

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 57



Staff photo by Craig Anderson

Can-paign for kids

Jay Nitz, a freshman agri-business major from Cedar Bluffs, dumps cans into bin near the Sooner Schooner outside the Nebraska Union Tuesday. UNL's Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and Gamma Phi Beta sorority are sponsoring a "Bury the Sooners" aluminum can drive this week to raise money for the Cedars Home for Children in Lincoln. Anyone can contribute cans to the drive. Campus fraternities and sororities are competing for trophies to be awarded to houses contributing the highest poundage.

Specialization called evil of education

By Mary Louise Knapp

Overspecialization is one of the great evils of twentieth century education and reforms are needed to combat its effects, noted philosopher and author Mortimer Adler said in a lecture Tuesday evening at the Nebraska Union.

Adler's lecture, funded by the Montgomery and Avery Lectureships, was part of a celebration of the 100th birthday of Spanish philosopher and humanist Jose Ortega y Gasset. His address was entitled "Ortega y Gasset: The Educator of the Twentieth Century."

"In my judgment, Ortega is unique among educators of the twentieth century in pointing out the most serious intellectual defect of the twentieth century," that of overspecialization, Adler said.

In "The Revolt of the Masses" (1930), Ortega noted the rise of a class of professional people who were

very familiar with their own fields, but who knew almost nothing about other subjects, Adler said.

Ortega referred to such professionals as "barbarians" and "learned ignoramuses," Adler said.

Ortega did not deny the need for trained specialists, Adler said. However, he believed that the training of these specialists should not be the major function of the universities.

Ortega believed that the primary mission of universities should be to spread culture and promote a broad-based education for all students, Adler said. According to Ortega, culture was not an "ornamental accessory for a life of leisure," but a vital system of ideas about the world.

"The Paideia Proposal," a book on proposed educational reforms which Adler helped write, takes almost all its ideas from those of Ortega, Adler said. The Greek word "paideia" means "humanistic."

The book proposes that a program of general, humanistic education be available to all students from kindergarten through high school. All students would follow the same program and be required to take a second language as an elective, he said.

Vocational and other forms of specialized training would be offered in college, Adler said. Ortega had proposed a "high school for the humanities" in 1949.

Ortega, while somewhat of an elitist, believed that a general cultural education should be offered to all classes, Adler said.

The reason for this is that while everyone needs basic schooling, only a select few need highly specialized training, he said.

Democracies should take the responsibility for educating all their citizens in basic culture, he said.

Successful schooling prepares the student for continued learning in adult life, Adler said.

Adler, who co-edits Gateway to the Great Books, said he and his colleagues at that publication have found no "great books" of the twentieth century.

One of the reasons for this is that scholars are writing for their contemporaries, and not for the general public, Adler said.

The emphasis placed on research and scholarly publications rather than teaching has helped to create this problem, he said.

Basic education should prepare students for continued learning in adult life, Adler said.

In order to solve the many problems of modern life, a much better educational system is needed, he said. The reforms proposed by Ortega y Gasset are "indispensable" for the survival of a democratic and industrial society, Adler said.

Amen resigns, Blair attorney is new director

By Christopher Galen

Paul Amen, the director of the Nebraska Department of Banking resigned Tuesday as a result of the controversy surrounding the department's handling of Commonwealth Savings Co.

The Lincoln bank was declared insolvent Nov. 1 and was taken over by the department.

Amen, who served as the banking director for five years, submitted his resignation to Gov. Bob Kerrey Tuesday morning, the governor announced in a prepared statement.

"The current controversy... seriously impairs the current director's ability to fashion a solution in the best interests of the depositors of Commonwealth. It is for this reason that I have accepted Mr. Amen's resignation," Kerrey said.

Amen's interim replacement will be John Miller, 50, an attorney from Blair. Miller has resigned from his position with the state Liquor Control Commission to accept the assignment as the new banking director.

Kerrey met with Miller Tuesday morning to ask him to accept the banking position, effective immediately, for 60 to 90 days, according to Tuesday's Lincoln Journal.

Kerrey's press secretary, Renee Wessels, said Amen's decision to resign came after a series of recent discussions with the governor.

Because the Commonwealth controversy is focusing attention on the problems leading up to Commonwealth's insolvency two weeks ago, instead of concentrating on future solutions to the problem, Kerrey decided to accept Amen's resignation, Wessels said.

"Gov. Kerrey did not ask for the resignation," she said.

Miller said that although he has no background in banking, his inexperience should be an asset as he tries to find a solution to Commonwealth's difficulties, the Journal reported.

Candid camera proved effective — UNL officer

By Chris Welsch

Several video-surveillance cameras, installed in Memorial Stadium at the beginning of the football season, were successful in deterring "criminal mischief" at the Cornhusker's home games, according to a UNL police official.

Bob Fey, UNL campus police crime prevention officer, said the department was "very satisfied" with the cameras.

Although no arrests were made as a result of the cameras, he said they served as an effective deterrent. Some minor offenses were spotted with the cameras, but they were nothing UNL police were interested in pursuing, he said.

Fey declined to say how many cameras were in use at the stadium, but he said the number was increased from one camera at the beginning of the season to allow more comprehensive coverage of the stands.

The crowd's orderly behavior at the Kansas-Nebraska game last Saturday was due, in part, to the presence of the cameras, Fey said. He said the cameras had been advertised in the papers at the beginning of the season to let fans know they would be watched.

Fey said the weather also had a calming effect on Saturday's crowd, but the cameras, a stricter alcohol policy and generally tighter security contributed to well-behaved crowds all season.

The last game was an especially good indicator of the new policies' effectiveness because in past years, crowds have been the most unruly at the close of the season. Fey said as far as he knew, no oranges were thrown onto the field, and the crowd was not violent.

The clamp-down on alcohol and tighter security resulted in part from an injury a UNL police sergeant suffered when he was hit on the head by a frozen orange at the 1982 Nebraska-Oklahoma game. The officer was forced to take early disability retirement as a result of the injury.

Continued on Page 8

Wednesday

Inside

• Volunteers learn how to counsel crime victims through a Lincoln Police Department program Page 2

• Lincoln band DBL has evolved from a one-shot band to a group with a growing following Page 10

• After five days of rain and wet grounds, the intramural flag football champion is crowned Page 12

Index

Arts and Entertainment..... 10
Classified..... 14
Crossword..... 15
Editorial..... 4
Off The Wire..... 2
Sports..... 12