

Commission to promote women's issues

By Jana Pedersen
Staff Reporter

Promoting women and women's issues at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is the goal of the 17-member Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, commission member Donna Liss said Tuesday at a commission meeting.

The commission is attempting to meet this goal through long-range projects including establishing an improved child care policy, standardizing leaves of absence for child-birth and adoption, and creating a mentoring project, Liss said.

Commission member Mary Beck said the commission is searching for a way to make child care more conven-

ient for faculty, staff and students at UNL.

Currently, two facilities are available to the university for child care, Beck said, but the facilities are not convenient for either campus. The project goal is to find a location that is convenient for both city and East campuses, she said.

"The conclusion of having something on campus that will accommodate as many people as possible is our focus at this point," she said.

No specifics have been fully developed on the child care issue, Beck said, but several options are being considered.

The commission also is concerned about the current university policy

for leaves of absence, Liss said.

Commission member Jan Jacoby said the current leave policy allows female employees six weeks of sick leave for childbirth.

The policy does not include leave for males or leave for adoption, she said.

A standard minimum number of days needs to be established for all employees regarding leave for child-birth and adoption, she said.

Jacoby said surveys of both UNL employees and other universities are being conducted to determine what type of leave plan would be best for UNL.

The surveys also will be beneficial in determining resistance to such a plan within the university, she said.

A plan to appoint mentors for female university employees and students also is being studied by the commission, Liss said.

Commission member Mary Ann Holland said the mentoring project is in its first stages of development.

The first step of the project has matched university "c-line" women employees with mentors who will help them discover career options, Holland said.

"C-line" employees include those in clerical, office, maintenance or custodial work, she said.

Currently, 26 matched pairs of employees are enrolled in a 10-week project, she said.

The participants in the 10-week

project were selected on the basis of responses to a survey sent to female employees last year, she said.

The purpose of the project is to allow for sharing of experiences in a supportive setting and to help explore career and employment opportunities, she said.

If this stage of the mentoring project works well, Holland said, expansion of the project to more university employees and also to students will be pursued.

EPA provides NU research opportunities

By Julie Dauel
Staff Reporter

A research center financed by the Environmental Protection Agency will provide opportunities for all segments of research at the University of Nebraska, said William Kelly, chairman of the UNL civil engineering department.

EPA started the Hazardous Substance Research Center in late February with Kansas State University as the lead institution, he said. A consortium of seven universities, including the University of Nebraska, will conduct research for the center.

During the next eight years, EPA will provide a total of \$1 million per year in funds for the seven universi-

ties conducting hazardous substance research.

The center's role is to provide research and education on hazardous waste and deal with hazardous waste problems in a 10-state area, he said.

"It should allow us to do a lot of research and do a lot of good in this area," he said.

Kelly said an advisory committee with members from each university will develop a research agenda for the center and will ask for additional project ideas from faculty whose schools are participating in the center.

"It's an opportunity for research in chemistry, agronomy and all departments in the university," he said.

So far, two research projects at the University of Nebraska at Omaha have stemmed from university involvement with the center, Kelly said.

The first project, Hazardous Waste Management in Rural States, will be financed for two years with \$50,000 for each year, he said.

Rural areas have different waste problems compared to more populated areas, Kelly said.

For example, Kelly said, it may be harder for rural people to dispose of wastes at a licensed site because in a less populated area, the licensed site may be not easily accessible.

Kelly said this project also will develop material to be shown by

educational television or by video tape on hazardous waste.

The second project, the Metal Recovery and Reuse Project, will be given \$40,000 each year for two years.

Kelly said the manufacturing of irrigation equipment often produces hazardous waste water.

When manufacturers use plate processes to keep metals from corroding, some of the materials used may get saturated into groundwater, he said.

This project will try to develop a process to remove the metals from hazardous waste water, he said.

"I think it's going to be a good thing for Nebraska," he said.

Student plans to start environmental group

By Eric Pfanner
Staff Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln student "sick and tired of sitting back and watching" is planning to organize a student group to raise awareness of environmental issues.

J Burger, a freshman from Lincoln, said he is standing up by organizing the environmental group. The group, which he hasn't named yet, could become affiliated with Greenpeace USA.

Greenpeace USA is part of Greenpeace International, which organizes non-violent protests, aids endangered species and monitors the condition of the world's environment.

Burger said the UNL organization primarily will be concerned with

"dissemination of information" about environmental issues and awareness.

Burger said the group will "draw strength from just getting the information out," not from trying to effect change.

The organization will not become involved in politics, Burger said.

"Nature is not political," he said. "Politics is just bullshit people make up."

Therefore, he said, the group will be "an organization without walls."

The organization's message will not be combative; therefore, the group will teach courses in non-violence, either through the university or on its own, he said.

Burger said he was inspired to organize the group when he read in-

formation from Greenpeace about environmental problems like the clearing of the forests of the Amazon Basin in Brazil and the use of pesticides. Pesticides, he said, only make insects more resistant, and cause damage to the environment.

People have to realize that nature cannot be changed, he said.

"They may be able to sway it," he said, "but they can't change it."

Burger said everyone should have a right to know what happens to the environment.

"We are all consumers, and we have the right to stand up," he said.

The group will be established within the next few months, Burger said. But then, he said, it will "hit slam-bam," because "something needs to be done."

Burger said he does not know how the organization will raise funds, but said he hopes it will become a university sponsored activity.

Burger said he notified the Campus Activities and Programs Office about his plans for the group.

Anthropologist: Scrutiny important to history

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torical study. Recent developments have made it possible to determine instances of cancer and tuberculosis in ancient cultures through the study of bones, she said.

'This is not harmonious to tribal people, and you're violating your code of ethics.'

--White Shirt

But Nebraska Indian Commission Director Reba White Shirt said such scientific knowledge should not be gained at the expense of the religious beliefs of Indians.

"Why don't you study the remains of your own ancestors to find this rather than ours?" she asked.

White Shirt told the archaeologists on the panel and in the audience that they are overlooking the rights and feelings of Indians by keeping the remains.

"This is not harmonious to tribal people, and you're violating your code of ethics," she said.

Renee Saunsoci, a junior in political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, told panel members that archaeologists assume they have the right to study Indian remains because the Indians are gone.

Archaeologists neglect the rights of the dead Indians' descendants, Saunsoci said.

"They should also consider that we are still alive today," she said.

F.A. Calabrese, an anthropologist for the Department of Interior's National Park Service, said the study of remains helps American Indians understand their history.

"We write history for the American Indians," he said. "We don't do it for ourselves."

Calabrese said getting consent is not vital in archaeological studies. The pioneers didn't consult with Indians when they were moving west, he said.

Indians should understand the importance of archaeology, Calabrese said.

"I'm sure the American Indians would like us all to leave. That's not going to happen."

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police REPORT

Beginning midnight Sunday, March 5

1:07 a.m. -- Small tree was reported hit by vehicle. Vehicle left the scene, \$250.

2:23 p.m. -- Hand rail was reported broken in Abel Hall, \$30.

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