



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan
Lincoln citizens crowd into the National Bank of Commerce plaza, 13th and O streets, Thursday for the first of the Updowntowners parties scheduled for the last Thursday of each month this summer. Benefits from the parties will go to the Society to Prevent Blindness.

German prof tours engineering facilities

By Jana Dahlman Bouma

A West German civil engineering professor toured UNL's engineering and computer facilities this week. Professor Udo Meissner, of the University of Hannover, West Germany, visited UNL faculty members and administration Tuesday and Wednesday.

In particular, he discussed the possibility of a student and faculty exchange between the two schools.

Meissner was following up on a December visit to West German by UNL President Ronald Roskens, and his executive assistant, Hans Brisch. Roskens and Brisch developed an agreement with the University of Hannover and two other West German universities as a framework for a possible student-faculty exchange.

An exchange would allow researchers to swap ideas on issues common to the two countries such as the explosive development of microcomputers and computer software, and the problems of pollution and resource management, Meissner said.

Currently, Meissner said, many West German researchers come to the United States but few American researchers travel to West Germany because of the language barrier.

He said the University of Hannover currently has many research projects in which American researchers could become involved.

Because of differences in the American and West German educational system, Meissner said, an exchange would probably involve only doctoral candidates and faculty members, not undergraduate or master's degree students.

As an example of the differences between the two systems, Meissner said West German students do not receive a bachelor's degree, but instead spend seven years studying for the equivalent of a master's degree. He said students do most of their work independently, and take exams only after their second and seventh year of study.

Meissner visited UNL as part of a four-week trip to the United States to attend an East Coast conference on finite element analysis of water resources. He will also visit the University of California at Berkeley before returning to West Germany.

UNL hosts Scholars' workshop

By Mike Weibel

UNL's City Campus hosted more than 200 of Nebraska's talented and gifted high school students during the past two weeks for the second Nebraska Scholars' Institute.

The Nebraska Center for Excellence in Education, coordinator of the event, invited qualified students from 12 school districts to take part in a curriculum comprised of four concepts: math and science, social sciences, communication and integrated arts.

To participate, students must be high school seniors next year; meet the nomination criteria, including aptitude and IQ test scores; and be enrolled in an NCEE-member school. Students

may also participate if they received an invitation from UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale.

Students spent their mornings studying specialized areas of academics, followed by afternoons filled with seminars based on humanities and peer-group involvement.

"High school and college teachers team together to provide fast-paced, in-depth experiences on a college campus," said LaNeta Carlock, NSI director.

Besides the many college and high school teachers, knowledge and expertise also came from business, industry and government consultants.

"I think I want to be a biotechnologist," Renea LaFever, a Bellevue West High School senior, said.

Afternoon seminars included subjects ranging from "toxic waste to theatre," LaFever said.

The costs for attending NSI varied among school districts, but averaged about \$300 per person, LaFever said. Many local groups in each district donated money to help defray the students costs.

Legal drinking age...

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Raising Nebraska's drinking age may have several effects besides reducing the number of young drinkers, Rivers said.

For one thing, he said, it may raise the risk for

young people living near the borders of states where the drinking age is not yet 21.

Also, the law may force young people to drink in uncontrolled settings, he said.

People "drink more in a car on backcountry roads than in a bar where there are people around who can exert some control"

over their drinking, Rivers said.

The law may also make alcohol seem like a glamorous "Mark of freedom" to some young people, he said, making them more likely to try and find sources of alcohol.

Rivers said one positive effect of the national drinking age bill would be to make national policy

consistent, so that young people will not drive across state lines in search of alcohol.

Rivers said young people contribute more to the drunken driving death toll because they are still learning how to drive, and because they don't realize the limitations that alcohol places on their driving ability.

New rating...

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The second-tier PG-13 rating will add a red flag to some films, but without solving the basic dilemmas. All it really does is get the movie-makers off the hook.

Consider our friend Mr. Spielberg. One of the industry spokesmen praised him for being so helpful to the ratings rewrite. It was decent of Spielberg to critique the rating of "Indiana Jones." But not that decent.

The Spielberg who wants us to cover the kiddie's eyes at the scary parts is the one who directed these scary parts — including the human barbecue scene. The same Spielberg produced the second-most grotesque PG of the season, "Gremlins," and in 1982, when his horror movie, "Poltergeist," was

given an R, this man appealed and had it lowered to a PG.

I would be much more impressed if Hollywood scaled down the sex and violence in films instead of scaling up the ratings. I will bet that in the next few years we see PGs with all sorts of numbers and explanations — PG-7, PG-10, PG-13, PGS (for sex or sadism), PGM (for murder, mutilation or mayhem). I will also bet that there will be plenty of sex, sadism, murder, mutilation and mayhem to rate.

I don't think it is too naive to wish that the movie industry would start competing for the trendiest of PGs: Parental gratitude.

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