

UNL students invest in the future, encourage leadership in children

By Stacie Thomas

A group of 90 UNL students are investing in the future.

They are not working manipulatively with stocks and bonds, instead they are helping to share children.

These students are counselors for the Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, a private non-profit research laboratory designed to develop human leadership. Each counselor is matched with a school-age child who he will help in developing good leadership qualities.

Dave Ditman, associate director of the foundation, described the counselors' participation as an "investment-reinvestment process." The counselors invest their leadership qualities in the children in the hope that the children will then re-invest these qualities in their peers, he said.

The return on the counselors' investment may come in various forms. Cal Strong, a UNL junior business major, said the program has made him aware of relationships and how to deal with them.

Mike Larsen, a senior accounting major, said his reward is watching the child grow, even though the results may not be evident until his counselee is in college or working. Larsen also said the program has challenged him to be the very best he can be.

The counselors are also rewarded when their counsees begin using their leadership ability. Shari Olsen, a junior majoring in elementary education, said she felt successful when her counselee

defended a girl that some of her friends were talking about.

Todd Kelley, a senior marketing major, said he thought that his eleven-year counselee was beginning to use his leadership ability when he suggested activities for the foundation's retreats.

The counselors usually meet with their counsees once a week. They may go out to eat, see a movie, attend a football game, go for ice cream or have a picnic.

"It doesn't matter what we do, it's the quality of the time we spend together," Olsen said.

Strong said he encourages his counselee to call him to talk about anything that's bothering him. He said his counselee recently asked his advice on how to ask a girl for a date. Kelley said he helps his counselee with math.

The foundation, located at 501 N. 10th St., consists of seven projects, including PALS, which works with the physically handicapped, and a program with the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped in Nebraska City.

The Childs-Juniors-Teenage program begins working with children in grade school and continues through high school.

Counselors in the Family project develop relations between children in large families.

The Lakeview Elementary School project grew out of concerns that the children there were not receiving individual attention.

The foundation formed the Leadership Development project in response to an increase in the dropout rate at Lincoln High School.

Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

American geneticist wins medicine prize

STOCKHOLM — American geneticist Barbara McClintock on Monday became the first woman to singly win the Nobel Prize for Medicine, receiving the 1983 award for her discovery of mobile genetic elements, the Karolinska Institute said. McClintock, 81, received the award for work she did on DNA in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Soviet crops still in fields

MOSCOW — Heavy rainfall has severely disrupted the closing stages of the Soviet grain harvest, and Western farm experts said Tuesday the crop total may be affected and that the Soviets may need to buy more grain from the United States and other Western grain markets. Normally, all Soviet grain harvesting is completed by mid-October. But this year, several million acres still need to be cut in northern and eastern Kazakhstan and western Siberia.

Shamir takes office

JERUSALEM — Yitzhak Shamir took office Monday night as Israeli prime minister after winning parliamentary backing for his coalition of right-wing and religious parties. The Knesset voted 60 to 53 to confirm the 67-year-old right-winger as successor to Menachem Begin.

Shamir took office amid economic turmoil and warned the nation to expect tough austerity measures.

The Tel Aviv stock exchange has closed to avoid panic selling. Foreign-exchange dealing was suspended for several hours while banks marked down the value of the shekel about 5 percent against the U.S. dollar.

Asian trip not affected

WASHINGTON — The deaths of top South Korean officials in a bomb blast in Burma left U.S. officials shocked and saddened Monday, but a White House spokesman said it would not affect President Reagan's plan to visit South Korea and Japan next month. However, the apparent attempt to kill South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan, who escaped the explosion because he arrived late for a ceremony at the Martyr's Mausoleum in Rangoon, was expected to heighten security concerns among Reagan's trip planners.

The bombing has the second act of violence to hit a nation scheduled to be visited by Reagan on an Asian trip in November. The first was the assassination of Benigno Aquino in Manila on Aug. 25. Reagan later canceled planned visits to the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, citing official duties in Washington.

Gunfire echoes in Syria

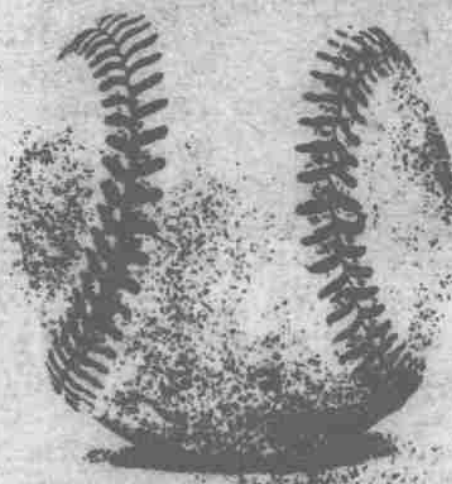
DAMASCUS, Syria — Gun battles, apparently between rival Palestinian factions, broke out in central Damascus Monday night. Local residents said they believed the fighting was between opponents and supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Witnesses said Syrian internal security forces has sealed off the areas but were not intervening in the fighting. It was the first time that fighting in the revolt within Arafat's Fatah, the largest of eight groups in the Palestinian Liberation Organization, had spilled over into the streets of Damascus.

Earlier, near Tripoli, Lebanon, a pro-Arafat guerrilla was killed and three civilians were injured in a clash between Palestinian guerrilla factions, the Palestinian news agency, Wafa, said.

Ice traps 40 Soviet ships

MOSCOW — Forty Soviet ships, including icebreakers, are trapped in thick ice in the Chukotsk Sea north of Siberia, the government daily Izvestia reported Tuesday. It said the ships were caught at the beginning of October when a sudden cold snap froze the Arctic waters and blocked normal autumn channels. The icebreakers had tried to force a passage through in both eastern and western directions in the past few days but failed, the report said. The crews of the trapped ships are waiting for warmer weather, the paper said.

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