

# Scientist: purpose of city is education

By John Kalkowski

A city is really a university, according to Athelstan Spilhaus, a nationally-known scientist and expert on the future.

Spilhaus spoke at the Future World Symposium at UNO Wednesday on the future of the city.

The purpose of the modern city, he said, is to expose its citizens to new experiences and people. Most education is done outside the classroom and the city's duty is to provide that education, Spilhaus said.

Spilhaus has been involved in experimental designing of new cities.

The cities have a global problem—too many people and too few cities, he said.

## Three cities

In the United States, Spilhaus said, there are three major cities. Bosnewash, Chitsburg and Sansan. Bosnewash extends from Boston to Washington D.C.; Chitsburg ranges from Chicago to Pittsburg; and Sansan from San Francisco to San Diego, he said.

Cities with eight to 10 million persons are disastrous, he said. But, Spilhaus said, the city with the 20,000 population is too small to fulfill all the needs of its people.

According to Spilhaus, the optimum size of the future city will be about 250,000 to one and one-half million persons.

Human services, which are the essence of the city, can be readily supplied by a city of this size, he said.

## Grown without planning

But the cities have grown without planning, Spilhaus said. Human services, such as streets and sewers, were usually put in after the population grew up in a certain area.

The answer, he said, is to plan human services first, and then limit the maximum number of people in the city.

"Cities face no real problems," Spilhaus said. "They face challenges which humanity will one day meet."

The nuclear wastes which most persons consider a problem are really no problem at all, he said. The United States has the technology to launch the nuclear wastes toward the sun where they would do no more than "keep it going for a millisecond," according to Spilhaus.

## Potential resource

Pollution, he said, is just a potential resource which has not been tapped.

The difference between the city planning currently being done and Spilhaus' experiments is that his don't impose a "so-called utopia" upon people, he said.

Spilhaus added that cities are so much alike today, the only way he can tell what city he is in is by looking at the hotel stationery.

The future city should have all of its services underground in tunnels, according to Spilhaus. Then, he said, there would be no "screaming sirens and traffic noises." In such cities, no land should be privately owned by plots, Spilhaus said. It is ridiculous to own a "chunk of land because the buildings then are built straight up," he added.

He said the future city should "be like a tree," large with covered walkways.

# New vice chancellor—search to begin soon

By Susie Reitz

A committee to select a new vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources will be appointed in the next two or three weeks, according to Chancellor James Zumberge.

The committee will look for a replacement for Duane Acker, who resigned effective July 1 to become president of Kansas State University.

Faculty members, students, administration and the agriculture industry will be represented on the committee, Zumberge said.

"Nineteen members were on the committee which selected Acker last year—10 faculty members, three students, two administrators and four agriculture industry representatives," Zumberge said. "I would like to keep a similar ratio on the committee this time, but cut the number to about a dozen."

According to John Klosterman of David City, a leader in the establishment of the institute last year, the committee was looking for someone who could work well with students, faculty members and people throughout the state.

"Dr. Acker made tremendous strides in his year at the university," Klosterman said. "He had the confidence of faculty and staff and worked well with people in the state."

During the year, Acker contacted agriculture groups in Nebraska and spoke to various urban and rural organizations throughout the state, said Howard Ottoson, director of the agriculture experiment station.

Acker was instrumental in developing separate forestry and horticulture departments and bringing professional horticulturists to the state for consultation, Ottoson said.

The result was more identification for the forestry program in Nebraska, he noted.

D.B. Varner, NU president, called Acker's resignation a "severe jolt to the university."

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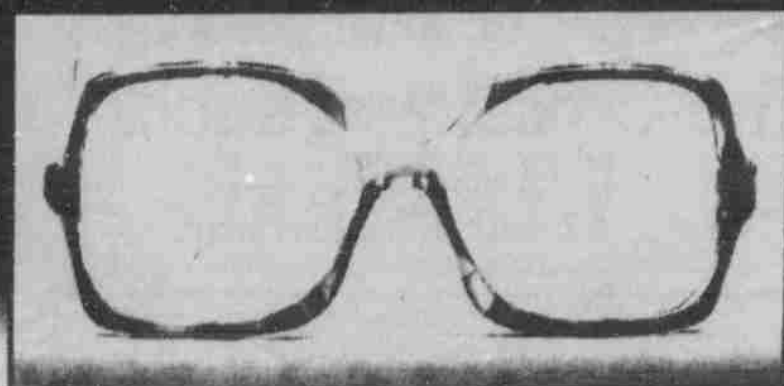
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