



Photo by Kent Morgan Olsen

Richard Simmons, 33, star of a fitness program on television, leads children through one of his popular exercises at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Oktoberfest health fair Sunday.

Health expert draws crowds to Oktoberfest

The NU Medical Center celebrated its ninth annual Oktoberfest Sunday.

Oktoberfest is an open house sponsored by the medical center in which various parts of the college put on exhibits.

Lynn Phares, associate director of public affairs for the medical center, said there were three purposes for Oktoberfest.

"The first thing we want to do is show people what the medical center is like," Phares said. "We want them to know the variety of services we offer."

The second purpose is to give the public medical information, Phares said.

In connection with this, free blood pressure tests were offered to the public.

The third purpose is to introduce people to the possibility of a medical career.

Phares said interest was high in this year's Oktoberfest.

"We had an excellent turnout," she said. "I had several comments from people telling me what a good time they had."

The highlight of Oktoberfest was an appearance by Richard Simmons, the well-known diet and health expert.

Simmons gave two hour-long shows, which drew large crowds.

"I definitely think his (Simmons') appearance has boosted attendance," Phares said.

Phares said an attendance of about 6,000 was expected before the event but, "we won't know an actual figure until we get one from our security people."

Linda Ractanus, a senior studying to be a

physician's assistant, agreed with Phares' assessment of the turnout.

"We had a steady flow in here all afternoon," Ractanus said. "We've had a lot more people than last year."

Ractanus said the goal of the physician assistants exhibit was to educate people to the need for more physician assistants.

She said physician assistants handle 80 to 90 percent of what physicians traditionally have done.

"The rural areas of Nebraska are most in need of this program," Ractanus said. "There are some counties in out state Nebraska that don't have a single doctor."

She said another benefit of the physician assistant program was that it allowed doctors to concentrate more of their time on seriously ill patients.

Professor says winning takes fun out of sports

By Tom Shelton

Sports in America are not all fun and games, said a UNL history professor.

Benjamin Rader said the emphasis on winning has, to a great extent, taken the fun out of sports.

"I think almost by definition sports ought to be fun," he said, "but most often they're not. The emphasis on winning may have infected sports at all degrees." Rader said he has seen a win-at-all-costs attitude even at informal basketball games at the Coliseum.

Rader, who teaches a course titled "The History of Sports," said the mass media have had a profound impact on athletes, who no longer play for the enjoyment of sport but for personal glory, he said.

"Sports is an elusive, ephemeral pillar of modern society," he said. "It's analogous to mass media and newspapers, and mass consumption."

Rader said many people make sports a way to identify with a common cause — the team.

"People who watch sports have a temporary feeling they're a part of the team," he said. "While the game is going on they feel they're a part of it."

Rader said in this way sports can serve as a sort of "social order."

"Sports have replaced some of the more traditional programs," he said. "To some extent, they have replaced the traditional family and the traditional church."

However, Rader said, sports have not served as well as these traditions.

"They don't do as good a job as the traditional pillars of society," he said. "We probably ask too much of them if we think of them as a religion or social cement — they can't do that."

Rader said sports changed drastically once they became spectator-oriented. He said this led to less participation in sports by the fans.

"The great bulk of people watch sports rather than participate in them," he said.

Rader said football serves as a source of pride to Nebraska spectators.

"In a state like Nebraska without great cultural monuments, stunning scenery, or a long distinct history, football provides people a common pride in their teams," Rader said.

He said football is not as highly emphasized in the East which he said has the stunning scenery and distinct history he spoke of. He said football is emphasized, however, in the South.

Rader said more and more sports are being over emphasized. He said this is especially true in the Eastern European Bloc countries like East Germany, and in the Soviet Union which he said has captured the most gold medals in the past several Olympic Games.

Rader said he opposes the United States going on a spending spree to keep up with other nations in a frantic chase for the most gold medals.

"I think it would probably be a waste of money," he said. "You'd be spending a lot of money on just a few people."

Plan early for careers, says placement director

By Ben Brett

UNL's Career Planning and Placement service helps UNL students in career planning and finding jobs, said Frank Hallgren, director of Career Planning and Placement.

Students should start their career planning and exploration as soon as they enter the university, Hallgren said. They should have an open mind about the career they want to pursue, he said.

No degree obliges students to a specific job, Hallgren said. The Career Planning and Placement service helps students find alternative jobs that they might want to pursue, he said.

The service helps students prepare their resumes and interviews through video tapes, group sessions and individual help, Hallgren said.

By the time a student is a senior he or she should be doing on-campus interviews, Hallgren said. Even if students are planning on going to graduate or professional school they should still look at the job market in case they are not accepted into a school, he said.

The service also helps alumni, Hallgren said. Alumni receive all the same services undergraduates do, except they have a lower priority than graduating seniors for on-campus interviews, he said.

Hallgren said there is no fee for the services. All students can use the Career Planning and Placement office, even if their own college has a service, he said. Hallgren gave an example of a student in Teachers College who does not want to teach. That individual should use the university placement service, he said.

The College of Agriculture, the Law College and Teachers College offer placement services. The School of Journalism also offers a placement service.

The Agriculture College placement service is an affiliate of the university service, Mari Alice Renard, director of agriculture placement, said. The service is convenient for students on East Campus, Renard said.

The Teachers College offers seminars on resumes, interviews and applications, Fred Wendel, director of Teachers College placement, said. Students should get in contact with the service during their freshman year, he said. There is a fee for the services, he said.

The School of Journalism also has a placement service. Neale Copple, dean of the school said the school has more listings of jobs than it does of students graduating. The service helps with resumes and interviews, he said. The school charges a fee, Copple said.

The Law College placement service helps students with their resumes and interviews through individual help and seminars, Janet Krause, assistant dean of the Law College, said. She said the college is trying to inform employers about their service through a letter campaign, she said. There is no fee for the services, she said.

The Architecture College doesn't have a placement service, but does help students and employers communicate, John Benson, assistant dean of the Architecture College said.

Ernest Moore, chairman of the Department of Architecture, said the college is trying to diversify its list of potential employers for students. The college offers free seminars on resumes, he said. The college hopes to have more on-campus interviews in the future, he said.