

Child abuse should be combatted in the home-professor

By Cindy Coglianese

Combating child abuse and child neglect without abridging parents' rights in a free society were discussed Thursday by a UNL professor at the University Hospital in Omaha.

Dr. Robert Audi, professor philosophy, presented an abstract from his paper, "A Philosophical Perspective on Child Abuse," which will be published in the *Journal of American Medical Women's Association*.

Audi discussed definitions and problems of detecting, reporting, treating and preventing child abuse and neglect.

"Forced withdrawal of the child from the home should be a last resort," Audi said, concerning alternative treatment methods for child abuse.

"A reasonable balance should be achieved between children's protection and adults' right," he said.

Solved in home

Audi said child abuse should try to be solved in the home without taking the child away from his parents and surroundings. He added that legal action should be brought in if it is not suitable to continue the relationship at home.

He said criminal prosecution of parents usually is not effective in preventing abuse.

Some alternative methods suggested by

Audi were periodic visits by the child and parents to a health center, pre- and post-natal education classes in schools and hospital screening of pregnant women in prenatal care.

Audi also discussed definition problems with child abuse and neglect, detection of child abuse by those outside of the family, moral and legal requirements, and treatment.

Positive view

"We also need a positive view of what parents should do for their children," he said.

Audi said that parents have an obligation to bring up their children and to decide when enough is being done for them.

"Parents should ask themselves if they are doing all they can to make a good life for their children," he said.

He added that the obligations of friends, relatives and neighbors should be such that "spying" is not used to detect child abuse, but if abuse or neglect is suspected, they should either speak to the parents about the problem or contact organizations in the community that may be able to help the parents and children.

New registration machine speeds spring scheduling

Preregistration packets contain something bright green and totally different than last semester.

It's a new green course request form designed so the estimated 18,000 students using it will be taking the fewest steps yet to pre-register.

The form is lined differently than last semester and has a separate section at the bottom of the form for listing alternate courses. To establish priority, packets must be turned in Oct. 16 through 27. Forms received Oct. 30 through Nov. 17 will be processed on a first-come first-serve basis.

Tony Schkade, assistant director of registration and records, said the green forms are being used because a new machine will be reading the sheets this semester. The old machine was replaced because it kept breaking down.

Besides reading the forms more accurately, Schkade said, the new machine has other advantages.

One advantage is that students will receive fewer incomplete forms because the carbon sensitive machine picks up all marks including stray marks, Schkade said. Since it detects all marks, the machine will avoid running through two forms stuck together.

Another advantage, is that the machine automatically checks for alternative sections of a course if the section requested is filled. However, he said, the emphasis is on giving students courses they want, not the section they request.

The machine also considers time conflicts when choosing alternative sections and courses and even traveling time between east and city campuses.

"Early registration is one of the better operating systems in the nation," Schkade said.

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