Tolerance is key, dean says

By Mindy Leiter Staff Reporter

Tolerance is the most important value of concern to theuniversity, John Peters, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, told a small gathering of faculty and students Friday.

"Tolerance is the ability to recognize and respect one another's beliefs and customs," Peters said. "It does not mean that you necessarily agree or sympathize with them.

Peters' speech was part of the Food for Thought and Theology for Lunch programs, sponsored by the campus ministries of St. Mark's-on-the-Campus Episcopal Church, the UNL Lutheran Center and the United Ministries in Higher Education.

Speakers in the Food for Thought program are asked to identify what they believe is the most important value facing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln today.

Peters said he learned tolerance from his mother and his experiences

struct the rear section and have it become part of the museum.

ciety and the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln summer sessions program undertook the project. Funding came

from the summer sessions teaching

composed of a kitchen, dining room

and servants' quarters, but it did not

know where they were situated, Bleed

said. By excavating the foundation,

they hoped to determine the exact

In its search, the group also discov-

The cistern contained garbage from

Several pieces of Tourney china

were found that date back to the time

"This is what the Kennard family would have used," Bleed said. He

described the china as common but

"It will be able to lead the historical society to the kind of china they want in their reconstruction," he said.

The group also found a medicine

All items uncovered are in storage

Students on the project said they

Teresa Jacobs, a student-at-large studying archeology, said she was glad she participated in the program.

"It was a good group to work with,"

Before leaving, the group made its own contribution to history. The mem-

bers added a time capsule to the cis-

tern for future archeological students

bottle from a pharmacy owned by

Thomas Kennard and a pair of shoes

and will be used in classes before

being returned to the Kennard House

found the experience enjoyable, as

and a corset from the 1920s.

well as educational.

ered a 24-foot well shaft and a cistern,

which indicated more complex plumb-

ing than had been expected.

the 1870s to the 1920s.

of the original occupants.

location of each.

The group knew the rear wing was

The Nebraska State Historical So-

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Dig

as a half-Polish, half-Moravian child growing up in an ethnically mixed Cleveland neighborhood.

"Everyone's grandmother had a heavy accent," he said. "It was just something you had to get used to."

He said his experiences at the university taught him tolerant attitudes.

You don't get to be dean of the College of Arts and Sciences without becoming tolerant," he said.

Tolerance is especially important now, Peters said, when a review of local and world events such as the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Rodney King aftermath show how intolerance is causing unrest.

"I have seen in administration how intolerant attitudes can cause a break-down in education," he said.

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to produce people who can think critically, are objective, aware, curious and flexible, Pe-

"Tolerance comes before those all,"

He said the arts and sciences college was striving to incorporate tolerance into the curriculum and make it an issue with students and faculty.

Peters said this was accomplished through faculty awareness and sensitivity toward students' attitudes.

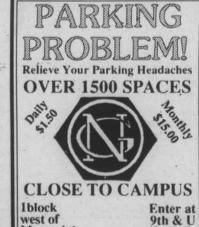
A conflict can arise in situations where one's principles limit tolerance, he said.

"I do not tolerate rigidity of the mind, left or right," Peters said. "I cannot tolerate rigid thinking through a philosophical perspective.

He said racial bigotry and genocidal thinking were other principles that could not be tolerated.

Peters has had responses, he said, from students in classes and in papers that could only be described as bigoted

'Ninety-nine percent of the time the problem is just plain ignorance," he said, and most of those problems are best solved by talking with the individual.



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