

'Extraordinarist' dazzles crowd
with mind-reading and levitation
In News/7

Amanda Cleveland's story
truly is one about life and
death
In SportsWeekend/10

The UNI Scarlet and
Cream singers consider
themselves a family
In Arts/5



Reinhard's firing deemed unjust

BY KIMBERLY SWEET

A university-hired attorney has found there isn't reasonable cause to act on a recommendation made by a faculty committee to fire UNL School of Natural Resources Professor Karl Reinhard.

David R. Buntain, an attorney hired to look into the recommendation forwarded to him by former Chancellor James Moeser and NU President Dennis Smith stated that "adequate cause does not exist to terminate Dr. Reinhard's continuous appointment."

The decision comes after a special committee of the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee voted

"(Reinhard's termination) would bring a bad reflection on the university as well."

James Riding In
case co-complainant

4-1 with one member abstaining to recommend firing Reinhard last March.

James Riding In, an associate professor at Arizona State University who was a co-complainant in the case, said he stood behind the special committee's recommendation.

"I think the special committee that heard the complaint did a

very good job at weighing the evidence and coming to a decision," Riding In said.

He said the university had something to gain by dismissing the committee's recommendation.

"They have a vested interest in clearing the university," he said. "Reinhard's termination) would bring a bad reflection on the university as well."

Reinhard, who is leaving for Brazil later this month on a Fulbright Scholarship, said Buntain's analysis of the recommendation showed the ARRC's process of dealing with complaints was flawed.

"What I think this does is expose ARRC's lack of regard for human beings," Reinhard said. "I

think it shows ARRC's current format serves no function and that it should be redesigned with humanity in mind."

Reinhard didn't participate in the hearings, and did not participate in his defense, the ARRC report stated. It also stated he chose not to supply documents until after the deadline for handing them in had passed.

Reinhard said he didn't participate because of prolonged health problems and stress related to the hearing. He said it was the committee's choice not to acknowledge the documents.

Buntain, the lawyer, said he didn't want to comment on the procedure the special committee used to come up with its recommendation to fire Reinhard, but

he said his report wasn't a reflection on the work of the ARRC committee.

"I think they were looking at it in a different way than I had to look at it," Buntain said.

The original complaint stated Reinhard conducted outside forensic work without the permission of the university, that he behaved unprofessionally toward students and colleagues, that he withheld American Indian remains in violation of federal policy and that he conducted invasive testing on human remains without permission from Indian tribes.

The complaint was filed in 1998 by Riding In, along with Pemina Yellow Bird, an American Indian tribal representative, and Susan Miller, a UNL assistant pro-

fessor of history and ethnic studies.

The ARRC special committee, a unit of UNL's Academic Senate, forwarded its recommendations to Moeser in March 2000. In a confidential letter written last April and obtained by the Daily Nebraskan, Moeser wrote that he was "unable to conclude that reasonable cause in fact exists to terminate Dr. Reinhard's continuous appointment."

In his analysis, Buntain looked at the recommendation point by point. He said:

■ Reinhard did conduct forensic anthropology projects for law enforcement agencies without receiving permission from the

Please see REINHARD on 3

Diversity top issue for party

■ NU Force intends to include a variety of groups in student government.

BY MARGARET BEHM

There's a party, and everyone is invited.

The NU Force party wants to add more people and diversity to student government.

Angela Clements, presidential candidate for the NU Force party, said she wanted to make ASUN as diverse as her party. She is the only woman running for president, and her two vice-presidents are international students.

"I think that says something about ASUN," she said.

The NU Force party would diversify student government by adding 10 new seats to it.

The seats would go to 10 different organizations on-campus, such as Afrikan People's Union and Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Student Alliance.

The additions to the senate, will ensure that the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is representing all students, Clements said.

"These people will encompass pretty much all 23,000 students," she said.

The added seats will be a plus for ASUN because everyone's views will be represented, Clements said.

"With a large senate, they'll be able to address more issues," she said. "With a diverse senate they'll be able to address more issues."

Rowena Y. Pacquette, second vice presidential candidate, said having a diverse student government would improve communi-

Please see NU FORCE on 3



Angela Clements, representing the NU Force party, announces her candidacy for ASUN president Thursday afternoon in the Nebraska Union.

Josh Wolfe/DN

Questions arise about candidate's late filing

BY MARGARET BEHM

Some dirty laundry was aired during NU Force's announcement party.

Nick Fitch, second vice president candidate for Score!, asked about one of NU Force's candidates not getting her required signatures in on time to be eligible for the March election.

Candidates running for second vice president had to turn in 200 signatures and fill out a filing form by 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Rowena Pacquette, NU Force second vice president candidate, said she filed late for candidacy because she waited until last week to decide to run.

Pacquette ended up turning in her signatures Thursday morning.

She said she was confused about what she had to do to file for candidacy.

"I'm not political, I don't know about these things," Pacquette said.

She didn't get her signatures collected until Tuesday evening. Classes and work kept her from turning them in on Wednesday, she said.

Fitch questioned Pacquette's signatures during a question-and-answer period at NU Force's party announcement.

Angela Clements, NU Force presidential candidate, said she thought Fitch's public questioning about Pacquette's signatures was tactless.

"It very much seemed like an attack from the other party," she said. "If they truly cared about the problems with Rowena getting her signatures in, they could have asked us privately. It was like a cat fight."

Fitch said he simply asked the question solely because he wanted to know whether he'd be running against her.

"I would never ask a question with a disrespectful intent," he said.

Also, Fitch said, he had tried to phone Clements on Wednesday evening to ask her the status of her second vice presidential candidate, but wasn't able to reach Clements.

Fitch said he didn't have an opinion on whether Pacquette should be able to run.

After he asked the question, Fitch said he sensed the NU Force party wasn't pleased.

"It seemed to me like it was taken the wrong way," he said.

John D. Conley, ASUN Electoral Commission director, said Pacquette failed to file for candidacy by the Wednesday 4 p.m. deadline.

Pacquette had to turn in the form in person because she had to sign it in front of a witness.

Conley said that he didn't find out about the late signatures until 4:15 p.m., when Clements came to talk to him about it.

Clements said Conley offered to recommend Pacquette still be able to run.

Conley said in an interview with the Daily Nebraskan that he didn't know if he was going to make the recommendation to allow Pacquette to run.

The Electoral Commission will decide whether Pacquette will be allowed to run, at 8 a.m. Tuesday, he said.

Four students and two faculty members serve on the committee.

A bug's life: Student researches hopping critters through UCARE program



With a net and cage at his side, UNL senior Brian Dietz becomes immersed in his research. Dietz has been studying grasshopper populations under the direction of UNL Biology professor Anthony Joern.

Sharon Kolbet/DN

BY SHARON KOLBET

Armed with a butterfly net and an insect cage he collected them - hundreds of them.

While lying on his stomach in the middle of an isolated prairie, he watched them, counted them and now he is writing about them.

After spending months gathering information, University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior Brian Dietz is putting the final touches on his redlegged grasshopper project.

As a second year participant in the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences program (UCARE), Dietz received a \$2,000 grant for his project.

Dietz then received permission from the Nebraska



Undergraduates research

Audubon Society to study at the Spring Creek Prairie near Denton, Nebraska.

"Lab experiments have their place, but I now understand why field experiments are so important," Dietz said.

Biology professor Anthony Joern was Dietz's faculty sponsor for the two-year grasshopper project.

Joern said during Dietz's first year in the program, he spent a

Please see RESEARCH on 3

Legislature

Bills spark fierce debate

■ Opposition to tax increases could jeopardize the eight bills that would increase salaries for Nebraska educators.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Picking up the tab took on a whole new meaning for state senators Thursday.

The Revenue Committee heard testimony on eight bills aimed at increasing Nebraska's teacher salaries by boosting taxes.

At every step of the hearing process, the senators listened to testimony from concerned citizens and businesses bent on shifting the tax burden to others.

Overshadowing all of the testimony was a promise from Gov. Mike Johanns to veto any tax increases.

Following the governor's lead, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce and the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce opposed every proposal the committee considered.

Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison, chairman of the committee, introduced each bill, and criticized the commerce groups for constantly objecting to the ideas without providing suggestions of their own.

"Do they have any recognition that we are indeed faced with a critical issue in this state?" he asked.

To combat the problem, the committee heard a variety of proposals including boosting income taxes, expanding the sales tax and upping taxes on alcohol and cigarettes.

LB200 would slip food under the sales tax umbrella.

Carey Potter, of the Nebraska Retail Federation, warned that a tax on food would unfairly burden the lower class.

"It's a regressive tax," she said. She said the bill would force the average Nebraska family to fork over an additional \$272 each year in food expenses.

Many poor families simply can't handle the extra burden, she said.

But Wickersham noted that poor families would be eligible for a yearly rebate where they

Please see EDUCATION on 7

Senate narrowly votes Ashcroft to attorney general

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Former Sen. John Ashcroft won confirmation as attorney general on Thursday, completing President Bush's Cabinet and overcoming a ferocious Democratic assault on his conservative views and personal integrity. The vote was 58-42.

"The president of the United States, George W. Bush, is entitled to have his selection as attorney general," Majority Leader Trent Lott said a few moments before the roll was called on the most contentious confirmation fight in a decade.

Please see ASHCROFT on 2