

Ecologist: limnology lives

by STEVE STRASSER
Nebraska Staff Writer

World-renowned ecologist Arthur Hasler doesn't think much of "doomsday scientists," at least not in his field.

"These fellows have been working with flasks in a lab," the University of Wisconsin limnologist told about 180 people at a Bessey Hall lecture Thursday night. "They haven't gone out and looked at a lake."

The lake in his example had been doomed by some scientists because of a high carbon dioxide content. But, lowering the phosphates content had ac-

tually saved it according to Hasler.

Lakes and other fresh water bodies are a limnologist's business, and saving lakes is Hasler's thing.

But lakes can't be saved by one-man crusades, Hasler pointed out. "All kinds of public officials have to be persuaded before any action is taken," he said. "Our political-legal system is not geared to deal with these problems (like lake eutrophication). There should be an inter-governmental authority to deal with them," Hasler said.

But a eutrophic lake, a lake overly-enriched by nutrients which cause an oxygen-destroying overgrowth of algae, is "not a picture of gloom like many ecological problems," Hasler said. "We know the causes, the symptoms, and we have examples which prove that the elimination of man-made effluents reverses the process."

The man-made effluents include detergents, fertilizers, feed lot run-off, exhaust emissions, erosion run-off, and sewage, Hasler explained.

Most restored lakes up to now have been saved at the expense of other bodies of water to which the sewage has been transferred, Hasler continued. "We have to think of ways to re-cycle sewage."

He added that all ways known now are too expensive.

Meanwhile, the battle goes on for Hasler. He related that in fighting to clean up Lake Mendota bordering the Wisconsin campus, he had trouble attracting attention to the problem. "People would go out of their way to throw a can in the lake."

So he paid a model \$20 to pose waste-deep in the muck and put the picture on the University president's desk.

The lake is being maintained much more carefully now, Hasler reported.

And as for the doomsday prophets among his colleagues, "somebody ought to rub their noses in some limnological literature," he said.

Dorms gain class; will live and learn

There will be more classes offered in the residence halls second semester than ever before "because there is apparently greater interest in this living and learning process," according to Ned Hedges, director of freshman english.

About 20 English courses have been scheduled for living units. The history and philosophy of education and German departments are also offering courses in residences.

The idea of classes in the living unit allows the topics of the course to continue outside the four walls of the classroom, Hedges said.

Dorm classes are technically open to all students, but only those living in the residence hall where the courses are offered should sign up, the director said.

"Since the theory is for discussion to continue outside the classroom, there's no purpose in having classes in residence halls if the students

attend from all over the campus," he explained.

Courses have been scheduled for all city campus residence halls and "we are hoping to develop classes in the Burr-Fedde complex on East Campus," said Hedges.

Although the classes will probably meet in the dorms, the option is open for meetings to be held in regular classrooms, he said. Specific meeting places will be announced to registered students.

Anyone wishing to take courses in living units should have signed up by now, Hedges said. "We tried to get the information to people in the living units, and if the grapevine was working properly, the course call numbers should have been available to students."

The information can be obtained from student assistants in the residence halls or the English department, he added.

Czech jubilee views Komensky

The Czech University Club "Comenius" is preparing a jubilee for this weekend in memory of Jan Komensky.

Komensky, described as one of the greatest figures in the history of Czech culture died 300 years ago, according to club secretary Rosemarie

Tesina. She described him as the "Teacher of Nations, the founder of the modern system of education."

The program is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. She described it as a dignified program with an exhibit of pictures of the life of Komensky.

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Students study toasters

If you're interested in things like toasters, electric fans and grading spectrometers, take the new Physics II lab for non-majors.

This year's edition of the lab

emphasizes "the discovery approach rather than the cookbook approach," according to Robert Fuller, associate professor of physics.

Lab instructors hand students a scientific enquiry form which "outlines the steps you take when you ask nature questions," said Fuller.

Students then use procedures outlined in the form to find out all kinds of "neat things" about appliances like toasters and fans, Fuller explained.

Fuller hopes the lab will show students the difference between looking at something and actually observing it.

Besides observing, the students will also try to make some things on their own, such as a grading spectrometer, an instrument which measures the light transmitting powers of solutions.

Fuller said people working with this course and lab are convinced that labs of this style are the trend of the future.

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