

# 'Chilled' Midwest fruit could cause sour grapes among West's growers

By Scott Cook  
Staff Reporter

Midwest grape producers may give some California growers a reason to whine if researchers and entrepreneurs in Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri establish a feasible grape growing industry in the region.

Peter Hemstad, a research scientist for the University of Minnesota, said that since 1984, he has been trying to develop grapes that could grow in the harsh Minnesota conditions.

"We're trying to raise a cold, hardy grape," he said, "and there is definitely hope."

Hemstad said research in raising grapes has been "on again, off again" since 1908. In 1984, he said, things began to happen.

"A bill was passed for funding of research into grapes," he said. "We now have 6,000 to 7,000 vines and over 300 varieties of grapes."

Jim Danielson, a private grape-grower in Nebraska, has a plot in Plattsmouth that also is doing well.

"I sell to private individuals who make their own wine, and some grocery stores too," he said.

Danielson said he developed an interest in grapes in 1977 when he was in the retail wine

business. He said it keeps him occupied.

"I'm pretty busy during the summer and on weekends," he said, referring to his vineyard.

Hemstad said he wants to know what people think of the grapes, and makes an effort to find out.

"We sell some of the surplus grapes and that helps get reaction to the quality," he said. "We also have taste panels to see if people like the grapes. It looks very promising."

Missouri also is successfully growing grapes.

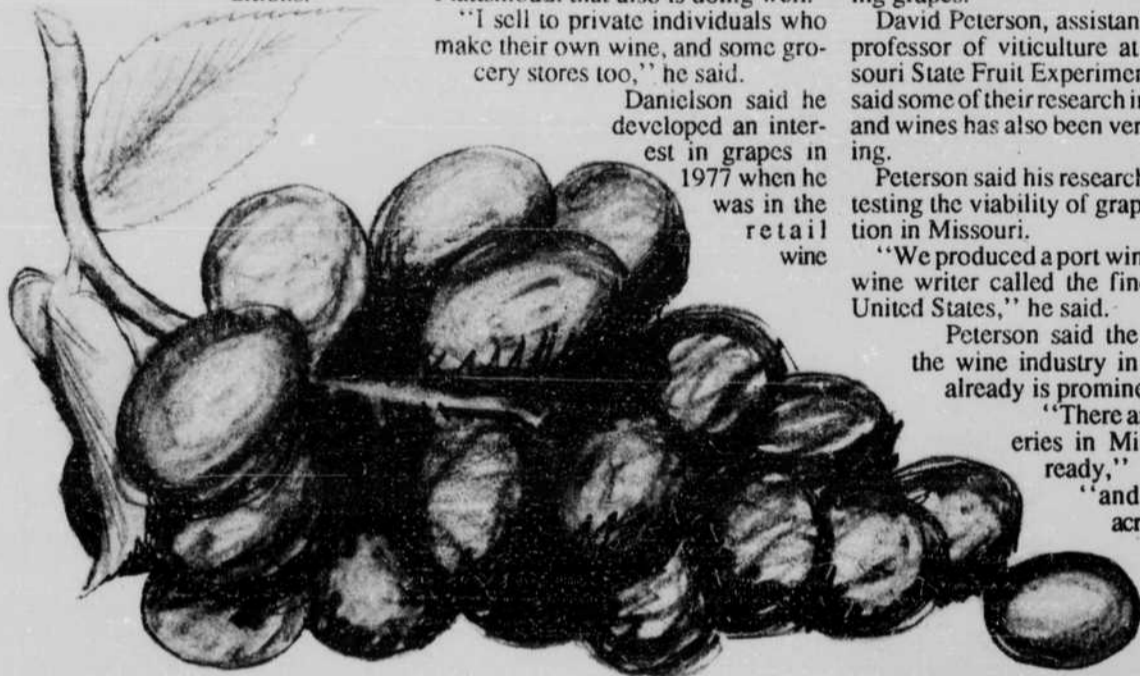
David Peterson, assistant research professor of viticulture at the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station, said some of their research into grapes and wines has also been very promising.

Peterson said his research involves testing the viability of grape production in Missouri.

"We produced a port wine that one wine writer called the finest in the United States," he said.

Peterson said the status of the wine industry in Missouri already is prominent.

"There are 30 wineries in Missouri already," he said, "and 1,500 acres of vineyards."



# Two NU Air Force officers honored with national awards

By Jennifer O'Ciłka  
Staff Reporter

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln Air Force ROTC officers have received two prestigious national awards for the first time in the history of the UNL detachment, according to Col. Michael Carr, UNL ROTC commander.

Capt. Wright Wheeler was chosen Instructor of the Year out of about 600 eligible candidates and Sgt. Robert Cook was chosen Personnel Superintendent of the Year, out of 150 candidates. They were notified of their honors March 2.

Their awards, certificates signed by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Ellis, commandant of the National ROTC, were presented to them before the UNL cadets.

Wheeler said his award makes him the Air Force ROTC's representative for the Air Training Instructor of the Year award. This should be awarded in about two months, Carr said.

Carr said that when the UNL Air Force ROTC program closed in Jan. 1988, Wheeler was the only officer left in charge. He managed the program when it reopened in May. Also, Wheeler served as interim commander, a detachment recruitment officer and the Arnold Air Society adviser.

"A lot of it was luck because most of the other people left, and I was forced to do numerous tasks

which made my nomination stronger," Wheeler said.

Wheeler, who has been in the Air Force for 14 years, said that for him, this is the most prestigious Air Force honor.

"Hopefully, since I've enjoyed my assignment here and might like to teach later on, this will help my chances," he said.

Cook, who has been at UNL for 4 years, was the only non-commissioned officer in charge of administrative paperwork, performed staff assistant visits to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, instituted a computer system, and made it possible for cadets to take physicals locally.

"It was a surprise, but I'm happy about it," he said.

Cook said that although he has received several awards in the past, this is the biggest.

Carr said this is the first time these awards have been given to the UNL detachment. He said this "speaks highly" of the program because it is being recognized on a national level.

Carr said he sent his nominations to the Midwest area commandant, who determines which nominations are forwarded to ROTC headquarters. The ROTC selects the winners from candidates out of five areas.

"These officers are dedicated, trustworthy and put in a lot of extra hours," he said.

# Regents will be asked to approve 2 programs

By Larry Peirce  
Senior Reporter

The NU Board of Regents will be asked at its Saturday meeting to approve a master of legal studies program and a home economics doctorate program.

Harvey Perlman, dean of the College of Law, said only Yale, Stanford and the University of Southern California have the masters of legal studies degree program being proposed.

Perlman said a "large number" of students have shown interest in the proposed one-year program.

The master of legal studies degree would help graduates in other ca-

reers, he said. The program would not require additional money from the regents, he said.

For example, he said, someone in community planning could use a background in zoning regulations, constitutional law, contract and tax laws. The degree would not enable graduates to practice law, he said.

Karen Craig, dean of the College of Home Economics, said graduates have been leaving the state to earn doctorate degrees in home economics.

Graduates with masters degrees could work toward doctorates in 12

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# Testimony concerns euthanasia

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cation that they do not wish to have their lives extended through artificial means, Landis said, these wishes should be granted.

Jim Cunningham, executive director of the Nebraska Catholic Conference who spoke in opposition to the bill, said if LB479 is passed, it would be the first step on a path toward legalized mercy killing.

Because living wills are a passive form of euthanasia, Cunningham said, more active forms of euthanasia are likely to follow.

Erwin Goldenstein, a member of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, spoke in favor of the bill. She said the bill could not promote euthanasia because it contains a provision stating that it does not condone euthanasia.

Alan Forker, member of the Nebraska Medical Association who spoke in favor of the bill, said living wills are not a form of mercy killing.

"Physicians do not plan to kill patients," he said, but physicians do want to respect patients' rights.

Cunningham said the Catholic Conference agrees with many of the values behind terminally ill patients writing living wills, but legislation on the issue is not necessary.

No law presently requires the

sustainment of life beyond what physicians deem necessary, Cunningham said.

Also, he said, living wills already are honored in many instances.

But, Forker said, some physicians in Nebraska may be afraid to honor living wills.

Physicians don't want to run the risk of having lawsuits brought against them by relatives if treatment is denied to patients who have living wills, he said.

Currently, if family members are strongly against upholding the wishes of living wills, Forker said, physicians may ignore the wills.

If LB479 is passed, he said, the decision to honor living wills would be made easier for physicians.

Cunningham said LB479 would not make decisions easier for physicians because it leaves no room for individual considerations.

An important aspect of whether or not living wills should be honored is the consideration of individual circumstances surrounding each case, he said.

If the bill is passed, Cunningham said, physicians may be led to treat terminally ill patients without living wills differently from those who do have them.

The committee took no action on the bill, but will meet again today.

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