

Horseback ride kicks off rodeo

Ride 'em cowboy! Several members of the UNL Rodeo Association (UNRA) will be saying this as they meet Governor J. James Exon and a group of senators today to proclaim April 8-18 as Western Week on the UNL East Campus.

After the three and-a-half mile horseback ride from East Campus, the students will announce the week's plans and the 10th annual intercollegiate rodeo April 8-9 in the Nebraska State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

As many as 300 contestants from the 21 colleges representing the seven-state Great Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association are expected to enter the event, according to Jim Gocke, a junior from Waco, and UNRA publicity chairman.

Three rodeo performances are scheduled, he said, with qualifying rounds Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The finals will begin Saturday at 7:45 p.m.

Special guest at the rodeo, which will kick off the week of special events, will be Walt Garrison, former running back for the Dallas Cowboys.

Garrison, a former rodeo professional, currently is director of special events for the U.S. Tobacco Co.

Gocke said the men's events will include bareback

bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, team roping and steer wrestling. Women will compete in goat tying, barrel racing and breakaway roping.

South Dakota State University won the men's all-around title while the University of Wisconsin at River Falls captured the women's crown at last year's rodeo.

Funds raised from ticket sales are used to finance the rodeo team's travel expenses to other rodeos, and other expenses, Gocke said. About \$24,000 was grossed from last year's event by UNRA but only about half of that was saved after subtracting costs, he said.

Gocke said the Saturday night finals will be televised live from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. by all stations of the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

Any UNL student will have a chance to join one of the 10 three-man teams for the open university wide cow ride, which will be featured during the two preceding shows. A special feature Saturday night will be a cow ride for UNL staff and faculty members, media representatives and others.

About 30 UNRA members may participate in the rodeo, because no limit on entries is placed on the host team, he said.

Voc-ag teachers in short supply

For the twenty-fifth year in a row, there are not enough agriculture education majors graduating from UNL to fill vocational-agricultural teaching vacancies in Nebraska, according to agricultural education instructor Wayne Oberg.

However, he said he hoped the situation would correct itself in three to five years.

Though he said he sees no immediate solution, he hopes that by making high school students and college freshmen and sophomores more aware of the program, there will be an increase in voc-ag teachers within five years at the most.

"We hope to make people aware of the employment opportunities available with such a major," he said. "We're considering some kind of recruitment, possibly. At the end of five years, I hope we'll be able to supply all the schools in the state with the number of voc-ag teachers they want."

He said none of the other state colleges have an agriculture education program, so UNL has been the only school in Nebraska that supplies such teachers.

Presently, Oberg said, only 37 per cent of the 1970-76 graduates in the field of agricultural education have entered the teaching profession, while 29 per cent went into farming or ranching and 20 per cent went into some branch of agri-business. He added that salary was very much a factor in determining whether agriculture education majors would teach or go into business. First year voc-ag teachers earn about \$11,000, while agri-businessmen often have the opportunity to earn more.

"There are 135 voc-ag teachers and about 375 high schools in Nebraska. There are only a couple of voc-ag programs left in Omaha and most existing programs are in smaller communities. I know of 10-15 schools that want to begin voc-ag programs, but can't because of the lack of qualified teachers available," Oberg said.

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