



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nermine Samir, Egypt, and Lara Khatib, Lebanon, cheer at the Nebraska-Utah State football game Saturday in Memorial Stadium. The two were in Lincoln on a visit to the United States.

Visit changes opinions

Arab students discover American reality

By Joeth Zucco
Senior Editor

Five weeks in the United States have changed several Middle Eastern students' ideas about this country.

Twenty students from 10 Arab countries were in Lincoln last week as part of a federally funded program sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. The program brings citizens from all over the world to the United States.

The students were nominated by their teachers and interviewed at the American embassy in each of their countries.

Rania Barghout, a sophomore communication arts, radio, television and theater major at Beirut University College in Lebanon, said she had bad impressions of the United States before her visit.

"I thought that people only go to bars, go steady, dance and sleep," Barghout said in near perfect English. "They were really vicious and mean. It came from the media — Dallas and Dynasty. People didn't care what happened in Lebanon or the Middle East, they were only concerned with their own politics."

Barghout said her views changed once she arrived in the United States.

"(In the) North, people were extremely nice, showed us they did care," she said. "(In the) Midwest, they are very serious, very business-minded, very concerned about the Middle East all over."

Barghout said some of the people her group have met along the way thought they were terrorists.

"I hope we changed their opinion," she said.

Saad Achaari, a senior English

major at University Mohamed Ben Adallah in Rabat, Morocco, said he didn't know much about the United States when he first came except what he had learned in school.

"I wasn't too surprised by what I saw," Achaari said. "Nearly all the things I've been told are somewhat true."

"My meetings with Americans make me sure that these people love their country very much."

Nermine Samir, a 5th-year medical student at Suez Canal University in Ismailia, Egypt, also had a bad impression of the United States, "but after I came, the media gives not an accurate picture of America. (They are) hard workers and very friendly."

"Youth in America is not concerned about social or political life outside the United States," she said. "I met many young students at Missis-

See ARAB on 8

Morrill Hall opens AIDS exhibit this week

AIDS from Page 6

Garland Bare, a member of the UNL Task Force on AIDS Education, said that people are still ignorant to the fact that they can get the disease.

"People still look upon it as a San Francisco and New York disease," Bare said. "In young adults, there's a sense of vulnerability. 'It can happen to them, but not to me.'"

If people are willing to invest 15 minutes to study the exhibit, Young said, they can gain from the biology of the disease and from the pain the families are experiencing.

Young said the exhibit will run through the semester. Afterwards, he said that he would like to take the exhibit on tour throughout the state and display it in non-traditional settings such as bank lobbies, shopping centers and schools.

"We can stop it (AIDS) right now if everyone understands that they're not immune and they have to be careful in their behavior," Young said.

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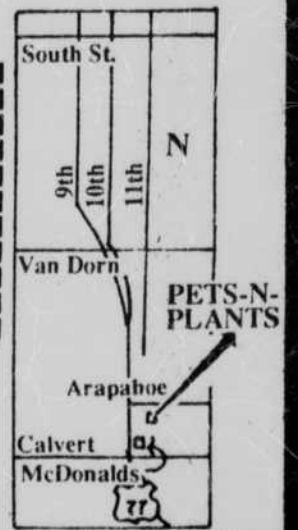
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