

Chicano forum

Panelists censure lack of education opportunities

By Wendy Mott
Staff Reporter

Lack of a lifelong education plagues the Chicano people, causing failures and frustrations, but educators said at a forum Wednesday that changes in the education system could help improve the situation.

The panelists, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chicano instructors and professors, said education should begin at birth and continue until death. But that is not the case in the Chicano race, they said at the forum, "Education of Chicanos in the '90s," in the Nebraska Union.

Miguel Carranza, an associate professor of sociology and ethnic studies, said Chicano students do not get a good start on their educations and don't improve along the way.

According to the 1990 census, the Hispanic population has grown 53 percent since 1980. But the statistics regarding academic successes among Chicano students are not as positive — 35 to 75 percent drop out of high school and only 6 percent continue on to higher education.

UNL instructor Olga Sanchez said Chicano students who attended preschool or a Headstart program are much more likely to continue in education. But starting early isn't the only thing that needs to be done, she

said. Carranza agreed, saying the drop-out numbers won't fall unless "drastic changes" are made.

Sanchez attributed the low number of Chicanos going on to higher education and postgraduate work to poor educational responses to Chicano needs.

Ralph Grajeda, an associate professor of English, said that if teachers were trained to meet the needs of Chicano students, the students could begin school on a better note.

Grajeda said he hated school when he was young because he felt demeaned and insulted because his migrant-worker family forced him to switch schools with the seasons.

Grajeda failed the first grade twice, he said. He never thought he would go to college, unlike "Anglo" students who think of college as "the next natural step."

Grajeda said he wasn't stupid, but because he didn't receive the support he needed, no one expected him to succeed, least of all himself. Grajeda now has a doctorate degree.

Grajeda said his story is not unusual.

Sanchez also said Chicano students depend on their own perseverance to succeed in school. If teachers were aware of how they and the edu-

cational system as a whole could help Chicano students, the problem wouldn't rest solely on the students' shoulders, she said.

Support systems are a vital part of academic success, Sanchez said. Students currently cannot even rely on their parents for academic support because Chicano parents do not have the opportunities to become involved in their children's schooling, she said.

If steps were taken to improve parents' position in the education system, Sanchez said, Chicano children most likely would feel more positive about the system.

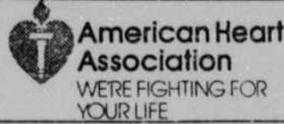
But Chicanos need more than family support to succeed academically, she said.

"Anglos already have support systems outside the home," Sanchez said.

Role models could serve as an out-of-home support group, she said. If successful Chicanos would return to the community, Sanchez said, they could help motivate young people.

Joe Aguilar, an associate professor in curriculum and instruction, said more bilingual and multicultural education also could help improve the situation.

But these steps are being hindered by the "English Only" and "English First" movements, he said.



POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday, April 16

1:41 a.m. — Bicycle stolen, Nebraska Hall, \$400.

7:47 a.m. — Stereo stolen from auto, 19th and R streets, \$190.

12:08 p.m. — Right rear quarter panel of vehicle dented, 19th and R streets, \$75.

3:26 p.m. — Two rings stolen, Oldfather Hall, \$410.

5:04 p.m. — Rear bike tire stolen, Abel Hall, \$75.

Senior Sendoff at Wick Center tonight

From Staff Reports

Graduating seniors at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be honored today at a Senior Sendoff

sponsored by the UNL Student Alumni Association.

The wine-and-cheese reception will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wick Alumni Center.

Memorial, tribute to Evans on Saturday

From Staff Reports

A memorial celebration of the life of former economics professor Bert Evans will be in the Nebraska Union at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Evans died on March 18 from injuries suffered in a car accident

near David City.

The tributes to Mr. Evans will cover his youth, college days, professorship, economic theories and life as a farmer. The memorial service will be followed by a coffee hour to share memories of Mr. Evans.

AIDS information poor in Hispanic population

By Carissa Moffat
Staff Reporter

Inadequate distribution of AIDS information makes preventing the disease more difficult in the Hispanic community than in the rest of the population, a Department of Health official said Wednesday.

Phil Medina, a disease intervention specialist for the Nebraska Department of Health Division of Disease Control, said in a speech in the Nebraska Union that AIDS information isn't being distributed to primarily Hispanic populations.

Yet, "education is the only way we can prevent the spread of this disease," he said.

Medina said that in the United States, 26,119 Hispanics have AIDS. Of those cases, 3,359 are women and 22,760 are men, he said.

Sixteen percent of the AIDS cases in the United States are Hispanics, while that figure is 3 percent in Nebraska.

"There are so many Hispanics that need to be educated about AIDS ... and they just aren't," he said.

Medina said Hispanics' cultural differences also inhibit the AIDS education effort.

"Hispanics tend to be work-oriented; any other issue is not dealt with

“There are so many Hispanics that need to be educated about AIDS ... and they just aren't.”

Medina
Nebr. Dept. of Health

with any substance," he said. "Our culture doesn't realize the severity of it."

Liz Rodriguez of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Office of Multicultural Affairs said Hispanics also often consider the subject of sex taboo, making it difficult for issues such as AIDS to be aired in public.

Romeo Guerra, a member of the Lincoln Lancaster Minority AIDS Educational Task Force, said Hispanics typically don't use the social or health services in which AIDS education is presented.

"Prevention is kind of foreign to Hispanics," he said. "They use it as a last resort."

Guerra said one of the ways to help educate Hispanics about AIDS is by visiting their homes.

"The best approach is to get to the grass roots," he said.

GLC chairman lays groundwork for student advisory committee

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

Only a few weeks are left until the end of the school year, but newly appointed Government Liaison Committee Chairman Andrew Sigerson has plenty of plans before students head off for summer pursuits.

Sigerson said he intends to follow faculty salaries and the strengthening of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

"Faculty salaries are on the rise," he said, "but not as high as they should be in terms of our peer institutions."

Sigerson said he doesn't think there is much GLC can do about the coordinating commission this year, but he hopes to concentrate on adding a student advisory committee to the commission next year.

Even though the commission's powers will be decided this legislative session, Sigerson said, the Nebraska Legislature can add the advisory committee at any time.

"First, we have to express interest," he said, "then work with the

senators on a solution."

There is no plan drawn up for the advisory committee, but Sigerson suggested it be made up of the student government and faculty senate presidents from each campus.

"We're affected the most (by the commission), let us have the say," he said.

Capital construction projects like Richards Hall and the Beadle Center also are concerns for Sigerson.

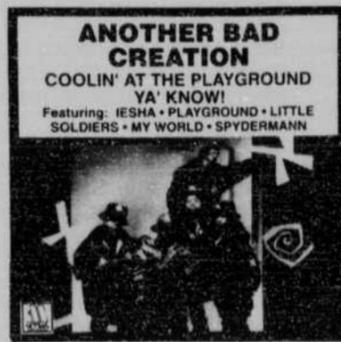
The Beadle Center, he said, would bring the University of Nebraska-Lincoln money, prestige, students and faculty members from around the world.

Sigerson said he would like to see more organizations involved in expressing student opinion to the Legislature.

He plans to speak with the Residence Hall Association and other groups, asking them to get involved.

"We need to show the Board of Regents and the Legislature that this is important to us ...," Sigerson said. "If we're going to all benefit, we're going to all have to work together."

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