

2 groups stress education to youth

Honor society, student-athletes visit area schools

By Melissa Dunne
Staff Reporter

Students from the Golden Key National Honor Society and the UNL Athletic Department kicked off a week of sharing ideas on the importance of education with elementary and junior high school students Monday.

Leading the crowd with cheers of "School, school is cool!" and "Knowledge is power!" the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Yell Squad opened the third annual "Best of America" program at Calvert Elementary School, 3709 S. 46th St.

Calvert was the first of 10 area schools to be visited by UNL students throughout the week. The presentation was broadcast live via the Nebraska ETV Network and reached about 70 elementary schools statewide.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier also gave a brief presentation.

While last year's program was geared more toward "Say No to Drugs," this year's message is more general, said Keith Zimmer, athletic/career counselor for the Hewitt Academic Center.

"We stress themes and issues that can help young people be the best they can be and do what they want to do," he said.

Debbie Dedrick, a senior pre-

med major and chairwoman of the Best of America program, said the group's messages included making positive choices, overcoming adversity and realizing one's potential.

"We try to relate our personal stories," she said. "If we can just touch one kid, we've succeeded."

Tina Cannon, assistant national program director of the Golden Key, said the group tried "to allow college students to have a positive impact on the lives of students . . . to educate them in the importance of setting goals and making decisions."

"We also like to train college and university students to serve as positive role models and to promote the value of an education," she said.

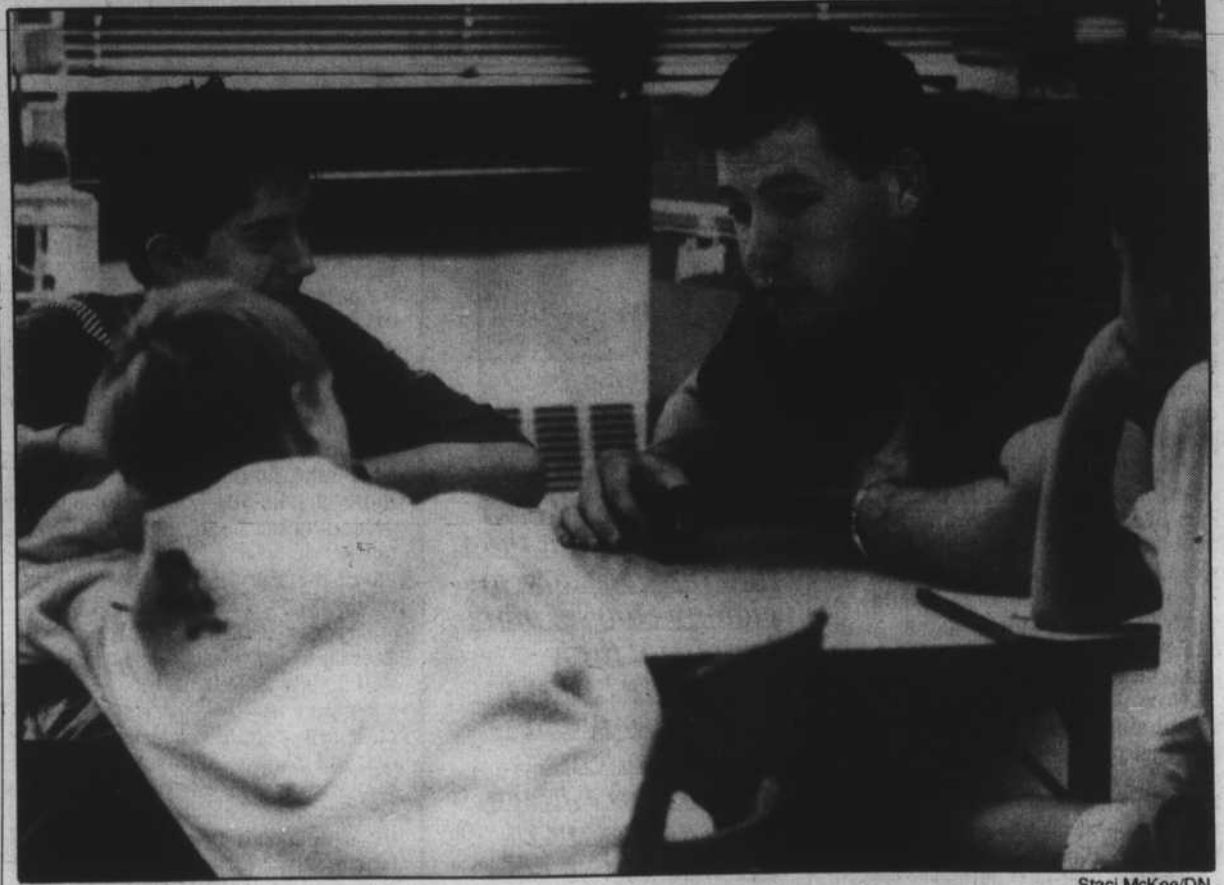
Golden Key and the athletic department also worked together last fall on National American Education Week, speaking to students at area junior high schools, Zimmer said.

"The main reason the athletic department is working with Golden Key is to send a message about teamwork and compromise," Zimmer said. "We're working together to have a positive impact on students."

Cannon said the interaction with the students gave them a variety of role models to choose from.

"It also shows . . . the importance of a well-rounded individual," she said.

"These are the years when children are learning to make decisions," Cannon said. "Before they are confronted with negative



Randolph School 6th graders Jeremiah Nichols (back, left) and Larry Hagelman listen to UNL football player Jim Scott Tuesday. Groups of UNL student-athletes and Golden Key National Honor Society members addressed elementary school students on the importance of education and goals.

Staci McKee/DN

choices, we want to give them information to confront situations and have a positive outcome."

Zimmer said elementary students were chosen as the target audience for the Best of America program because they were young enough to listen, pay attention and appreciate advice and role models.

The Best of America program began in 1986 at Florida State University in Tallahassee through its Golden Key chapter in conjunction with the athletic department,

she said.

More than 50 chapters have participated in the program this year.

Funding for the UNL chapter originated from the National Golden Key Chapter in Atlanta. Visits have been coordinated by the Ventures in Partnership program, which includes the Lincoln Public School's Special Education Department and the UNL Athletic Department.

Cannon said the amount of interest shown indicates more

people want to get involved.

"We've received an excellent response," Zimmer said. "We can never fulfill all the requests that we get. It was because of this reason that we contracted with Nebraska ETV to have a statewide program."

Dedrick said the speakers received many cards and letters expressing student appreciation.

"We get as much, if not more, out of the program than the students," she said.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday

- 12:56 a.m. — Follow up on verbal disturbance and assault, Abel Residence Hall, one person arrested.
- 6:58 a.m. — Fire alarm activated by steam leak, Selleck Quadrangle.
- 7:41 a.m. — Two-vehicle accident, 18th and Q streets, \$600.
- 8:29 a.m. — Bike cable stolen, McCollum Hall, \$14.
- 11:30 a.m. — Intoxicated non-student arrested, Nebraska Union.
- 12:00 p.m. — Purse stolen, Ne-

- braska Hall, \$53.
- 2:29 p.m. — Intoxicated non-student, 17th and Vine streets, taken to Detoxification Center, 726 K St.
- 3:43 p.m. — Intoxicated non-student, 16th and Q streets, taken to Detoxification Center, 726 K St.
- 4:17 p.m. — Two-vehicle accident, Area 20 parking lot beside the Reunion, \$900.
- 11:15 p.m. — Party trespassing in vacant house, 530 N. 19th St.
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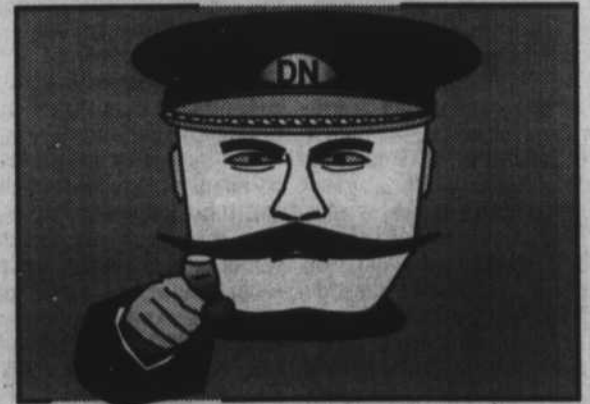
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