

Values shaped by knowledge, speaker says

Many post-secondary schools do not develop higher values in their students, according to a speaker sponsored by the Nebraska Commission for United Ministries in Higher Education.

Parker Palmer, a professor and author from Wallingford, Pa., spoke Friday at First Plymouth Church on "Professing the Gospel on Campus: Toward a Spirituality of Education."

"We cannot separate knowledge from our values and indeed our faith," he said.

Palmer said the kind of knowledge we have shapes our values.

He said objective forms of teaching supply only the facts and students do not feel a part of their knowledge.

"They end up knowing a world that has nothing to do with them," he said.

Palmer said objectivism can guard against transformation.

"What we know will transform us into a new way of living," he said.

People can be possessed by

their knowledge, he said, and then it may be used destructively. He used the physicists who detonated the first atomic bomb as an example. The bomb was detonated even though calculations showed that the explosion could destroy the world by a chain reaction.

"We must move away from the knowledge that breeds violence toward the knowledge that breeds a loving community," he said.

Palmer received his doctorate in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1969

and is the author of three books.

Robert Fuller, a professor of physics and astronomy at UNL, said he agreed with Parker's conclusion. In his teaching experiences, he has found that students don't really learn when knowledge is just "poured" into them. He said this knowledge seems to leak out at some point before the exam.

"The learner has to be autonomous...controlled by the environment and not the professor," he said.

Campus Calendar

Today

Founder's Day Dinner, sponsored by Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Tuesday

"How Women Work Together," part of the Women in Perspective Series, 12:30 p.m. in the Women's Resource Center, Nebraska Union 7.

Thursday

"American Graffiti," 7 and 9 p.m. in the Rostrum of the Nebraska Union. Presented by the University Program Council American Film Committee.

Friday

Last day to file drops in the Office of Registration to remove a course from student records.

Last day to change course registration to or from pass/no pass.

International Students Organization Banquet Cultural Show, 6 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

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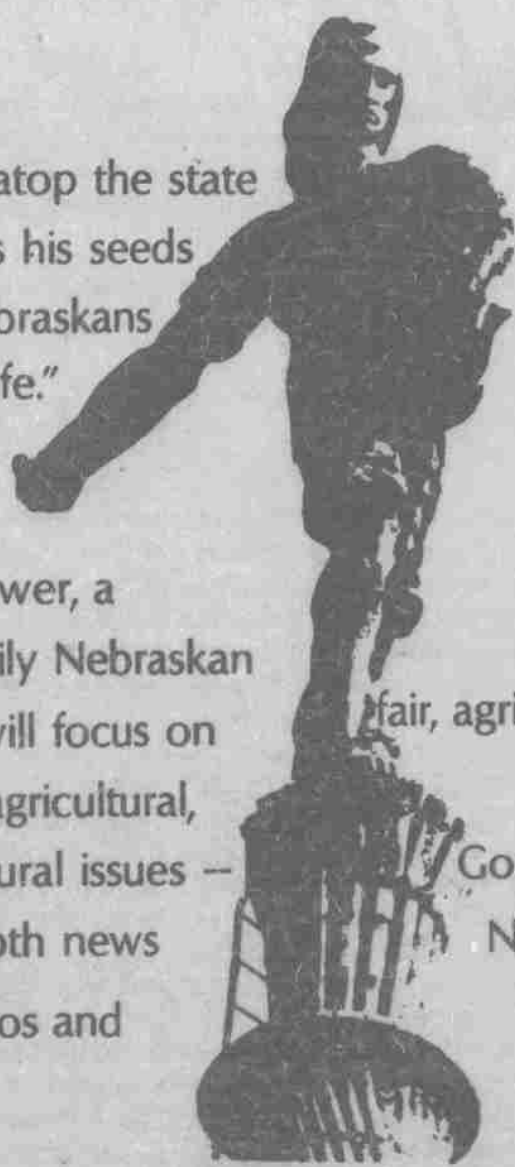
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Monday, October 15 — James Exon, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate

Tuesday, October 16 — Monica Bauer, Democratic candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, first district

In the Nebraska Union main lounge at 2:30 p.m.

Major Presentation ★ ★ ★

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City Campus Union

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