

More students . . .

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Although public schools try to meet the needs of all students, he said, private schools can be selective. If private schools recruit the most capable students, public schools will have to provide special programs that private schools are not compelled to have, he said. That makes comparisons on achievement tests unfair, he said.

If the shift to private education continues, public education could become more expensive than private and have social implications as privileged, predominately white students abandon the public schools.

Private schools also could start applying more pressure for public support of education if this happens, he said.

Beverly Russell, principal of Helen Hyatt Elementary School, which is affiliated with the Seventh Day Adventist Church, said that 80 percent of the parents of the 205 students think religious instruction is the most important factor. She said parents don't say education is better in private schools, but rather than the schools have the type of education they want for their children.

Russell said Helen Hyatt has a financial advantage because it has more freedom in its curriculum choice. The school's music program is probably better than the public schools for that reason, she said.

Religion stressed

"We're paying so we can teach religion, that there are absolutes, a right and wrong," Russell said. "The Bible is

part of every subject and our reading content is controlled."

All faiths are accepted at the school.

When a severely handicapped student wants to attend the school, she said, the school refers the student to the public schools but provides special independent study courses.

Russell said the school tries to work with the public system, recognizing each meets the lifestyles of different parents.

"With multiple options in education comes freedom of choice," she said. "It works to match the value system of the family to the school."

Levi Kroeker, principal of the Lincoln Christian School, said that enrollment has been stable for the past three years. Enrollment is 340 students this year.

Parents prefer the Christian education, smaller class sizes and an over-all good education, he said. He added that the non-denominational school is approved and accredited.

Kroeker said competition between public and private schools provides for excellent education. A public school monopoly would tend to stagnate the system.

Relieves burden

He said the financial base of public schools won't be undermined because they will continue to receive state support. He added the private school actually relieves the

public school's burden by leaving it with fewer students to educate.

Joy Worster, secretary of the Calvary Lutheran Church and School, said the school has had a slight increase in enrollment this year to 149 students.

She cited religious instruction and a better chance for individual attention as major reasons for choosing a private school. Most parents are dissatisfied with the freedom children have in public schools, she said.

The school is approved and accredited by the state, Worster said. Students who are members of the church get free tuition, but non-members pay \$500.

Bob Wienbarger, principal of the Park West Christian School, said the school's enrollment is up by 50 percent this year, from 58 to 89 students.

Wienbarger said the school is neither approved nor accredited and declined to comment on teachers' credentials. He said state approval has no bearing on the education offered.

"We're giving an excellent education from the scores on our standardized tests," Wienbarger said. "I have no qualms about it."

Most of the increase in enrollment has come from satisfied parents telling others about the school, he said.

Wienbarger said children are taught in a Christian atmosphere. The school's philosophy of education is based on the Bible being God's word and is integrated into every course, he said.

Museums coalition begins campaign to raise funds

By Leslie Boellstorff

The Nebraska Museums Coalition is beginning a five-year campaign this fall to raise \$750,000 and become self-sufficient by 1986, its executive director said Monday.

Terry Houghland said the coalition is an incorporated organization of more than 100 museums across Nebraska, which provides consultant services and technical assistance to member museums.

Such services are especially helpful to small museums run by volunteers rather than professionals, said Jon Nelson, curator of the art collection in the Center for Great Plains Studies and co-chairman of the coalition's corporate fund drive.

Funding for the organization is threatened by federal budget cuts, Nelson said.

"It's already happened," he said. He cited the almost 94 percent budget cut of Museums Services, part of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

"They can operate for a year, in order to close their office," he said.

Nelson said Museums Services was the source of funds for the Nebraska Committee for Humanities, which financed some of the coalition's programs.

One such program, the Humanist in Residence program, provides museums with someone to help them catalogue and develop a logical method of displaying their exhibits, he said.

The coalition had planned on three years of funding from Museum Services, but will receive money for only one year, Nelson said.

Nelson said the coalition plans to form its own endowment so it won't have to return to fund raising.

"If 60,000 Nebraskans would each send \$1, we'd have our first year's goal," Nelson said.

Houghland said after the \$750,000 is raised, \$100,000 will be used to earn interest that the coalition will grant to contributing museums.

The main office of the Nebraska Museums Coalition is at Kearney State College.

Orientation session slated for Oktobertrek bicyclists

An orientation session is scheduled for Wednesday for participants in the American Lung Association of Nebraska's second annual Oktobertrek. The 6:30 p.m. session is on the fifth floor of the Lincoln Center Building, 215 Centennial Mall South.

Seventy-one bicyclists are registered. They range in age from 11 to 60 years old. Participants will ride from Lincoln to Nebraska City, camp overnight and return to Lincoln on Oct. 17 and 18, said Dr. Paul Stoesz, Oktobertrek leader.

Each person is to gather a minimum of \$100 in pledges before the ride.

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