

Luther

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After the debate, Luther was not satisfied, so he did more research. Since 1990, he has written five major articles and been interviewed by such publications as the New York Times and Time magazine.

Luther is trying to speak for the people, he said, and trying to find a solution to the problems of small towns.

"Frank Popper is saying 'They have failed, let go, let them collapse, let them die,'" Luther said. "What I'm doing is working very hard to bring to small towns information on how they can determine their own future."

Last semester, Luther participated in an exchange with the College of Technology in Dublin, Ireland. While there, he worked with students to design a rural village called Skibbereen.

He also traveled around Wales, Scotland and England, doing research on European rural policies.

"They have a completely different approach," he said. "You don't find a lot of ghost towns in Ireland and Great Britain. You don't find communities being abandoned."

Instead, European policies aim to preserve rural areas, he said.

Such policies devote money to rural regions for small community survival, he said.

"They are also encouraging a regional development planning, which is something that Nebraska definitely needs to look at," he said.

Luther is working with the Nebraska Development Network and the University's Center for Rural Community Revitalization to develop a policy for rural settlements in Nebraska.

"If a small community in Nebraska, or anywhere, wishes to

survive, wishes to persist, we have an obligation to work with them," he said. "They may not be willing to undertake the cost that it takes to survive, but at least we have an obligation to help them make that intelligent decision."

Last summer, Luther was the head of a national conference in Lincoln about sustainable communities. The conference brought people together to share stories of how they have kept their small towns alive.

"All they've heard before in the press is Frank Popper's 'Buffalo Commons,'" Luther said. "It's all doom and gloom, and the sky is falling, and you're going to die and wither and go away. You never hear any stories about communities that are doing OK."

"The people out in small towns in western Nebraska... read the stuff Frank Popper is saying about 'you're going to die; there's no hope,' and they're picking up and leaving."

"It fits right in with movies like 'Dances With Wolves' because it's an environmentalist solution," he said. "It's a very trendy and yuppie sort of concept."

"It's not real popular in the small towns that he's talking about eliminating."

Although a great deal of Luther's time has been spent with small towns, his other interests range in size and subject from the World's Fair to fly fishing.

He also enjoys riding his motorcycle "at the maximum permissible speed."

"It's the closest I can get to flying without leaving the ground. And after 280 combat missions in Vietnam in a helicopter, I won't fly in a small plane."

"I'm an old poker player, and I think my turn is coming."

The participants in the discussion groups emphasized that gay and lesbian students cannot overcome homophobia alone — they need help from UNL faculty and administrators.

"It's not just students' responsibility to educate," said Paul Moore, a senior speech communication major.

UNL housing low for Big 8

By Taryn Gilster
Staff Reporter

Some students will be happy to hear that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ranks seventh in the Big Eight — for housing rates.

Doug Zatechka, director of the housing office, said he was unsure why most of the other Big Eight schools' rates were higher than UNL's rates.

The estimated rankings for Big Eight housing rates, from highest to lowest, are: Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa State, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and Kansas State.

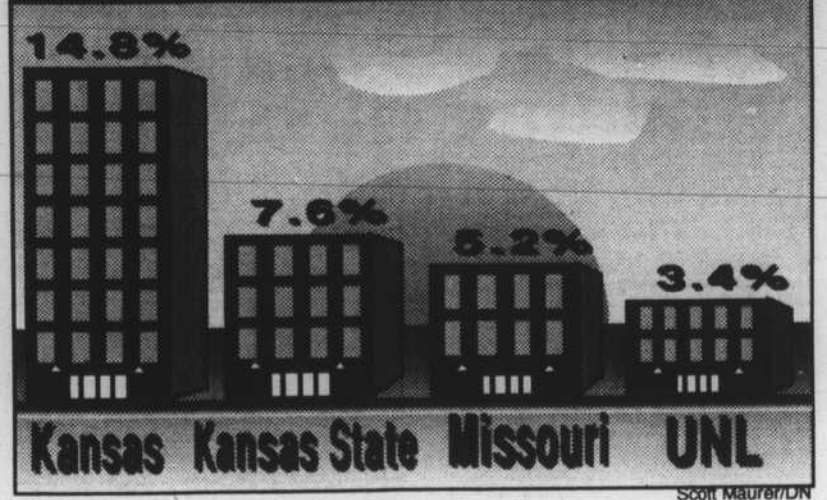
"I attribute our low cost to our management efforts to try to hold down costs for students," Zatechka said. "We work hard to keep low custodial services, conserve utilities and offer good, yet inexpensive food menus."

Housing rates at UNL were raised by 3.4 percent, or by \$95 dollars, for the 1992-93 school year.

A typical UNL residence hall room for two students, with a 20-meal plan, now costs \$2,820 a school year. With the 3.4-percent increase, next year's rates will be \$2,915, or \$10 more a month.

While UNL's rates remained low

Housing rate increases



Scott Maurer/UNL

this year, some schools, such as the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri, have increased rates dramatically.

Ken Stoner, director of housing at KU, said it was difficult to give direct reasons for the increase in rates.

"There are many reasons for the higher rates," Stoner said. "Basically we've been underpriced for so many years that any increase looks like a

big increase.

"We're still below the Big Eight average."

Zatechka said UNL's housing rates increased because of a 4-percent salary increase, effective July 1, for some employees. Zatechka said he also expected food and utility costs to rise.

"Overall, we're pleased with the small rate increase," Zatechka said. "Students have a lot of financial problems the way it is."

Regents to study Beadle bid in June

By Susie Arth
Staff Reporter

Groundbreaking for the George W. Beadle Center is scheduled to begin this summer, a UNL official said.

Irv Omtvedt, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said a date would be set after bids for construction were received and approved by the NU Board of Regents.

The board is scheduled to meet June 13 to consider the bids, he said.

Omtvedt, the administrative coordinator for the Beadle Center, said the budget for the center itself was

about \$23.7 million.

If the bid is approved, he said, construction will start immediately.

Bob Carpenter, campus architect, said he expected the bid to be about \$19 million. He said he thought the center would be completed by July 1994.

The Beadle Center, which will be located on Vine Street between 19th and 20th streets, will combine the research and education of biochemistry, biotechnology and chemical engineering in one building, Omtvedt said.

For example, he said, chemical engineers will take the research from

biochemists' test tubes and apply it for public use.

The purpose of combining these fields is to take research a step further by commercializing it, Omtvedt said.

"We want to apply our research where it can be picked up in the private sector," he said.

Total cost for the center, its greenhouses and utilities will be about \$31.6 million.

Omtvedt said the center would put UNL in an elite class of research and marketing.

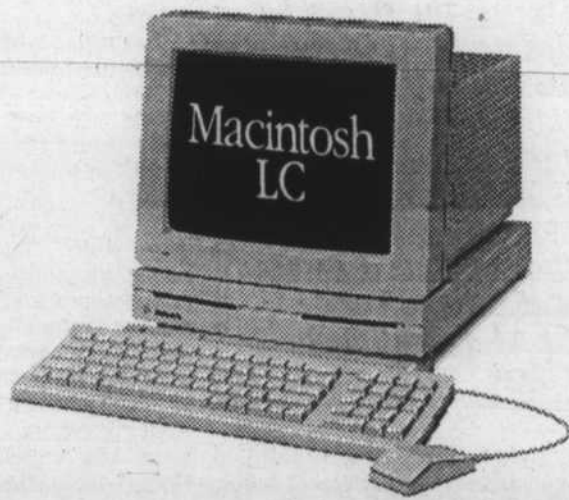
"It brings the university from a mediocre base and puts us on the cutting edge," he said.

Video

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conference. The groups were composed of UNL students, faculty and administrators.

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