNER

In May, Randy Reeves could face the death penalty for the second time in his life.

Reeves, 44, will step into the Lancaster County Court for sentencing once again, two years after being just days away from the electric chair before the Nebraska Supreme Court stayed his execution.

The Supreme Court ordered a re-sentencing last January after declaring Reeves' 1991 death sentence invalid.

Reeves was first sentenced to death for the 1980 murders of Vicki Lamm and Janet Mesner. He murdered the two at the Quaker meeting house in Lincoln.

Reeves will appear in the Lancaster County District Court on May 29 to be sentenced.

Papers filed by Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey's office cited aggravating circumstances in the murders that could lead Lacey to seek the death penalty.

"I talked to family members who favor and do not favor the death penalty," Lacey said. "I've concluded we should favor it in the sentencing."

Mildred and Ken Mesner, parents of Janet Mesner, spoke to Lacey last December about whether he would decide to push for the death penalty.

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