

Nelson

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Mike Gaither, a NWU sophomore elementary education major, said his biggest complaint with secondary education was the lack of minority instructors.

“If I had a minority teaching me history or English, not just P.E., I would have been more well-rounded,” he said.

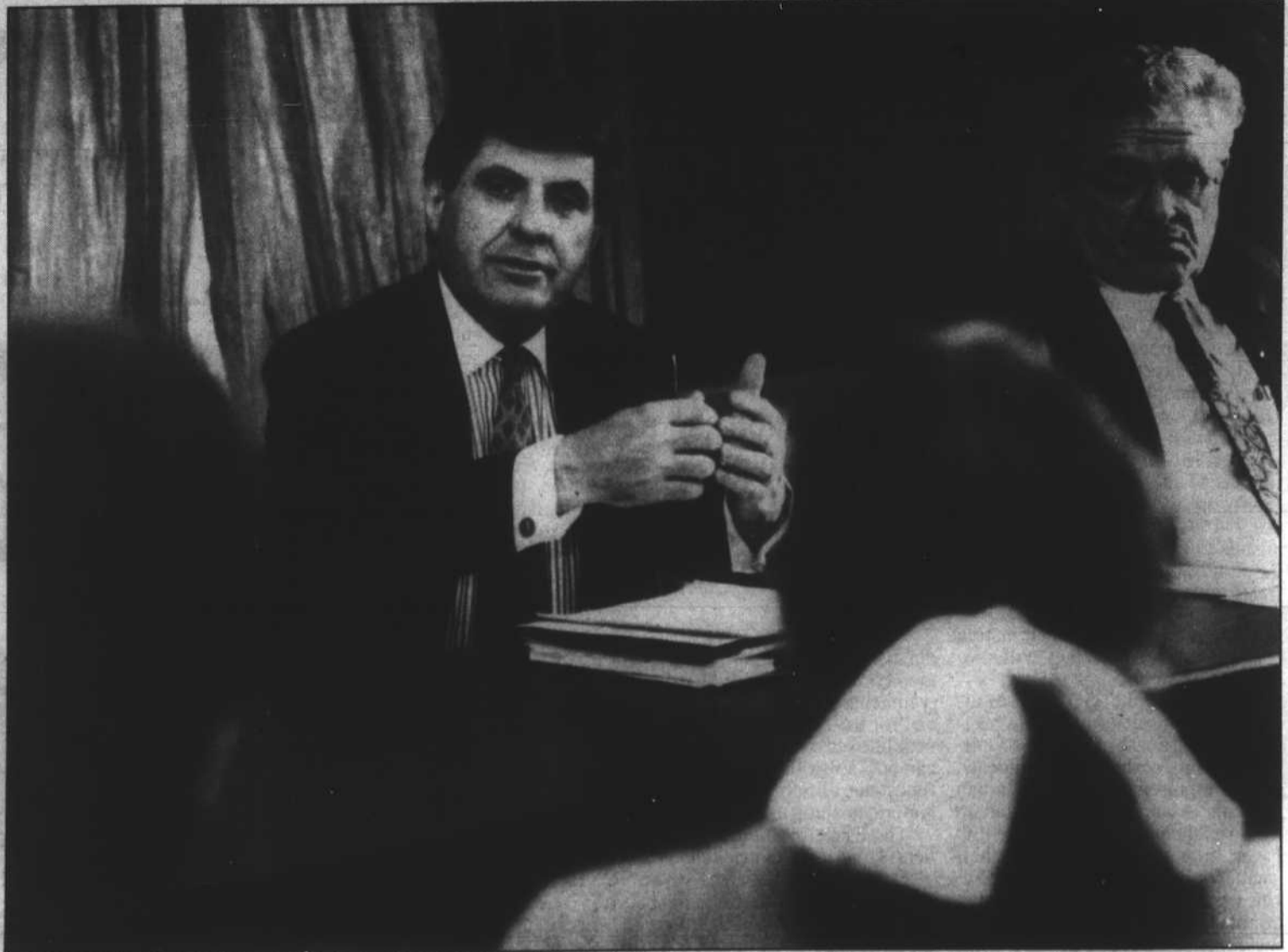
Gaither said many African Americans thought they couldn't teach because they didn't see any role models when they were in school.

“The education system needs minorities pretty badly,” he said. “This world was not built on one perspective. When I teach history, I might see it from a different perspective.”

Another improvement to education would be getting more parental involvement, Trent Steele, a UNL junior secondary education major, said.

“There's no substitute for parental involvement,” he said.

Rasco said parents do need to become involved. College students should remember that before they become parents, she said.



Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson discusses educational goals Tuesday with university and high school students as part of the Lincoln Conference on National Education Goals. Colorado Gov. Roy Romer is to the right.

Dewey

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Dewey, a 20-year veteran at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, brings proof of his exploits back to the classroom to share with his students in the form of photographs and slides.

“I am literally living my field of study,” he said.

The purpose of his storm chasing and his travels, Dewey said, was to educate people about watching out for dangerous weather and to provide information on how to prepare for it.

“It's a really exciting experience,” he said.

But there's also a downside to storm chasing, Dewey said. Often he will see suffering victims of violent weather, like he did after the 1980 tornado barrage that rocked Grand Island.

Dewey was a rescue volunteer and documented much of the damage with his camera.

“I can take my camera and take pictures of hurricanes and tornadoes because I'm there helping people,” he said. “There's knowledge that can come of those situations that I can take out and give to other people. If taking pictures of tornadoes and tornado damage makes people become more cautious, then I'm saving lives.”

He hustles to the scene of nasty storms to help inform the general public — and his students, he said.

“I do it as education — I bring it back to my students. (Storm chasing) does excite me, but I'm not unlike a surgeon — it's exciting what he or she is doing, but they're learning from it,” Dewey said. “A surgeon's not happy that they're bringing more and more bodies into the operating room. But they're happy that they're helping people — that's my position with storm chasing.”

Instead of relying on books, Dewey is out to experience weather phenomena firsthand — to bring his classes alive with explosive visuals and imagery.

The photos Dewey shows in class always weed out the weather weenie wannabes, he said.

“We have a group of students every semester who absolutely plea to be a part of our chase group,” Dewey said.

Though he's never been injured by severe weather, he said one of his students' cars was struck by lightning, frying his hand that was holding a ham radio microphone.

Storm chasing is best used as an educational tool, he said.

From a simple photograph of a thunderstorm cloud, Dewey said, he can inform students about thunderstorm structure and the actual progression and development of a tornado.

“I'm looking for an effective way to teach.

... That's the whole point of teaching,” he said.

Dewey said he would like to implement a course dedicated solely to storm chasing — a Weather Weenie 101, so to speak. He said a similar class was offered at Arizona State University and was worth one credit.

“Someday we hope to have a class, but I don't know if the university will think this is a good idea,” he said.

Dewey said UNL's so-called 'storm chasing club' was unsanctioned and unendorsed by the university, and was merely a loose association of students, with Dewey acting as a mentor.

“It's totally unofficial,” he said. “All I'm doing is providing a group of students who want to stormchase and giving them the guidance and information on how to safely go out and stormchase.

“Then they're on their own.”

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POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Friday

- 1:08 a.m. — Accident, parking lot at 17th street between R and Vine streets, \$650.
- 1:18 a.m. — False fire alarm, Love Library.
- 1:32 a.m. — Compact disc player stolen, parking lot at Harper-Schramm-Smith, \$280 loss, \$500 damage.
- 2:53 a.m. — Disturbance, Selleck Hall.
- 1:24 p.m. — Checks stolen, Agriculture Hall, \$1.
- 8:58 p.m. — Baseball broke car window, Beltzer Baseball Field, \$25.
- 10:55 p.m. — Parking gate arm stolen, University Health Center, \$25.

Beginning midnight Saturday

- 12:55 a.m. — Glass broken on fire box, Abel Hall, \$10.
- 2:47 a.m. — Bike stolen, Selleck Hall, \$400.
- 9:35 a.m. — Fire doors unsecured, Love Library.
- 3:47 p.m. — Disturbance, Nebraska Union.
- 4:36 p.m. — Fire alarm malfunction, Henzlik Hall.

Beginning midnight Sunday

- 11:47 a.m. — Entrance door damaged, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, 420 University Terrace, \$200.
- 12:22 p.m. — Car damaged, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, 519 N. 16th St., \$100.
- 3:27 p.m. — Trash-can fire, Schramm Hall.