

UNL lab begins new handicapped children's program

In conjunction with the Nebraska Services for Crippled Children, UNL is operating a program for developmentally delayed children from birth to age three.

Located at the Ruth Staples Laboratory on east campus, the Infant Development Encouragement Program is a new component of the human development and family department.

According to Helen Sulek, director of the Ruth Staples Laboratory, the program is a part of the teaching program in the human development department.

Many students are training to work with handicapped children either to become teachers or directors of programs with handicapped children," Sulek said.

Of the 12 children now enrolled in the program, Sulek said many of those are termed developmentally delayed by the Nebraska Service for Crippled Children as

the result of either cerebral palsy, hearing and seeing deficiencies or post accident or illness problems.

The program, transferred from the United Cerebral Palsy organization, began in early July. Classes meet three times a week.

The Barkley Center for Special Education on East Campus and Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institution in Omaha helps monitor the instruction of the handicapped children.

"A team of professionals evaluate these children and tell us how to best instruct them," Sulek said.

The program has a coordinator, assistant teacher, a nurse, a social worker and services from a physical therapist. The program also provides for a speech therapist and an occupational therapist.

The children are taught physical motor coordination, exercises, social, emotional and speech development.

Sulek said parents of the handicapped children are encouraged to attend the special classes.

She said the students have an opportunity to interact with the families in their homes also.

"Sometimes there are children who are best served in the homes, who are too fragile to go to class," Sulek said.

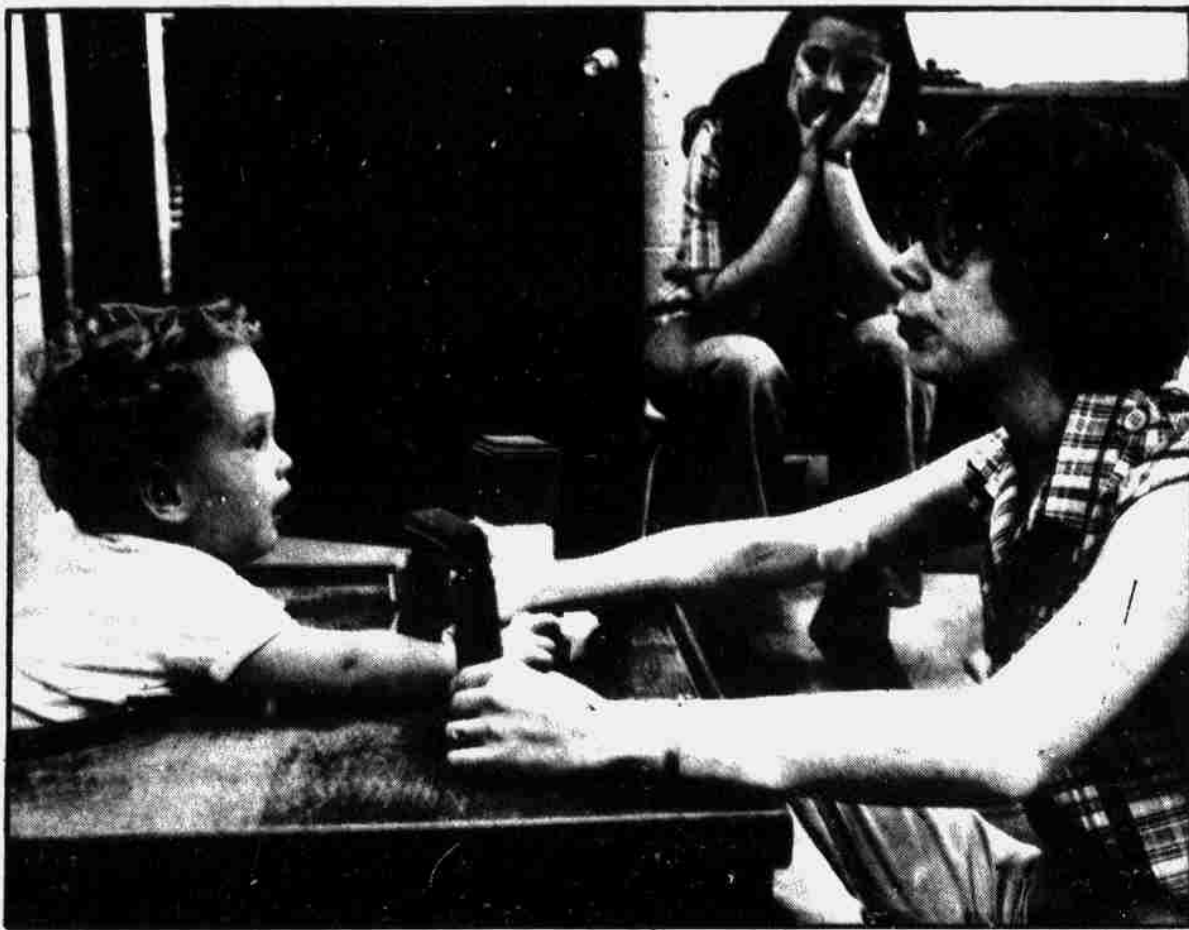


Photo by Ted Kirk

Cheryl Filbert (right) uses bristle blocks to teach Christopher Martin basic understanding and response to words at the Ruth Staples child development laboratory on East Campus. The lab has begun a program for developmentally delayed children from birth to age three. UNL students are training to work with handicapped children either to become teachers or directors of programs with handicapped children.

Centrum project criticized for poor management

By Randy Essex

The Centrum retail complex and public parking garage is expected to open by October 1979, amid claims that the project has been poorly handled by city officials and charges that it is not a first class project.

The city council approved modified plans for the project on August 7, eliminating the basement of the complex, the third floor and some decorative work.

Lincoln businessman Pat Ash charged that the project will not be what the city expected. Ash said he is not opposed to the Centrum project itself, but rather to the handling of the project.

Ash said the city sold the land for the project for far less than the price Mayor Helen Boosalis originally had quoted. Boosalis said the Downtown Lincoln Development Corporation had promised to underwrite the Centrum project for \$637,500 if the land were not sold to anyone else.

The land was sold to Watson Centers of Minnesota for \$342,000.

Boosalis said since the development corporation agreed to buy the land only if the land were not sold, it would not make up the nearly \$300,000.

The land was sold to Watson Centers based on appraisals made by firms hired by the city, Boosalis said, adding that the appraisals would become public information "as soon as everything is done."

Boosalis also said the modified plans for the project provide for about the same amount of retail space in the complex as Watson's original plan.

The city had wanted 100,000 square feet of retail space. Watson's original plan called for 75,000 square feet of space, but he modified that to 100,000 later. The final plans approved August 7 include 80,000 square feet of space.

Watson blamed spiraling construction costs for the reduction in space.

Bereuter attacks Dyas as inconsistent, liberal

By L. Kent Wolgamott

The race for the 1st District House seat intensified Wednesday as Republican candidate Doug Bereuter held a press conference and launched an attack on his Democratic opponent, Hess Dyas.

Calling for the "real Hess Dyas to please stand up", Bereuter said Dyas's position on several issues had shifted since Dyas first ran for Congress in 1974.

Bereuter said Dyas had changed his views on a balanced budget, national defense, national health, assistance to small businessmen and right to work.

Dyas is accurately perceived as a liberal Democrat, Bereuter said, while he is more middle of the road.

He said he will continue to emphasize the difference between himself and Dyas, and called for Dyas to show where he stands on issues.

Bereuter also endorsed a constitutional limit on federal spending and opposed the current Nebraska constitutional amendment to limit local spending.

"I believe the spending limit is best imposed at the federal level, not at the local level for I see the likelihood of local spending limits simply transferring authority and responsibilities from the local to the state and federal levels," Bereuter said.

He said the limit should be based on a percentage of the gross national product and should be at a slightly lower level than current federal spending.

Bereuter said a poll completed six weeks ago for Republican candidates showed him with a three percentage point lead over Dyas, although trailing Dyas in name recognition.

He said he had recently completed a tour of 31 county fairs in the First District where he said he heard negative comments about Dyas' recently completed walk across the district.

Bereuter said people found Dyas' walk "a gimmick or a joke . . . a waste of time and not a measure of the ability of a congressman."

He said the next stage of his campaign will begin this week at the Nebraska State Fair where he will appear at the Republican booth in the Sports Complex.

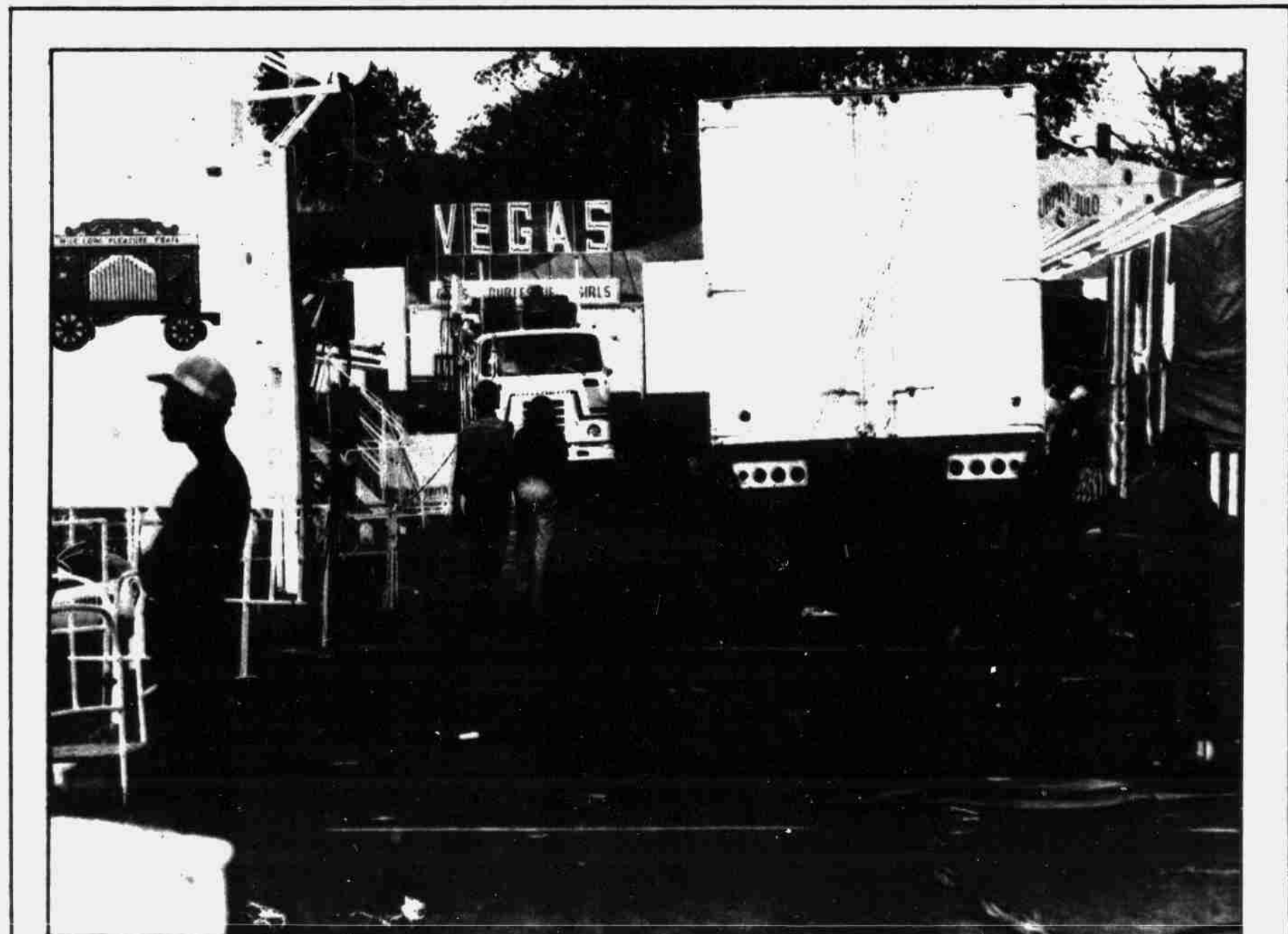


Photo by Bob Pearson

The first of hundreds of thousands of fair goers visited the State Fair Thursday. The fair continues until Sept. 10. More on page. 8.

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