

Professor paints montage of trust, friendly counsel

By Joe Starita

His accent shifts gears like a Ferrari on LSD. One minute it is Ivy League poshness, the next hillbilly slang. One inflection strikes a British polish, another slings Midwest slang.

Paintings of Greta Garbo, Elvis, a pair of Egyptian ibises, a tribe of Plains Indians and a hound dog hang from his office walls.

And if every picture tells a story, Keith Prichard has some explaining to do.

Prichard, a UNL professor of education, has good reason to mix accents with explanations.

Born and raised in Indiana, educated at Columbia, Harvard and Oxford universities, Prichard landed his first college job at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

It was at Wake Forest, Prichard said, that he first was able to put his Harvard-learned theories of teaching into practice.

"I had this wonderful woman for a professor at Harvard," he recalled, "who taught me that you must develop all of a student's ability, not just the academic side."

To accomplish this, Prichard explained, she did things most professors do not do; things that help students relax and help them to get to know a professor as a friend.

"For instance," Prichard said, "she gave great dramatic performances in the classroom. She had a beautiful mink coat that she used to nonchalantly fling over a chair before starting the lecture."

"Everyone thoroughly relaxed and got to know her as a friend first and as a professor second which makes the job of teaching so much easier, and a helluva lot more fun," he said.

Prichard said he had fun at Wake Forest because "the pressure was not on research but to be a great classroom professor."

"I started a men's resource center there to give men a total collegiate experience like they do in the Ivy League schools."

"We made \$4,000 on a three-day art sale to help get it started. That was in 1966 and the resource center still is going today."

Prichard said he was elected Professor of the Year at Wake Forest in 1966 but decided after six years there it was time to move on.

"If you want to be a top-flight professor, and I do, you have to publish. Wake Forest didn't really have the best library in the world and I needed one for research."

His first choice of where to research, he said, was the University of Virginia. UNL was his second choice.

Since coming to UNL in the fall of 1967, Prichard has published three textbooks and "tried my damndest to help students here develop all of their talents."

One technique Prichard uses to help him in the classroom is taking his students on in a "friendly" game of racquetball.

"That helps me to strengthen the bond between me and my students," he explained.

"They trust me more because they can let their defenses down and relax. That way kids will take my advice and counseling as a friend."

One student might have had some problems passing the class had Prichard enforced the rules of the game on the racquetball court.

"Mike Shea, a former student and football player, decided one day he would play me for his class grade. Every time I beat

him, I was supposed to drop his grade one letter.

"Well, Mike was 0-for-14 that day. I think that would have given him an "N" for the class, but we were able to work it out."

When not working out on the courts, Prichard finds time to get some work done in his garden and art studio.

"I'm a fine gardener because I had to put myself through school in Indiana by working in a greenhouse. I guess I've had a green thumb ever since."

The green thumb occasionally gets splattered with golds, browns, red and yellows.

"I've had no formal training, I just started dabbling with paint while at Harvard," Prichard said. "I take my problems to the canvas and walk away an hour later feeling much better."

Although he has no illusions of giving Picasso a run for his peso, Prichard said he still tries to improve with each Garbo, Elvis, ibis or Indian.

"I tell myself the same things I tell my students: always try and be the best that you can."

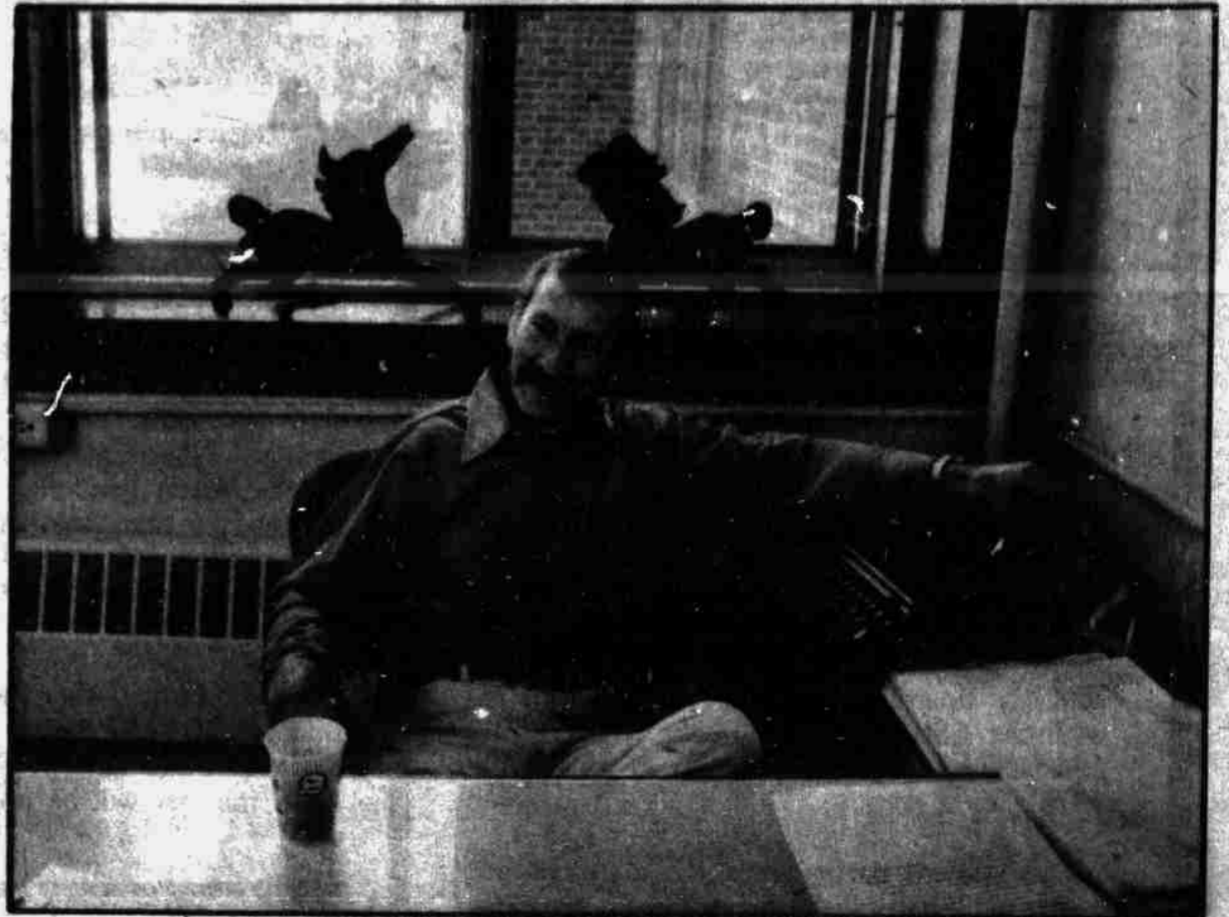


Photo by Bob Pearson
Education professor Keith Prichard believes in developing the full talents of his students.

daily nebraskan

friday, february 17, 1978 vol. 101 no. 72 lincoln, nebraska

Campus snow removal progress slow but sure

The antics of UNL's celebrated "snow day" are over, and many students still are trying to locate their cars.

Nevertheless, snow removal is progressing slowly but surely on the UNL campus, according to Jay Thody, assistant director of the UNL grounds department.

The grounds department is responsible for clearing all walks, driveways and parking lots on campus, in addition to portions of U, S, W and 14th streets, Thody said. The city is responsible for clearing R, 16th and 17th streets.

Thody said he did not know how much money was spent on clearing snow this

week, but the department is working on compiling the figures.

Snow crews have had problems removing snow from some parking lots because cars are parked there, he said.

"We try to clear the aisles (in the parking lots) first," he said. "People will have to shovel behind their cars, but they will be able to get out of the lot."

"We probably will never get the lots completely clean," Thody said.

The grounds department's snow removal equipment is adequate for removing snow after a normal snowfall, he said, but the department had to rent equipment from a private company to clear the nine inches dropped on Lincoln Sunday and Monday.

Students with cars pay for snow removal through their parking permit fees, \$35 each year, according to UNL parking coordinator John Duve.

In a normal year, \$1 or \$2 out of the \$35 will go for snow removal, he said. But in a year with heavy snowfall, students with cars on campus may pay \$5 or more each for snow removal, Duve said.

Students were allowed to park in faculty and staff lots Tuesday and Wednesday while lots were being cleaned, he said, but drivers now must park in the proper lots.

Duve said he has no figures for how many cars were towed away or how many tickets were issued for illegally parked cars.

"Basically we have not had a great deal of tickets," Duve said.

Future of fees to be decided

The NU Board of Regents will decide the future of mandatory student fees at their February meeting, Saturday at 10 a.m. at Regents Hall, 3835 Holdrege St.

ASUN and NUPIRG (Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group), reported Thursday that 5,000 students have signed petitions supporting mandatory student fees. Their goal was 8,000 signatures.

Various student groups are expected to testify at the meeting.

Other issues before the regents will include:

—approving a new constitution for UNL's Student Government Association.

—acting on UNL Chancellor Roy Young's recommendation to raise residence hall rates \$70 a year, from \$1,265 to \$1,335.

—appropriating \$5,907,000 for a new theater arts building to replace the Temple Building.



Photo by Mark Ellingbo
The owner of this bicycle won't get very far until the spring thaw, which, from the looks of things, is a while away yet.

inside friday

- UNL students tie apron strings: Too many cooks can't spoil the batter page 6
- Mel Brooks hobbles back: *High Anxiety* is low comedy for movie reviewer J. Marc Mushkin . . . page 7
- The high schoolers are coming, the high schoolers are coming . . . Lincoln braces itself for state high school tournaments page 10