

Tolerance is key, dean says

By Mindy Leiter
Staff Reporter

Tolerance is the most important value of concern to the university, 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

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 breakdown 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, Peters said.

"Tolerance comes before those all," he said.

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.

Dig

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

The Nebraska State Historical Society and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln summer sessions program undertook the project. Funding came from the summer sessions teaching budget.

The group knew the rear wing was 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 location of each.

In its search, the group also discovered a 24-foot well shaft and a cistern, which indicated more complex plumbing than had been expected.

The cistern contained garbage from the 1870s to the 1920s.

Several pieces of Tournay china were found that date back to the time of the original occupants.

"This is what the Kennard family would have used," Bleed said. He described the china as common but classy.

"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 bottle from a pharmacy owned by Thomas Kennard and a pair of shoes and a corset from the 1920s.

All items uncovered are in storage and will be used in classes before being returned to the Kennard House museum.

Students on the project said they found the experience enjoyable, as well as educational.

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," she said.

Before leaving, the group made its own contribution to history. The members added a time capsule to the cistern for future archeological students to find.

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Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, Room 222, City Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union; or the East CAP Office, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Office should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 (phone 472-5667) before September 18, 1992 to make arrangements.

Students who have completed a refund application and returned it on or before September 25, 1992 will be mailed a check for the amount of the refund claimed. Refund checks will be mailed between the dates of September 28 and October 2, 1992.

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