

Foreign students seek improved social acceptance

By Chris Day

Homesickness, alienation, communication problems, body language and methods of classroom instruction cause friction between foreign students and new environments according to the director of UNL's international education services.

Peter S. Levitov said that values, attitudes, customs, food and weather differences are less significant than relationship problems.

More than 50 percent of U.S. teenagers go on to some type of educational institution after high school, Levitov said, but only 5 percent of the rest of the students in the world go on to higher education.

"They (international students) are the best, and are expected to be at the top," Levitov said. "Their self-image is frequently damaged.

"Foreign students identify with the group. United States students are individuals."

There are frequent attempts by UNL students to interact with international students, but such questions as "Do

you eat with chopsticks?" or "Do you come from the desert?" are not valid attempts at relating to foreign students, Levitov said.

"Don't invite them to Thanksgiving and then forget them. You feel good that you helped a poor foreign student, but then forget them," he said.

"They are not poor students. They want to be accepted as people, or as roommates."

General comments from a survey the IES office conducted of foreign students included the comment that "U.S. students need to be more broad-minded."

"More broad-minded"

Levitov said that Nebraskans need to have more contact with people from other areas of the U.S. besides foreign countries.

He said the university is "homogeneous," and that the level of acceptance needs improvement.

According to the office, there are 767 non-immigrant foreign students at UNL.

The top 10 countries as far as number of students attending UNL include Iran with 181; Taiwan, 106; Nigeria, 89; Hong Kong, 37; Iraq, 35; India, 25; Lebanon, 21; Malaysia, 17; Japan, 16; and Pakistan, 16.

Levitov said there are a variety of reasons why foreign students are attracted to UNL.

He said universities in their native countries may be filled, or doctoral degrees may not be offered.

The sense of adventure and status for wealthy families are other reasons for going abroad for an education, for American students too, he said.

Graduate referrals

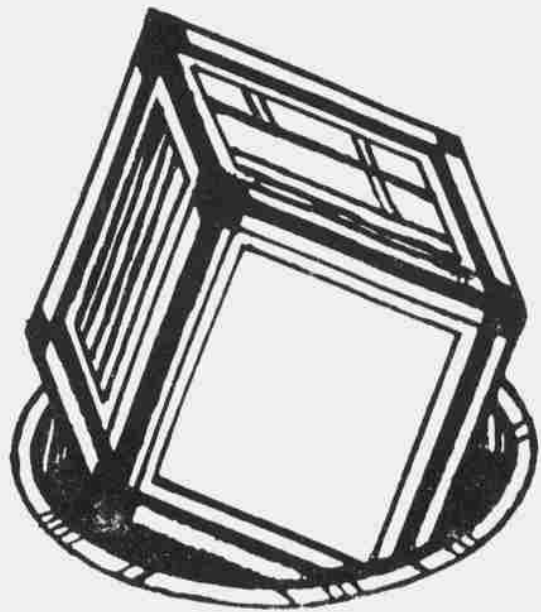
Many foreign students are graduate students who were referred to the university by UNL faculty, their colleagues, or by the reputation of the university's research facilities.

Undergraduates usually know someone else at UNL or had visitors from Nebraska come to their home countries, Levitov said.

Nebraska tends to be selective in accepting foreign students and the selectivity leads to a greater success rate, Levitov said. A minute proportion of international students are on academic probation or suspension compared to students as a whole.

Foreign students coming to UNL are provided with detailed information concerning climate, accommodations and travel costs by the IES office.

They are requested to arrive 10 days prior to the start of the semester and are given language tests, cultural adjustment assistance as well as an introduction to a new academic system.



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Students for Life group receives 'quasi-threatening' letter from vandals

By Tom Prentiss

The UNL Students for Life received a letter Tuesday that group president Doug Novak termed "quasi-threatening."

The letter is an apparent response to charges made after vandals defaced a sign outside the Nebraska Union during Respect Life Week.

Among other things, the letter says the vandalism was done by a group of concerned citizens and not the UNL Students for Reproductive Freedom.

Novak said the letter was a "direct verbal assault" on the 40 to 50 members of the group. He said he had no idea who was responsible for the letter but that it was probably people who shared the views of the Students for Reproductive Freedom.

Jan Deeds, vice president of Students for Reproductive Freedom, said she was glad the group responsible came forward and acknowledged their act.

Deeds said her group neither associates with vandals nor condones vandalism. Deeds and Marcee Metzger, a student member, said they didn't see a threat within the letter.

Deeds said the letter is probably a reaction to Novak's previous statement about pro-choice groups being involved in vandalism.

Novak said the group also received a news story reporting that guards will be used to protect the Ladies Center in Omaha because of recent vandalism. According to the Associated Press story, the Omaha abortion clinic was supposed to begin its appointment schedule Tuesday.

Novak said the letter equates the vandalism to the sign with the vandalism to the Ladies Center.

Novak said the letter "shows their mentality" and that his group does not get involved in radical or violent activity.

Novak said he thinks students were responsible for the vandalism to the sign because few people from off campus would have seen it.

He also said that because the letter was not postmarked it may mean that it was dropped in the Students for Life mailbox by a student.

Novak said anyone with information regarding the letter could call Crimestoppers. He said the police organization operates with total anonymity so people should feel free to contact it.


He said the owner of the sign that was vandalized, Dick Schaffer and Associates, is offering a \$100 reward to people who give information resulting in the arrest of the vandals.

Nebraska personal income rises in third quarter 1980

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, personal income for Nebraska was \$14.9 billion for the third quarter 1980.

Jerome Deichert, research associate for the UNL College of Business Administration's Bureau of Business Research, said this represented a 7 percent increase from 1979.

The growth in Nebraska's income apparently did not keep pace with inflation. During the same time inflation was about 11 percent.



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The Rodeo Club will meet tonight at 7 in the East Campus Union. Room number will be posted.

There will be a GLC SSA Core Committee meeting today at 4:30 p.m. Room number will be posted.

There will be a Figure Drawing Session tonight from 7-10 in Richards Hall 206. The cost will be \$10 and is open to anyone interested.

UNL Toastmasters will meet tonight at 6 in NEC 241.

Latter-day Saints Student Association will have class today at noon in the East Campus Union.