

Trip proves enlightening UNL students learn about world from Haitian children

By Lori Beckmann
Staff Reporter

As Chris Schneider rode from the Port Au Prince airport to a hotel in the "tap-tap" — a brightly painted pick-up truck that served as a public transportation system — he was in awe of the poverty in Haiti.

"There were naked, malnourished children, dogs, goats and chicken everywhere," said Schneider, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln secondary education sophomore. "People were living in shanties made of aluminum and the road was ruined," Schneider said. "I felt like I was paging through a National Geographic depicting the Third World."

Schneider was one of 17 members from Lincoln's Christ Lutheran Church who visited Haiti this summer to help church mission work.

Farisani blasts Reagan

Dissident doubts U.S. president's support

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positive aspects of American investments in the country.

"While money is donated to blacks, so much more is given to the white apartheid regime through taxes, it isn't even a valid argument," he said. "Don't believe that some of these companies seriously want apartheid to come to an end."

Farisani contrasted the delay in sanctions against South Africa to the immediate action against pro-Soviet countries. He suggested that U.S. concern for sanctions hurting the South African people is hypocritical, since this concern is not raised when imposing sanctions on Nicaragua or Panama.

"I've never known Reagan to be a fighter for human rights — except in

The trip, "Haiti '88," was co-organized by the church's vicar and David Brummond, a chemical engineering senior.

Church members spent about 70 to 90 hours planning the trip. They had a fund-raiser and a car wash to help pay the cost of the trip, which was \$650 a person. Members picked up the part of the tab themselves.

The group also attended orientation sessions to familiarize themselves with the culture and arranged its own travel plans.

Brummond said the group spent 10 days in July teaching day-school at Petionville, a suburb of Port Au Prince in the eastern part of Haiti. The group taught school and poured concrete for improvements at the church there. They also visited and comforted sick children at the Grace Children's hospital.

Brummond said the group taught children

ranging in ages from 3 to 30. Brummond said the first day, they taught 175 students. By the third day, he said, attendance had jumped to 350.

"The Haitians are hungry for education," said Kris Bueche, a junior interior design major. "They want to better themselves." Interpreters were used to teach school to the Haitians who speak Creole, which is a mixture of African, French and Spanish.

"Some understood French," Bueche said, "and we learned to speak some Creole. They were amused that we were trying to speak their language."

The group members said they learned a lot from their trip.

"They have it all right and we have it all wrong," said Kevin McReynolds, a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

"Their priorities are in order. They're the poorest people in the world, but they're friendly, trusting, happy and proud of their families. Here, everyone is unhappy if they don't have certain things. Here it is material, there it is spiritual."

"I learned a lot. I learned what my priorities should be. There, people walk up to you and say 'I'm a Christian' and know that you love them for it. Here, people try to hide it."

"Not just in a spiritual sense, but in an individual sense," Bueche said. "We need to wake up and smell the coffee. The United States is not the world and we can't ignore others because of where we live."

"It's easy for people to turn the other cheek, but when you're there, you see it, you experience it and you can't turn away."

Nicaragua and Libya," Farisani said. "Do you seriously expect him to help black South Africans?"

While insisting that he has never advocated the use of violence against the government, Farisani said he refuses to condemn those who see violence as the only alternative. Quoting a 1960 Nelson Mandela speech, he said the time has past for "sitting by idly."

Farisani went further to describe the deployment of Cuban troops in neighboring Angola as an act of Soviet "liberation."

"Every presence of the Soviet Union (in Africa) is the result of the refusal of the white Christian nations to help," he said. "We will accept Soviet help."

Farisani gave statistics which show thousands of South African

exiles attending universities in Cuba, East Germany and other Soviet-block countries, while a significantly smaller number study in the United States and other Western nations. He suggested that Soviet help is perhaps more sincere, attributing this to the fact that they have never colonized the African continent.

"I'm not like Senator Helms who believes that Communists were created by Satan," Farisani said. "And when God says love your brother, he means love Gorbachev too."

"Very often, Mozambique, Angola and Zambia have gone to the Western world to ask for help," he said. "It's denied."

According to Farisani, this is what leads them to embrace the Soviet camp.

Property owners are expected to feel impact of Malone redevelopment plan

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detailing process. But if there are, the regents could request to reapprove the plan, McGee said, which could delay redevelopment plans further.

"We (the Malone study committee) are estimating toward the end of this year, possibly November, they (the city) will take action," McGee said.

The plan was to be completed in three phases within 15 years of its approval. McGee said completing the plan in 15 years is not as important as completing the plan in phases.

The park, which is required in the plans, will be completed in Phase I. It will include a bike path that will serve as a 100-foot buffer around the park.

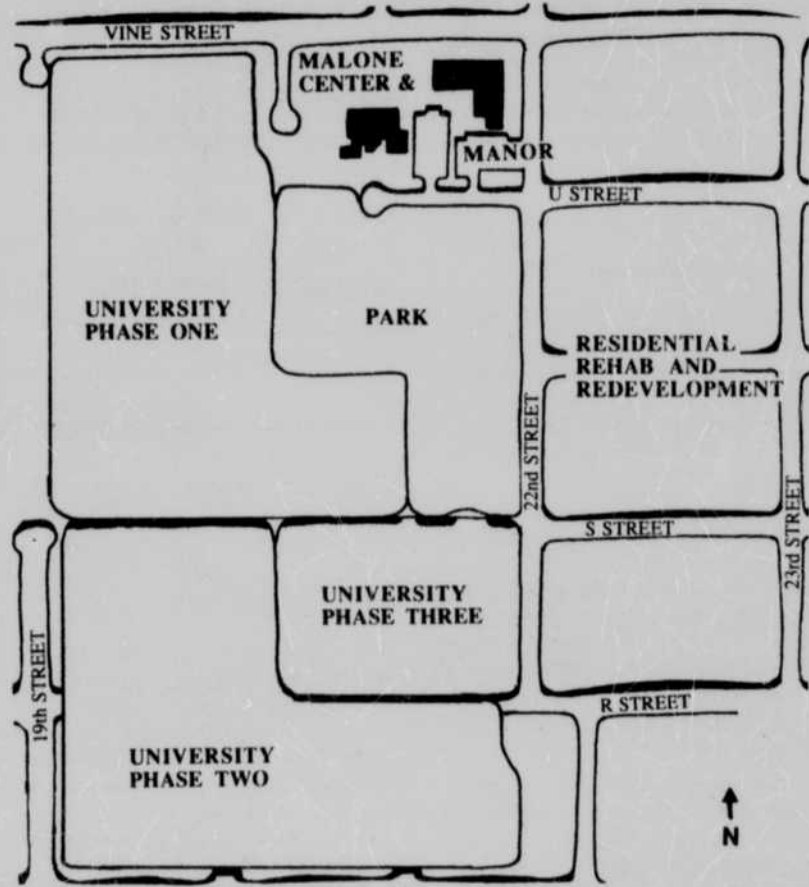
"There will be a substantial impact on property owners and residents in the neighborhood," McGee said.

McGee said he estimates about 20 homes in the park site and about 20 in the phase I area will need to be relocated.

Gary Targoff, president of the Malone Neighborhood Association, said the city has allocated money to the association to hire a staff person to help residents relocate.

"The neighborhood association will be hiring that staff person who will act as a liaison to the city (council) and individuals who are directly affected," Targoff said.

"Our (the neighborhood association's) purpose of staying involved is because it is an emotional issue for those directly affected and we want to make sure they are treated fairly," Targoff said. "Over the history of this problem they (Malone residents) have been treated unfairly by a lack of action."



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Targoff said although there are residents upset by the plan, most of them are glad something is being done after a 25-year-old debate.

McGee said the study committee is working on some relocation assistance "to help the residents who will have to relocate receive the same quality housing, if not better than what they are currently in."

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