

Test indicates UNL seniors rank smarter than average

Graduates of the UNL College of Arts and Sciences apparently are better prepared to handle jobs than graduates of other liberal arts institutions, according to results of testing done last year by the American College Testing Service.

The testing by ACT is part of research aimed at developing tests that assess students' strengths in skills and knowledge needed for various careers.

Dr. Aubrey Forest, director of ACT's College Outcome Measures Project, explained Monday night the purpose of the testing and the results of the research so far.

Forest said UNL seniors had a higher average than any of the other 50 colleges and universities tested last year, despite other data which showed the students about equal as freshmen.

UNL is one of a dozen institutions which have participated in the research since it began three years ago. Forest said the testing will include 100 institutions.

The tests assess skills in six areas: functioning within social institutions; using science and technology; using the arts; communicating; solving problems and clarifying values.

UNL seniors did well in all areas except the science and writing, he said, but UNL seniors did better in those areas than seniors from other schools.

Forest said a group of 105 UNL alumni recognized as leaders in their community also were tested, in order to set upper standards for the test scores. UNL alumni were tested because of the high scores UNL seniors had received when they were tested, he said.

In 85 percent of the cases, the alumni scored highest in sections of the test related to their fields, indicating that the tests are valid indicators of the skills

needed for certain fields, Forest said.

Once they are developed, Forest said, COMP tests should tell which skills and knowledge are relevant to a student's success after graduation, as well as helping determine how much knowledge and skill should be required to earn a diploma.

Committee sends speed bill to floor

The Legislature's Public Works Committee last week advanced to the floor a bill proposing to raise the state's interstate speed limit from 55 mph to 65 mph.

LB330 was introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers, and was opposed by the Department of Roads during the committee hearing.

Chambers said he wanted the bill on the floor so he could find out if federal highway authorities are bluffing in their threat to withhold highway funds from states with speed limits above 55 mph.

The roads department warned that the state could lose \$105 million in federal funds if the bill is passed and if the government makes good its threat.

Chambers said the federal government could not afford to let the interstate system fall into a state of disrepair, and that he did not think the funds would be held back.

The committee attached an amendment to the bill to repeal a statute put through by Chambers that provides a maximum \$10 fine and no reduction of points from the driver's license of one who is caught speeding up to 65 mph on the interstate system.



Photo by Mary Anne Golon

March came in like a lion Thursday, and this little girl shielded her face from winter's last icy blast.

Two A-Whole party members triumph in law elections

By Mike Sweeney

A few politicians may be inept, but

until this year, not one even has admitted to being an A-Whole.

Two weeks ago, five UNL law students

formed the A-Whole Party and began campaigning for the Student Bar Association on the strength of slogans like "It's American to vote for an A-Whole."

SBA is the student government of the law college.

The A-Whole campaign consists of two posters and a "Campaign Comix" coloring book which includes a campaign crossword puzzle and tells exactly what the A-Whole party is all about.

According to the coloring book, the A-Whole Party stands for:

- the National Athem
- a judge when he or she walks into the courtroom
- any old geezer in need of a seat on the bus, and
- a tack on a chair.

Limited success

When SBA election results were announced Tuesday, the A-Whole Party had limited success.

In the SBA presidential race, A-Whole candidate Roxanne Raymond lost to Tom Maul, 124-44. In the race for SBA treasurer, Jeffrey Hrouda defeated A-Whole candidate Deb Brownyard, 78-61; and in the race for law student division representative of the American Bar Association, incumbent Dave Pedersen received 103 votes to 26 for Randy Phipps and 25 for A-Whole candidate Marjean Bush.

However, A-Whole candidates did win two offices. Tom Sullivan was elected vice president and Randy Brown was elected secretary. But then, both were running unopposed.

When law college dean John Strong was informed that two A-Whole candidates were elected, he said, "My only reaction is I hope they don't live up to their platform."

A-Whole candidates said they hope to make SBA a more meaningful organization.

"Theoretically, SBA serves as a liaison between the faculty and the students," Bush said. "The problem is they serve as a rubber stamp for the faculty and the administration and do not voice student concerns."

Brown, who recruited the A-Whole candidates from his friends, said the party ran to give SBA a purpose.

"We wanted to elevate ourselves above doormats," Brown said.

Brown was the only party candidate with election experience. Several years ago

he narrowly missed election to ASUN while running on the "ANUS" party.

However, election inexperience didn't hurt the other candidates, according to Brown.

"The advantage of running for SBA is you don't have to do anything," he said.

Brown said he did not put much thought into the party's campaign. He said he spent most of his time working on the campaign masterpiece—the comic book's crossword puzzle. The puzzle has clues like "an attorney's favorite word" (sue) and "Law students study and cookie monster is full" (never).

Comic book

Brown said he worked on the comic book during a law lecture class instead of taking notes.

The party adopted its unusual name and campaign tactics to grab attention and to overcome voter apathy, Brown said.

Presidential candidate Raymond said several law students told her they thought the party was trying to make a sham of the elections.

But she said the A-Whole Party believes student government already is a sham.

Maul disagreed, saying SBA has a strong voice in the law school.

He said the law school faculty takes SBA seriously when it represents legitimate student concerns. For example, he said, SBA was allowed to oversee class scheduling after undergraduates complained they were at a scheduling disadvantage and did not get all the classes they wanted.

Maul said the SBA elections did face some important issues.

Both Maul and the A-Whole candidates favored installing new photo copying machines, and favored setting up a jazz concert series at the law college over the Monday lunch hour.

Maul said A-Whole's unusual campaign literature was "just a way to sell the party."

After losing three of the five SBA elections, the A-Whole Party has an uncertain future, Brown said. He said some A-Whole candidates may run in the law college class elections in two weeks.

Both he and new SBA vice president Sullivan said they were certain the A-Whole party is not dead.

"That's the wonderful thing about life," Sullivan said. "A whole new crop of A-Wholes is always coming along."

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