

## Course will teach child raising roles

By Linda Howard

Parents who want to learn how they can teach their children in the areas of language, intellect, sociability and sensory motor development can learn from a six-week course on child raising.

The course for parents of children ranging in age from 1 to 6, begins Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lancaster County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1701 E St.

"Most parents have a strong sense of the nurturing role they play, such as providing food and shelter. But few parents see what an important teaching role they can also have," said Sara Marquardt, director of nursing and health services for the chapter.

During the course, volunteers will instruct parents on health, safety and nutrition needs for children. Contemporary problems such as student or working parents and sex on television also will be confronted, Marquardt said.

Student parents may encounter added stress because of financial strain and the limited time they have to spend with their child, she said.

Some people who have taken the course in the past were referred to the Red Cross by Child Protective Services because they may have had a history of abuse or may have been suspected of abusing their child. Sometimes parents are required by the courts to take the course in order to keep or regain custody of their child, said Vicki Leis, Marquardt's secretary.

"We can't guarantee that the class will prevent people from abusing their children, but we're trying to instruct and help parents. Sometimes they are trying to discipline their child and they go overboard. We want them to learn how to control their anger," Leis said.

There is a \$6 fee for the course that can be waived for parents who can't afford it. The fee covers the cost of a workbook of projects for parents to do with their children at home. The results of each project is discussed in the weekly class.

In one workbook exercise, parents are instructed to watch television with their children and to carefully select shows that will reflect values they want their children to learn, Leis said. Parents are instructed to turn off shows they think are inappropriate and talk with their child about why they selected the programs they did.

Parents should be sure their children don't watch too much television, because excessive TV watching tends to mean less communication between family members, Leis said.

## UNL economist: Ag trouble long-term

Too many short-range solutions are being discussed for the current agricultural problems, a UNL agricultural economist said Thursday.

Roy Frederick, professor of agricultural economics and a public policy specialist at UNL, spoke to a group of about 35 people in the East Union. Frederick's talk was part of the Agricultural Leadership Conference sponsored by the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Frederick said unemployment and high interest rates hurt farmers as well as businesses within the agricultural segment of the economy.

"International Harvester has been hurt because farmers have been hurt," Frederick said. "When that happens, I don't know that they'll be around much longer."

Frederick pointed out that the economy's present condition is something that began in the late 1960s.

"It has taken us 15 years to get into our present financial problems," he said. "It is going to take us a while to get out of this."

Although economists and advisers have been coming up with solutions to the present financial difficulties in agriculture, the solutions haven't always been the right ones, he said.

"We have an awful lot of people proposing short-range answers to long-range problems."

Frederick said one result of the agricultural prosperity will be a decrease in land values.

## Public invited to explore observatory

The UNL department of physics and astronomy will host a Public Night tonight from 8 to 11 at Behlen Observatory, located at the UNL Field Laboratory at Mead.

Ed Schmidt, associate professor in the physics and astronomy department, said the event was an attempt to acquaint the public with the observatory.

"It allows the public to come in and see the observatory, look at the equipment and see through the telescope," Schmidt said. "We usually put these on a couple of times a year."

Schmidt said the main function of the observatory is to conduct research.

"We do research there all the time," Schmidt said. "Right now, we're doing most of our research on star clusters, trying to determine their age and other information."

Schmidt said the observatory also helps graduate students in their research work.

He said the department receives most of its funds for research from the National Science Foundation.

"We also receive some funding from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)," he said.

Schmidt said Public Night usually draws a crowd of 150 to 200 people, depending on weather conditions.

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