



Photo by Liz Beard

Wilma Crumley, vice director of the School of Journalism.

Attitudes of needy studied

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Crumley said members of the critical group believe poverty is a condition of life understood by the public.

Women in a third group, the "discouraged group," believe poverty is misunderstood and the public looks down on those on welfare, Crumley said.

Crumley cited responses by women in this group—"Why don't we work? No opportunities, discriminations. They look at the color of your skin. Jobs might not be available."

One mother said, "Most people associate poverty with being drunk, dirty and hatching out a kid every five minutes—not worrying about what happens. They do if they haven't been there themselves at some time."

Women in a fourth group believe all poor people should accept poverty, Crumley said.

One "accepting group" member said, "I don't know which it is really, whether they want too much or they just don't enjoy what they have. I don't know."

Crumley said the accepting spirit of this group is typified in one mother's comment: "While it used to be that to be on welfare was a shameful thing, people don't look down their noses at welfare people any more. What's to be ashamed of?"

Members of the "special circumstances" group said they were not ashamed to receive welfare because of special circumstances other than being poor.

Women in this fifth group emphasized that the public should take a more understanding view of poverty by looking more carefully at the reasons for receiving welfare, Crumley said.

"People don't know what poverty is who haven't been there," one "special circumstance" group member said.

Crumley said the study indicates that if the poor shared common opinions, attitudes and values, such findings would be impossible.

She said only three groups expressed similar opinions about the sample statements, including "We've got to recognize that much more money will have to be spent to wipe out the poverty conditions that breed crime, alcoholism and illegitimacy." It's embarrassing especially for children to wear something someone else has worn to school," and "Layaways help you live within your means when you live a hand-to-mouth existence."

Crumley said the study showed that if home economists and other professionals who contact welfare families are to make an impact on their audiences, a more sophisticated understanding of the processes of mass communication is needed.

Nebraska, NU compete for solar energy institute

A national solar energy research institute being sought by many state governments would bring great economic advantages to Nebraskans, according to Lt. Gov. Gerald Whelan.

Last summer Whelan and NU President D.B. Varner traveled to Washington D.C. to investigate the possibilities of establishing such an institute, to be sponsored by the Energy Research Development Agency (ERDA), in Nebraska.

Whelan said that although the criteria for the institute will not be announced until the end of this month, he has high hopes. But he added that the state will be competing against such strong academic communities as Stanford University in California and the states of Texas, Maine, and Arizona.

Whelan said Nebraska's chances have improved among the 200 applicants because

of recent agricultural studies done in Nebraska such as converting wastes.

Joint application

Even though the institute would not be a university program, a joint application was filed on behalf of the state and university.

The institute, Whelan said, would provide for an annual research budget of between \$15 million and \$50 million. It would be involved not only in solar energy research, but in wind energy research as well, he said.

An energy site of this kind, would advance the economy of the state, and its intellectual and cultural aspects, he said.

"We have one leg up on many of the applicants because of our all-Republican delegation in Congress," Whelan said.

White House decision

Don Edwards, UNL associate dean of

engineering and technology and crew chief for the application, said ERDA will narrow the list of original applicants, first to 40, then to 4, and an ERDA team will visit those five sites. The decision will be made at the White House.

Edwards, who will visit the capital this week to receive the criteria, said the institute once was a "wild dream" for Nebraska, but now he is receiving help and encouragement from the government.

"What are exotics today could be reality tomorrow," said Edwards of Nebraska's

solar energy resources.

Involving the "economics of energy," Whelan said that instead of paying the Arabs for fuel, an economic boost could substantiate with the development of solar and wind energy resources.

The site of the research institute could be selected July 1.

Edwards said "prestige and spinoffs in the way of an advanced economy will come to the recipient of the institute."

Volunteer groups to meet

Lincoln volunteer opportunities and the philosophy of volunteerism will be discussed at a Community Volunteer Orientation, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday on the fifth floor of the Lincoln Center Bldg.

Coordinators of three Community Involvement Services—UNL, the Volunteer Bureau of Lincoln and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program said they hope to offer a more thorough presentation by making

the orientation a cooperative effort. "Two orientation objectives are to motivate people and to promote professionalization and awareness of volunteer administrators," said CIS coordinator Mary Dean.

Panel discussion topics include rights and responsibilities, expectations, trends, confidentiality and job descriptions of volunteerism, Dean said.

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