

Author questions masculine role

By Kara Morrison
Senior Editor

Studying gender is not just a matter of biology, but of improving relationships, which can improve almost every aspect of a person's life, an author said Friday.

Mark Gerzon, who wrote "A Choice of Heroes: The Changing Faces of American Manhood" in 1983, said if men and women were not conscious of their own images of masculinity and femininity, they would not know themselves well enough to maintain good relationships.

Gerzon, speaking at Nebraska Wesleyan University as part of its Forum presentations, said relationships encompass physical, emotional, social, financial and professional well-being.

Gerzon likened past gender roles in America to a play in which men and women were expected to read from written scripts.

"In the '60s and '70s women said,

'We don't want these scripts' and walked off the stage," Gerzon said, "But men kept reading theirs."

Gerzon said when men finally realized that no one else was listening, they began examining their roles, only to be confused by messages that conflicted with the American archetype of masculinity.

He showed a number of advertisements in which men were depicted as heroic, aggressive, rough and competitive — traits that culminated in the most famous character in advertising: the Marlboro man of the Marlboro cigarette advertisements.

The advertising images are powerful, Gerzon said, because "they are attitudes rooted in American culture."

Gerzon said the first masculine hero in American history was that of the minuteman, a soldier who was pictured with a musket in one hand and a plow in the other.

Gerzon called this "soldier and breadwinner archetype."

In early American history, Gerzon

said, war was something men were expected to go through in their lifetimes, and boys were brought up in the soldier archetype.

Gerzon said it was this image of soldier-like, rough masculinity, which made it difficult for many people to envision homosexual men in the military.

Changes in technology and in women's roles, Gerzon said, have confused the historic American archetype of man as the soldier and breadwinner.

"Men can't prove their 'manhood' anymore by being a workaholic" when their co-worker or boss is a woman, Gerzon said, and technology in the military has changed the role of the soldier because long-range bombs put everyone in a battlefield.

Gerzon, who used to work in Hollywood as a film producer, said, "The John Wayne monopoly is over, but we are in a time when all cultural heroes are conflicting."

RHA approves smoking ban for UNL food-service areas

By George K. Stephan
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association approved a resolution Sunday recommending a smoking ban in food-service areas of residence halls.



The resolution created a lot of discussion for residence hall representatives before passing 18-5. The RHA recommendation will be taken into account by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Division of Housing.

Brad Prall, president of Selleck Hall, said that RHA needed to "protect minorities' rights."

Prall, who favored an amendment that would "significantly reduce" smoking in food-service ar-

reas, said he feared that a total ban might strike too quickly and create a sharp reaction from some residents.

Most representatives, however, said they believed that only reducing smoking areas would defeat the purpose of a smoking ban that seeks to protect other residents from the health risks of secondhand smoke.

Other RHA representatives, seeing the resolution as too important an issue to pass without the participation of individual residents, favored leaving the decision on a smoking ban to the individual residence halls.

Lawrence Gibbs, RHA vice president, said that smoking in the East Campus food service may not be affected by the ban because it is inside the East Campus Union, and any ban becomes the decision of the student unions.

3-Years

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fore entering college than the typical American student.

She said UNL students, with advanced preparation and summer school, could complete their degree in three years.

But, she said, "there's no program available at UNL that can be packaged very well as a three-year degree."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said several medical schools in the United States switched to a three-year program in order to speed up the number of doctors entering the work force.

"I think that every one of those schools switched back to four years," he said.

Griesen said neither the students nor the faculty at the medical schools were satisfied with the three-year programs.

"Too much of it was going by in a

big blur," he said.

Griesen said time to mature, grow and assimilate knowledge was important.

He said with a three-year program, students would miss out on valuable things such as internships, campus activities and part-time work.

Changing to a three-year curriculum would take away from these experiences, he said.

"I'll not deny the economics of it," he said. "But it's definitely not for most students."

E-Mail

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messages.

Increasing availability and other developments will cause E-mail to radically alter the way UNL operates in the future, Liss said.

E-mail has developed far beyond simply being a means of sending messages, Liss said. In the future, she said, professors will be able to stop having office hours and will be able to set up meetings, receive and grade papers through E-mail. Such functions are known as "mail-enabled applications," she said.

Students also will be able to obtain materials from the library through E-mail, Liss said.

As the price of the technology drops, she said, students may even attend classes carrying portable com-

"I'd like to see UNL, in a couple of years, be at the point where every faculty, staff member and student has E-mail."

— Spanier
UNL chancellor

puters with a list of their schedules, syllabi and assignments stored in memory banks.

In a 1992 vision statement, the UNL Academic Senate Computational Committee also mentioned the probability of increased use of laptop computers by students. The statement says that, as the use of facilities such as E-mail increases, information resources "will become globally avail-

able through worldwide electronic networks making network access and information display as valuable to scholars as library access."

This process has already begun. UNL is a member of Internet, an international organization for E-mail users funded by the National Science Foundation. About 5 million computers are linked to the Internet system, Liss said, providing unrivaled communication facilities to researchers.

William Lewis, chairman and associate professor of mathematics, said every member of the math department has an E-mail account. Many use them for research project communications all over the world, he said.

Stephen Hilliard, chairman and professor of English, said faculty in the English department also use E-mail, but the department is "still on the up-scale of the learning curve."

Aid

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"It's no longer to one's advantage to be independent. It's to one's advantage to be dependent," he said. "Middle (income) Americans are really going to benefit."

In contrast, he said, the financial contribution expected of married independent students without children would increase.

The standard maintenance allowance for these students would be \$3,000 if both are enrolled and \$6,000 if one was enrolled. These figures are less than previous deductions, which were at least \$8,000 per student.

The expected contribution for single independent students and inde-

pendent students with children would remain similar to this year, he said.

Borrowing limits for Federal Stafford Loans have been raised for all students after the first year, in accordance with Congress' attempt to increase student access to financial aid.

For 1992-93, sophomores could borrow up to \$2,625. In 1993-94 they may borrow up to \$3,500. Borrowing limits for juniors and seniors will be raised from \$4,000 to \$5,500.

Congress also implemented the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program. The program requires no demonstration of need by students, but requires payments on the loan's interest during the student college career.

Under the regular Federal Stafford Loan program, the government pays

the loan's interest while the student remains in school.

Despite some initial confusion about the new regulations, Beacon said he expected the financial aid process to operate similarly to past years.

"We're very comfortable we've made correct assumptions," Beacon said. "We don't expect students to be impacted by it. We're going about business as usual."

Beacon said the new forms have been simplified and students need to fill out only one application for all federal loans, instead of separate forms for different loans, as in past years.

"Hopefully, it will be a little easier and take a little less time," Beacon said.

Budget

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to \$4.7 billion in five years, according to the General Accounting Office.

"If the system works, there would be significant savings to the taxpayer," Beacon said. "You've eliminated the middleman."

But Beacon said the proposal should be considered carefully.

Private banks are efficient, driven by competition. A direct-lending program would take the competitive edge away from the student-loan business.

Beacon said national leaders should consider the trade-off between the loss of reliable relations with private banks and the gain of savings for students.

"Banks have been good partners for us," Beacon said. "Take away the competitive edge and are you going to get the kind of service and delivery you get from banks?"

A final proposal, national service, could be key in reducing the number of students who fail to pay back their loans, Beacon said.

The proposal would let students work off their debts after graduation through service to the government.

Beacon said the idea would be good for some students who get out of college and can't find a job.

Those students would be given a job, experience and a way to pay off their debts.

But Beacon said the government might be stuck with recent graduates who are unproductive or try to "slide

by" until their debt is worked off.

A lot of details of the plan have to be worked out, he said.

Beacon said he had some reservations about one aspect of the commission's proposal, the proposed increase in the money available to students. All students would be eligible for up to \$14,000 per year in grants and loans. Currently, the limit for the first-year loan is \$2,625.

"I see these limits going up and up and up," he said.

If students are offered more money, they'll probably use it even though they could have gotten by on a lesser amount, Beacon said.

"People have to see they have to someday pay that back and not borrow more than they need to borrow," he said.

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