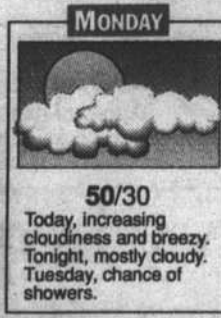


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Official calls diversity conference successful

By Jeffrey Robb
Staff Reporter

The racial and ethnic mini-conference held Saturday in the Nebraskan Union was mostly successful, one university official said.

John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, said about 250 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, staff and faculty, as well as members of the Lincoln community, attended the conference that was co-sponsored by Harris' office and the Racial Action Pluralism Action Team.

Harris said the conference had three times more people than last fall's diversity retreat, and all racial and ethnic groups on campus were represented.

"It shows that people on campus are concerned about what's going on," he said, "and I hope they want to make it better."

He said each group gave excellent evaluations of the conference, and everyone gained new perspectives to carry with them into the world.

"People were there bright and early at 8 o'clock, ready to begin the conference," he said. "With 200 people waiting in line for registration packets on a Saturday morning, it

was amazing."

Gary Doyle, a junior business administration major, helped coordinate the conference.

"There are a lot of issues on this campus that faculty and students tend to ignore," he said, "and a conference like this brings the issues out into the open."

"People need to get a new perspective and try to see where others are coming from," he said.

Harris said the conference's main attractions included panel discussions and a video festival.

One discussion was called "My Reality: A Perspective of Life for Minority Students at

UNL." Eight minority students shared their experiences and showed their view of reality, Harris said. The discussion was "eye-opening," he said.

Another discussion, titled "Gifts of Religious Diversity," addressed students' different methods of worship.

Harris said he was pleased with the conference, but he wished there didn't need to be one.

"If we do the things we should do as a college, diversity would be in the curriculum and in everyday college life.

"Until we get to that point, we will go on."

Grant gives ag students chance for foreign study

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

A retired UNL dean has established a grant for majors related to agriculture as an opportunity for undergraduate students to study in other countries.

Robert W. Kleis, retired executive dean of international affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and his wife, Beatrice, provided the \$105,450 grant to allow students to experience on-site international study.

"Many students could benefit greatly from this experience, but cannot afford to go," Kleis said.

The Kleis International Study Travel Grant Program would enable students, who otherwise would lack the funds to travel, to enjoy a broadening experience, he said.

Kleis came to the university in 1966 as head of the agricultural engineering department, which is now biological systems engineering.

Before his last position in 1987 at UNL, Kleis was an associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, which is now the Agricultural Research Division, and dean of the International Programs Division in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"I spent a lot of good years at the university, and I feel very strongly about the programs it offers, especially the international one," Kleis said.

Jack Schinstock, assistant dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said the college was very grateful to the Kleis family for making the funds available.

"We have a significant interest in the program now," Schinstock said. "But, hopefully, the grant will generate more interest."

The grant will subsidize expenses associated with a foreign program for credit, Schinstock said.

Students applying for the grant must be enrolled at UNL in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or any other major at UNL which is related to agriculture, Schinstock said.

The grant requires students to be residents of Nebraska and to have completed a minimum of 40 semester hours toward a bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or above for all college courses taken.

Kleis said students must also be working to provide a minimum of 10 percent of the cost of their college education, said.

"The grant should go to students who are contributing to their own education," he said.

Schinstock added that the number of grants would be limited annually by the amount of net income available from the fund.



Damon Lee/DN

Treven Stutheit, a Lincoln High School senior, puts up soffit panels on the Lincoln High project house during his applied residential construction class Friday afternoon. Three LHS classes are working on the house near 23rd and V streets.

If you build it . . .

Lincoln high school students earn credit for building houses

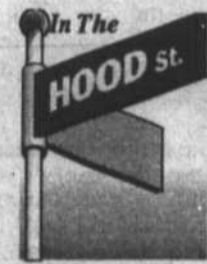
By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

For two or three days each week, students from two Lincoln high schools leave their classrooms and gather at 23rd and U streets.

But they're not skipping class. In fact, they receive credit for being there — from their schools and residents of the neighborhood.

The students spend about an hour at the site working together,

building a house.



High School, began teaching Applied Residential Construction.

The meetings have been going on at various sites in Lincoln since 1983, when Eric Knoll, an instructor at Lincoln

Since then, Knoll and students enrolled in the class have completed nine houses, and are working on their 10th — one house per year.

Knoll said the class was targeted at students interested in construction as a career, although it could be helpful for anyone planning to own a home.

The class gives students a firsthand look at the process of building houses, from the paperwork involved in applying for leases and loans to City Planning

Commission meetings, and finally the actual construction.

Every project, Knoll said, is finished within the school year.

"The house we're building this year should be finished by the end of May," he said. "It would have been sooner, but we didn't start construction until November because we were held up in the planning stage."

Once the houses are completed,

See HOUSES on 3

UNL, LPS work together to bring technology to schools

By Mindy Leiter
Staff Reporter

The UNL industrial education program is cooperating with Lincoln Public Schools to bring technology into public schools.

Steve Johnston, a UNL industrial arts graduate assistant, said the industrial education program used technology to encourage student interest in the industrial arts.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln participation in such events as LPS's

"Early Childhood Celebration," held Saturday at Pershing Auditorium, encourages student interest in industrial technology, Johnston said.

"The main benefit of such programs is that we get to market our programs and show students what we do," he said.

Johnston said about 1,000 children attended the childhood fair. He said many of them stopped by the UNL industrial arts' booth to make aluminum baseball bats using computer technology and plastic

molds.

Dennis Van Horn of LPS said the emphasis of such events was to get young students to see technology as a way of life.

"We want to get them involved in the technology before they can begin to fear it," he said.

He said that students would have an easier time looking at vocational opportunities in their junior high and high school years if they were exposed to technology in their youth.

Neil Edmunds, professor of

vocational and adult education, said curricular development was also a concern of the industrial arts department.

"We try to make sure teachers will be prepared to use the technology in the schools," he said.

He said the industrial arts department has instituted a curriculum and instruction program with graduate and student teachers to train them in the new technology.

See INDUSTRIAL on 3