

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, March 20, 1985

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 84 No. 127

Weather: Mostly sunny and beautiful today with a high of 61 (16C). Clear and warm tonight with a low of 38 (3C). Another nice day Thursday with a high of 64 (18C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

Huskers down for the count...Page 8

Students run Art League gallery...Page 10

One of 22

Program discusses farm women's role

By Ann Lowe
Staff Reporter

Rural women around the world have common concerns about changes in their agricultural economies. And they have a lot to learn from each other, said Katherine Riddle, extension food and nutrition specialist at UNL.

Riddle is coordinator of "Nebraska in the World," a new program designed to let women from rural Nebraska and foreign countries discuss common experiences and concerns.

Program helps farm families cope...See page 6.

Technological change has altered the role of women in the world's farm economies, Riddle said. Families in the United States and foreign countries no longer can depend on small vegetable markets or "butter and egg money" that "might make a difference in how a family eats," she said.

Rural women also have common interest in conservation of resources, world peace and "a better world for their children," Riddle said.

About a dozen women from India, Bhutan, Nigeria and other developing countries are participating in the "Nebraska in the World" project, coordinated through the UNL International Educational Services office. The women have met to talk about their roles on the farm in their home countries. Teams are scheduled to visit about 10 Nebraska communities during the next few weeks, Riddle said.

The programs are set up through women's organizations, such as home extension clubs, the YWCA and Women in Farm Economics. Formats will vary, from slide presentations and informal discussions to two-day workshops.

The first program was in Sidney on March 15. About 25 women attended the presentation, given by Riddle, Ada Munson of the Nebraska Coalition for Women and Kunzang Roder of Bhutan, a small country north of India.

The women showed "Women in World Agriculture: Growing Together," a slide tape produced through the UNL international programs department. They also distributed program packets on "Women in the Development of the World."

Response to the first program was "very enthusiastic," Riddle said. Visitors from other Nebraska counties seemed interested too, and may schedule future programs for their communities, she said.

The women are not paid for leading the discussions, but their expenses are covered, said Judy Wendorff, program coordinator for the IES. Most of the participants are wives of foreign graduate students, Wendorff said.

The project is operating with a \$39,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Riddle said. It is one of 22 programs funded for development education — but the first to operate through women's organizations, she said.

Riddle now is writing a second grant proposal for \$80,000 to continue the project next year, she said. She said she hopes the program will expand to more communities in Nebraska and start sending teams to Kansas, as well.



Spring seems to give life to Ann Sperry's "Garden of Delight" sculpture, west of the Veterinary Research building on East Campus.

Sex on Campus: Men excel in sexist classrooms

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Reporter

Editor's note: This is the third article in a series exploring sexual issues related to college students.

Instructors praise men more than women, give men more academic help and are more likely to accept men's comments during classroom discussion, according to recent studies on classroom sexism.

In a report released earlier this year by the Association of American Colleges, Assistant Director Roberta Hall examined how faculty purposely and inadvertently treat college men and women students differently, usually through actions that seem so normal they often go unnoticed. The report called, "The Classroom Climate: A Chilly One For Women?" stated that when this happens, "women students are either singled out or ignored because of their sex, and left feeling less confident about their abilities and

their place in the college community.

In an article in this month's Psychology Today magazine, Myra and David Sadker outlined a list of these sex biases commonly practiced in today's classroom:

- Although girls start school ahead of boys in reading and basic computation, by the time they graduate from high school, boys have higher scholastic aptitude test scores in both areas.

- By high school, some girls become less committed to careers, although their grades and achievement test scores may be as good as boys'. Many girls' interests turn to marriage or stereotypically female jobs. Parts of the reason may be that some women think men disapprove of their intelligence.

- Girls are less likely to take math and science courses and to participate in special or gifted programs in these subjects, even if they have a talent for them. They also are more likely to think they are incapable of pursuing math and science in college and to avoid the subjects.

- Girls are more likely to attribute failure to internal factors, such as ability, rather than to external factors, such as luck.

Sexual communication is not restricted to the classroom. According to the article, numerous studies show that men speak more often and frequently interrupt women:

- Listeners recall more from men speakers than from women speakers, even when both use a similar speaking style and cover identical content.

- Women participate less actively in conversation. They do more smiling and gazing. They are more often the passive bystanders in professional and social conversations among peers.

- Women often transform declarative statements into tentative comments. This is accomplished by using qualifiers ("kind of" or "I guess") and by adding tag questions ("This is a good movie, isn't it?"). These tentative patterns weaken impact and signal a lack of power and influence.

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Student architects working for UNL

By Jann Nyffeler
Staff Reporter

Considering the extensive list of renovation and construction projects currently being planned or actually under way on campus, the Office of University Housing at UNL has found a way to use one of the university's most precious resources — its students — to help with the projects.

Two UNL graduate architecture students, Laura Kunkle and David Hawes, currently are working part time on design and renovation projects for UNL residence halls.

Glen Schumann, assistant director of housing for maintenance and operations, said the student architects do research and work out the details on projects, as well as test and analyze projects. This lets licensed engineers and architects at UNL's Physical Plant concentrate on their own jobs and helps keep costs down, Schumann said.

"We use a student on a project wherever it makes sense to do so," Schumann said.

"It's a microcosm of the real architectural world," Kunkle said. She compared the task of redesigning office

space, often without adequate lighting or windows, to a dot-to-dot game.

Last year, changes in fire codes in high-rise buildings mandated installation of smoke detectors in UNL residence halls. Kunkle and Hawes spent nine months deciding on the smoke detectors that now are in each room. They dismantled, tested and analyzed several models, Kunkle said, to find one that best met their specifications. They finally decided on an alarm that is audible in adjacent rooms when it goes off, she said, and tests most accurately.

Hawes is designing the computer terminal rooms for residence halls. He must consider the lighting, sound-proofing, carpeting and existing electrical conditions for each area, Schumann said. He'll also decide on appropriate furniture, where the cables and phone lines should go and how much air conditioning is needed.

These rooms should be completed by Aug. 1, Schumann said. The computer rooms will be modifications of existing lounges or study areas in each hall, he said.

Hawes also is designing a trash compactor for the Abel-Sandoz complex.

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