

# Scholastic society looks beyond applicant's GPA

Grade point average is not the only criterion for acceptance into the Scholastic All-American Society, according to Kurtis E. Smith, the only UNL student in the society.

Smith said there are several guidelines to be met, including previous honors, extracurricular activities, leadership qualities, academic performance and employment

records.

Smith said a large part of the selection process is based on a one-page essay regarding what the applicant hopes to be, and how a college education will help fulfill that goal.

The society is a new organization, with membership approaching 1,000 members. Smith said there is only one other member besides himself in Nebraska.

According to Smith, membership in the society is beneficial because the society sends out letters of recommendation to prospective employers.

The society has no local chapters. Those belonging to the society are called "members at large," Smith said. The members pay a \$10 fee per semester. A society newsletter is published each semester.

Students need to have completed one semester of college to apply, Smith said. The deadline for application is May 31, those interested should write the Scholastic All-American Society, Clinton, NY, 13323. Smith said he would help potential candidates in the application process. He can be reached at 474-1634.

# Surplus land, vehicles for 'dirt cheap'

Would you like to purchase a jeep, truck or car for as little as \$200? Have you thought about picking up some land for a paltry \$3.50 an acre?

These offers sound unbelievable, but if you are interested in buying surplus government land or vehicles, it is possible. Two government surplus directories are available to the public by contacting a government-hired information service (312-742-1143).

The two directories are available for \$22.50 or \$16.50 apiece. One directory lists available government land and the other lists vehicles and other miscellaneous government equipment.

To obtain the directories one must be at least 18 years old and not registered in any branch of the armed service, according to the information service.

Land is available in every state of the union, although most of it isn't as "dirt cheap" as \$3.50 an acre. The information service said the lowest prices are indicative of land that has been tax-forfeited or ruined. Some of the less expensive cars don't work either.

Buyers must send in sealed bids and buying through the catalogs is somewhat like gambling. You can never be quite sure what you'll end up with, the information woman said.

# Professor's book compiles human rights notions

A UNL political science professor has written a book he thinks will help bring together ideas about international human rights.

David F. Forsythe describes *Human Rights and World Politics*, as the "pulling together" of different ideas about the human rights issues popularized during President Jimmy Carter's administration.

"It is an attempt to make a very large and complex subject simple and interesting," Forsythe said. "I think there's a need for some clarity about human rights. I'm trying to make sense of all this."

His primary reason for writing the book, he said, was to give students a source that synthesizes the academic and governmental literature on human rights.

During the Carter administration, "we had all sorts of things being said about human rights," Forsythe said. But for classroom use, few appropriate readings are available.

The book, which might be available for use in international relations courses in the spring 1983 semester, covers human rights in terms of its many meanings — economics, social, cultural, civil and political human rights.

implementing the law and American foreign policy under Carter. It includes sections on Reagan, private groups lobbying the American government for human rights and political philosophies behind the debate on human rights.

Forsythe tries to balance the ideas. In the final chapter, he provides a "sum total of efforts to protect people's economic and political rights."

"Human rights is a part of the political process, so there is a strong political cast to the book," Forsythe said. "The broad scope of human rights also includes how laws get made and what happens to them after that. We have to look at private as well as governmental organizations."

"The Carter administration," Forsythe said, "was not very good at explaining human rights. What did Carter mean by human rights, and how important were they? Many people were left with a great deal of confusion. Things are not much clearer under Reagan."

The book is the culmination of five years of work and Forsythe's own experiences as a consultant to the International Red Cross. He researched for a year at Yale University.

"Human rights became very real, since I was dealing first hand with armed groups, seeing prisons," Forsythe said. "It was a very unique experience."

From Yale, he interviewed officials in Washington, augmenting his first-hand encounters.

"I had some very useful experience in seeing the real world — both in the Third World and in Washington," he said.

The book will be published in late 1982 or early 1983. It includes cartoons and drawings by UNL student Dave Luebke, art director for the Daily Nebraskan.

### Broad subject

Human rights, regarding treaties among nations, are broader than the Bill of Rights definition or the general ideas most people have.

The book includes chapters on human rights treaties,

### Prison Work

Based on Geneva intermittently from 1972 to 1977, Forsythe worked for the Red Cross in Africa and the Middle East. The work included prison visits and searches for persons who had disappeared during political violence.

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