



Students say learning should replace grades

Minority teachers are also needed

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Too much emphasis is placed on grades and test scores in school, a Nebraska Wesleyan University student told a National Educational Goals Panel that met in the Nebraska Union Tuesday.

"We really need to change the focus to learning," Charles Lieske, a NWU political science and commu-

nication major, said.

About 25 students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NWU, Union College, Southeast Community College and Lincoln Pius X High School offered similar suggestions to panel members Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer and Carol Rasco, chief domestic adviser to President Clinton.

Romer said he agreed that grades played too heavily in education. He compared education to his pilot training and said experience was a bigger part of education.

"No one was concerned about grades," he said. "The pilots' license was the important thing."

College admittance revolves completely around grades and competition, which doesn't necessarily help the students, he said.

"Grades become the object," he said. "I've got to put my brother down in order to get in — society should not be that way."

Rasco said competition could still exist without hurting the students educationally.

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There can still be that competition without having to see who gets so many A's and so many B's.

—Rasco

President Clinton's Chief domestic adviser

tion without having to see who gets so many A's and so many B's," she said.

Nelson also said testing was looked at too much in higher education. One reason is because it is an easy, yet not always effective, way to gauge where students stand academically.

"We know how to measure test scores," Nelson said. "Are we teaching people to be good citizens or to get good grades?"

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Neighbors glad to see downfall of Cherry Hut

By Andrea Kaser
Staff Reporter

The time has come for the Cherry Hut's last hurrah.

The party hall at 421 W. Dawes Ave., a common sight for student parties, will be torn to the ground by the end of the month, its new owner said.

"When it happens, the neighbors will all cheer and the students will all cry," said Bill Kennedy, a homebuilder who bought the land.

One neighbor is cheering already. Ted Koperski, 331 W. Dawes Ave., said the news of the doomed Cherry Hut made his day.

"It's been a big pain in the neck," Koperski said.

He said he had been left to clean up after the partygoers for the 12 years he had lived in his home.

They would leave beer bottles and other litter in his yard, he said.

"It's a good riddance, because underage kids were drinking in there," Koperski said.

While the neighbors look forward to the demolition, students are trying to find alternative sites to party off campus.

Andy O'Connor, a member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, said the Cherry Hut was a good place to have parties where two or more houses converged.

His house had more parties there than in bars, he said. But now his fraternity has little chance of finding a comparable site.

"All of a sudden, it's 'boom' — they close it down, then it's back to the bar scene," O'Connor said.

Although O'Connor said he didn't condone underage drinking, freshmen like himself and sophomores were shut out of the bars and wouldn't be able to celebrate with their upperclass friends on occasions such as pinning ceremonies.

But the new owner said the sale wasn't a ploy against students having a good time.

"I'm trying to build houses for families, and that (partying) has nothing to do with it," he said.

Kennedy is always looking for places to build houses, he said, and after seeing the empty lots across from the Cherry Hut, he thought he would make an offer to its owner, Tommy Jelsma, who also owns the Royal Grove Nite Club.

Jelsma said the hall was the original Royal Grove, opened by his grandmother in the early 1930s after the end of Prohibition. The building is old and decrepit, and the roof is sagging, he said.

Jelsma said the Cherry Hut wasn't making enough money, and he wanted to save himself from the expenses of lawn care and real estate taxes.

"We feel it's probably time to get the building torn down," Jelsma said. However, he said he was aware that students would miss the building.

"Quite a few students will have a lot of good memories there," he said.

A fraternity will have the last party there Saturday, Jelsma said, and the property officially changes hands Monday. Kennedy said he planned to clear the building that week.

The price is not yet public record, and Kennedy declined to say how much he paid for the property. Kennedy plans to build 16 moderately-priced houses, he said.



Kiley Timperley/DN

Ken Dewey, a meteorology professor at UNL, uses his weather-chasing as an educational tool. "I am literally living my field of study," he said.

Storm chaser Weather keeps professor running

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

Ken Dewey is a weather weenie. No, no, it's OK. He doesn't mind the title. In fact, he gave it to himself.

A weather weenie, the UNL geography professor and department co-chairman said, is someone who loves to follow severe weather to decipher how it works and what it can do.

"We belong to a 'quasi-support group' of weather weenies," he said. "Officially, so it sounds good, we call ourselves storm

chasers." Dewey and fellow storm chasers travel all over the country in search of violent storms and wild geographic occurrences,

such as mudslides or floods.

He's raced after tornadoes and thunderstorms. He's studied the effects Hurricane Hugo had on Puerto Rico.

He's even been to Atlanta to see a blizzard, Arizona to witness flash flooding and California to check out a massive mudslide.

He's worked as a consultant for the Weather Channel and recently had the opportunity to tour the cable television station.

Yep. He's seen just about every natural and weather event known to man.

And it's all in the name of education.

Unlike some weather weenies, who Dewey says chase after hurricanes and tornadoes for a personal high, the professor passes on his experiences chasing severe storms and bizarre geographical occurrences to others — namely, his geography, climatology and meteorology students at UNL.

See DEWEY on 6

Fair sponsors working to stir earth awareness

Eco-fair to educate using bands, speakers, displays

By Doug Kouma
Staff Reporter

Environmental awareness will take center stage Thursday as several UNL organizations observe Earth Day 1993 at an "eco-fair" around Broyhill Fountain.

"It's an educational blitz," said Dave Regan, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Environmental Resource Center. "Education is a year-round thing, but this is a time when you can get everybody all at once to start talking about something in a more coordinated way."

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If you don't take care of where you live, someday you might not have a place to live.

—Wray

Ecology Now treasurer

The fair is sponsored by Ecology Now and the ERC. The theme is "Stand Up for What You Stand On," and the fair will feature special displays, guest speakers and entertainment from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Gov. Ben Nelson will speak on environmental issues affecting Nebraska at 10:30 a.m., while Glen Schumann, assistant director of UNL Housing, will speak on residence hall conservation programs at 7:30 p.m.

If it rains, both presentations will be moved to the Nebraskan Union Ballroom.

Exhibits featuring an electric car, high-efficiency light and a solar motor will be displayed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other organizations that will have exhibits include Ecology Now, the UNL Wildlife Club and the Nebraska Vegetarian Society.

Local bands — the Yardapes, Tadpole Paddywack and the Penguins of Destruction — will play from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

Galen Wray, treasurer of Ecology Now and an organizer of the fair, said he thought it was important for people to take part in the events.

"If you don't take care of where you live," he said, "someday you might not have a place to live."

He stressed that young people in particular should be concerned about the environment.

"I think it's important for college students to be involved because they are old enough to take responsibility for their actions, and they are young enough to have a stake in it," Wray said. "Basically, they are protecting their future."

In addition to the fair on campus, Wray said, an "Earth Track" hike will take place at Chet Ager Nature Center in Pioneers Park from 6 to 7:30 p.m.