

Daily Nebraskan

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Weather: Another pleasant day today with mostly sunny skies, light winds and a high of about 60 (16C). Wednesday night partly cloudy and not as cold with a low of about 34 (1C). Thursday increasing cloudiness with a chance of showers and a high of about 55 (13C).

Bob Brubaker/Daily Nebraskan

Crew rows to another win...Page 6

Landscape photos at Sheldon...Page 8

Maureen Reagan plugs GOP

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Maureen Reagan told about 250 cheering people at a Republican rally Tuesday that more Republicans will be elected in 1984 than ever before.

Reagan, the president's daughter, is doing her part to shape election results by speaking at similar rallies across the country. Tuesday's rally, at the former

Pamida building, 62nd Street and Have-lock Avenue, was designed mainly for women candidates and sponsored by the Cornhusker Republican Women's Club.

Reagan mulled through the bannered room — filled with music by a tuxedoed jazz quartet — smiling and shaking hands with everyone she could reach. She then joined the women candidates on the podium.

Nancy Hoch, U.S. Senate challenger,

introduced Reagan after a brief speech. She said that her campaign had gained momentum after her last debate with incumbent Sen. James Exon.

"We took him on one-on-one, showed that there was a great difference in our positions, showed that he has no record to speak of," Hoch said. "It is a negative record."

Hoch countered Exon's claim that she
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Dave Wesely/Daily Nebraskan
Maureen Reagan

Pressure to succeed evident in kindergarten, even earlier

By Joan Hoffman
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This is the third article in a five-part series examining current issues on the quality of education in Nebraska.

Julie, 4, is attending preschool in her small hometown in northeastern Nebraska. Like many children her age, Julie prefers playing outdoors to spending the day in school.

Jill, Julie's older sister, is attending kindergarten this year.

Jill and Julie are not alike. After returning home from school, Julie usually can be found playing. Jill is often seated at the kitchen table after school, perfecting her printing skills and completing homework assignments.

Jill works diligently to receive a smiley face on her work, a symbol the teacher uses to reward a job well done.

This teacher also uses frowns to express dissatisfaction with a student for incomplete or incorrect work.

Jill has never received a frown. She is

keeping track.

Julie spends much of her spare time playing. Jill spends most of her time testing her skills on her parents' home computer. She is also teaching herself to write in cursive, a skill that is usually taught in the third grade.

Jill is only 5 years old.

The Quality of Education

As it stands, Julie will be attending preschool again next year. Her parents worry that Julie will not be able to keep up with others her age because she doesn't show the same enthusiasm for learning.

Two of Julie's friends also will be held back by their parents. These children will attend kindergarten at the age of six.

Jill's parents also worry about her. Jill's mother said she is afraid Jill will burn herself out before she enters the first grade.

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David Cremer / Daily Nebraskan

A student, who preferred to remain nameless, right, attempts to question the preachings of Michael Peter Woroniecki, an evangelist who spoke near the Nebraska Union Tuesday. Woroniecki would not answer questions.

Issues in limelight

Critics say debates more shadow than substance

Analysis By
Mona Z. Koppelman
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Issues, issues, issues: Words pompously expelled like so many snuff-induced sneezes, the favored vice of 17th century political elites.

Republican and Democratic politicians promised Americans that this would be a campaign of Issues. The Great Debates in Louisville, Philadelphia and Kansas City were touted as grueling faceoffs between the major candidates on the major Issues. Debate panelists promised to grill podium holders on specifics, so no one could dodge the Issues.

Members of the media were treated to more than a few toasts during the debate weekend. For a description of the Great Debate's fringe benefits, turn to Page 4.

The League of Women Voters billed the Kansas City debate weekend as "The Main Event" — the final clash over the most important Issues facing Americans today: National defense and foreign policy.

Privileged politicians, community

leaders and media members spent the weekend toasting each other beneath red, white and blue bunting, congratulating themselves on a show well done.

But thousands of Americans who flocked to downtown Kansas City seemed to think the Great Debates didn't do enough to tackle the Issues. Demonstrators withstood rain, cold weather, long hours and disappointing indifference while trying to sway some national attention to their causes.

"I believe in participating in government," said Diana Feinberg of Kansas City, Mo. Feinberg wandered through a crowd of people Sunday afternoon gathered to protest U.S. involvement in Latin America. She flourished a white cardboard sign with pro-Sandinista slogans.

"People can sit and watch the debate on TV and that's great. But they're not going to get the real story there. They're going to hear rhetoric," Feinberg said. "I don't need to hear any more of that. I came to this rally to hear and speak the truth."

Some political and media critics agree with Feinberg, attacking the debates as more shadow than substance. They say that in the 24 years since nationally televised debates became part of some presidential campaigns, the most significant issues remembered in media accounts and history books are matters of style: Impressions,

things not spoken or things mis-spoken.

Many Americans remember a haggard Richard Nixon facing smooth and subtle John F. Kennedy in 1960. Gerald Ford in 1976 told Jimmy Carter and the debate audience that there was "no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe" and never would be under a Ford administration. And in 1980, Jimmy Carter was ridiculed for quoting his 12-year-old daughter Amy about her concern for nuclear war. While Carter appeared nervous, Reagan was



relaxed; he used his "There you go again" and "Are you better off" lines for the first time, apparently with great popular success.

Demonstrators in Kansas City weren't content to let national attention focus what one protester termed "silly sallies of semantics." Nearly 1,000 braved Saturday's cold and rainy weather to march, protesting Reagan administration policies. Labor, peace, environmental and minority groups carried banners and posters that drooped in the afternoon rain. More than 70 tractors and farm trucks from 15 states represented farm interests.

Merle Hansen of Newman Grove was proud to be counted among them. He pleaded for the diverse group of protestors to join in a coalition for fairness.

"American farmers are in the process of trying to re-write their history in the same way that blacks and Indians are re-writing their history, of no longer being an Uncle Tom and a Tonto," Hansen said. "We must begin to build a kind of unity where we can make our voices heard, where we can drive people out of office who refuse to hear us."

Some protestors shied from rallies, choosing to argue their issues in a more personal manner. Richard Q. Cooper, a disabled black man from Oklahoma, paced slowly and wordlessly in front of debate hall Sunday morning. Cooper wore in front and back 5-foot long cardboard signs with handwritten messages protesting discrimination.

Bruce Weiner of Kansas City, Mo., paced the opposite side of the street, carrying a sign expressing his support for the release of Soviet Jews. Weiner, 24, said he hoped the issue would be brought up during the debate that evening, but he wasn't "holding his breath."

"I've written more letters about this issue than I can count. So has our local Jewish community," Weiner said. "Nobody gets letters

back. They don't want to answer questions. They don't want to deal with issues. They just want to be vague."

But while most passersby carefully avoided Cooper and studiously ignored Weiner, Happy Lee captured the public eye. Bob Meeks, of St. Joseph, Mo., gadded about, decked in clown makeup and baggy overalls. Happy Lee carried a Bozo for president sign, and said Bozo had his own plan for the issue of national defense:

"Put a bomb under Reagan's desk and a bomb under Chernenko's desk and give 'em both buttons. Then we can let 'em take care of themselves."

Happy Lee wasn't the only person to dismiss idealistic protest for the glamour of national attention. About 2,500 Reagan supporters greeted the president at the downtown airport — along with 10 high school marching bands, brightly colored signs and 700 flags.

About 150 people, mostly college students and cameramen, gathered Sunday to greet Monday with posters and cheers in front of his hotel. Collegiate young Democrats had primed themselves for his arrival with an hour of slogan-chanting: "Reagan, Reagan, he's no good, send him back to Hollywood" being the favorite, as well as "Use Nancy's China to feed hungry children."