



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

A group of Abraham Lincoln High School students rejoice after puncturing a balloon bag with a shoe. All four bags hanging from the ceiling failed to open when the release cords were pulled.

Bush...

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and pins, the vice president said that today's youth recognizes the differences between Reagan and Mondale. They believe Reagan will supply them with jobs, he said.

"The young people are supporting the president this year," he said, "because they know that our opponent would take us backward into fear and weakness and economic stagnation."

Throughout his speech and news conference, Bush followed this same pattern of praising Reagan and then condemning Mondale and Ferraro. He praised and jabbed on such topics as

agriculture, science, education, Soviet relations, the B-1 bomber and Mondale's campaign tactics.

In agriculture, he said, Reagan is a leader and supporter. In contrast, Bush said, Mondale would put an end to the American farmer with his proposed domestic content bill — a protective legislation.

Bush said the Reagan administration is for scientific progress, while Mondale fights it. He cited Mondale's Senate vote against construction of the last space shuttle as an example.

Even though polls show that teachers support Mondale over Reagan, Bush said the president is confident of his education policies. The administration has spent "a good deal of money" on education, he said, and at the same time given control back to the

local school boards. Mondale wants control to come from Washington, he said.

These distinct domestic differences spill over into foreign areas, Bush said. When it comes to the Soviet Union, Bush said, Reagan negotiates from a strong position. Mondale would negotiate from a weak position, he said.

Mondale's weakness results in part from his opposition to the B-1 bomber, Bush said. Without the B-1, he said, the United States cannot move forward in defense.

"We're for that (B-1)," Bush said. "It's the fastest way to modernize our defense."

Bush concluded his speech by reassuring the crowd that Reagan would continue to lead the country. Mondale's criticism of Reagan will not get him elected, Bush said.

Dissatisfaction...

Continued from Page 1

getting older and tired of teaching. He equated this boredom to that experienced by a factory worker at General Motors doing the same thing for many years. Dudley said that unlike business, teachers do not gain prestige or seniority as they get older. He said this lack of incentive often makes dealing with the system more difficult.

"At 30," Dudley said, "teachers are asking themselves, 'Is this what I want to do? Do I want ulcers, heartaches and hall duty at 50?'"

There's more to teaching than standing in a room full of kids and talking, and it doesn't get any easier, he said.

Dudley said that once somebody passes age 35, the chances of finding another good-paying job are slim. He cited an example of a 48-year-old teacher who, dis-

gruntled with the educational system, looked for a different job, but found that businesses are less likely to hire an older person. Businesses view older people as greater risks, he said. Not finding a job with more pay for the same amount of hours, the teacher remains in the educational system — dissatisfied.

Educators are hearing and reading more about teacher burn-out and teacher competency testing. This negative approach to criticism of educators and their qualifications can make even the best teachers develop a bad self-image, Dudley said. He said this self-doubt causes teachers to consider other lines of work or is reflected in their job performance.

Larsen, who is a candidate in the upcoming elections for the state Board of Education, said people are Nebraska's best re-

source.

The educational system is responsible for increasing the value of this resource by developing people's capacity to learn new things, he said.

"Jobs will be different in 20 years and there is no way to train people for those jobs today. We need to improve the quality so that people acquire the skill to learn their entire lives," Larsen said.

This can be accomplished by tightening accreditation requirements for schools and increasing teacher certification requirements, he said.

Larsen said he wants to establish a statewide staff development program to generate new ideas and stimuli that will retain teachers' interest in the classroom and maintain a high level of quality in the system.

Professor gives talented writers tips to 'freeing the creative self'

By Kema Soderberg
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Underemployment or unemployment, unequal distribution of recognition, perfectionism and blocks in productivity are all concerns of trouble of talented adults, said Barbara Kerr, director of the country's only counseling center for gifted adult writers and artists.

Kerr, an associate educational psychology professor at UNL, spoke on "freeing the creative self" Saturday during the Nebraska Writers Guild Conference at The Cornhusker hotel in downtown Lincoln.

Kerr called under or unemployment "a tragedy of our times." She said society values athletic ability over intellect and said most jobs don't tap creative potential.

"I know some people who would rather go hungry than take a job that doesn't tap their potential," she said.

Kerr said two great lies about jobs that everyone hears are that a perfect job waits out there for everyone and if they work hard, they will get what they want. Because these are myths, people must learn to differentiate between jobs and careers.

"A job is something someone gives you," Kerr said, "A career is something you give yourself."

Kerr said being a waitress could be your job but "if you love to write, that's your career."

Inequity of recognition is another problem talented people face. When Oscar Wilde said a little part of him died everytime a friend of his did something brilliant, he was talking about this problem, Kerr said.

Kerr said this feeling usually hits talented people when they open the newspaper and "some dork" they went to high school with is doing something better than they are.

Kerr said evaluation must be internal rather than external. She said writers must not let criticism or praise affect them, but must measure themselves by their own standards.

Perfectionism, Kerr said, strikes many people, but there is a difference between a regular perfectionist and a gifted perfectionist. A gifted perfectionist "is so much better at making life miserable for everyone else. Every detail must be correct."

Kerr said most perfectionists think they are "average" and everyone else "is just not trying." She said she started her "slob of the week" program to help perfectionists "see how the other half lives."

Under this program, the perfectionist has to leave the house in the morning with part of their grooming undone, let someone down at work, throw dinner together from leftovers, leave the dishes undone before going to bed and stay up late reading something bad.

After doing this for a week, one woman said she realized she could be excellent at the things that mattered even when she wasn't perfect at everything.

Kerr said she discovered, while

writing her book called "Smart Girls," that many of the most intelligent women let everything else go so they could do one thing well.

"If you want to be excellent, you've got to get rid of some of the perfection," Kerr said.

Kerr also said writers, like all talented people, have blocks in production. While each person's block is personal, Kerr said, bad habits, concern about losing creativity, lack of tension and minimizing what they have to say are common causes of blocks.

Bad habits include high alcohol and drug use and involvement in "crazy relationships." Kerr said famous writers like Hunter Thompson are good in spite of their drug use and not because of it. She also said crazy relationships may offer situations to write about, but can create too much tension.

Tension also is caused when creative people view their creativity as a mystical gift, Kerr said. It's a myth, she said, that creativity is fragile, exotic and can be easily lost. But, if believed, the myth can be a self-fulfilling prophecy, she said.

A lack of tension, however, also causes writer's block. Kerr said Ray Bradbury doesn't tell people his plots because the tension would be lost and he'd lose the initiative to write. Kerr said writers sometimes travel, seek challenging relationships or look for ways to make themselves slightly uncomfortable in order to spark creativity.

Kerr said writers also can cause production blocks when they start asking "Who am I to say this; who am I to have a monopoly on truth?" she said writers must be careful not to fall into the trap of having nothing to say.

"Don't be afraid of having a little tiny corner of the truth within you," she said, "Take it and write."



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