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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

THURSDAY

66/48

Today, mostly sunny and continued mild. Slight chance of rain for Friday.

ATHLETICS



Education panel brainstorms solutions

Standardization limits compromise, researcher says

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor
and Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

The National Educational Goals Panel discussed problems of the nation's schools and six goals to begin solving them Wednesday on UNL's East Campus.

The group, meeting in the Nebraska Educational Television building, included Govs. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Roy Romer of Colorado, John McKernan of Maine and Terry Branstadt of Iowa.

Carol Rasco, chief domestic advisor to President Bill Clinton, and Madeline Kunin, deputy education secretary, also participated in the discussion.

The panel's goal is to achieve six major objectives by the year 2000. They are:

- to make all children in America begin school ready to learn.
- to increase the high school graduation rate to 90 percent.
- to ensure all students are prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning and productive employment.
- to make U.S. students first in the world in scientific and mathematical achievement.
- to eliminate drugs and violence from all American schools.
- and to offer an environment conducive to learning.

The panel passed Branstadt's resolution to set a 90 percent rate as the panel's goal for graduation. Branstadt moved to implement a uniform set of core data elements so graduation rates could be gauged equally between states.

Branstadt said statistics vary, so a uniform set of data was needed. "The way it is today, it's not always standardized," he said.

The group also expressed a desire to lead the nation in developing a standardized curriculum.

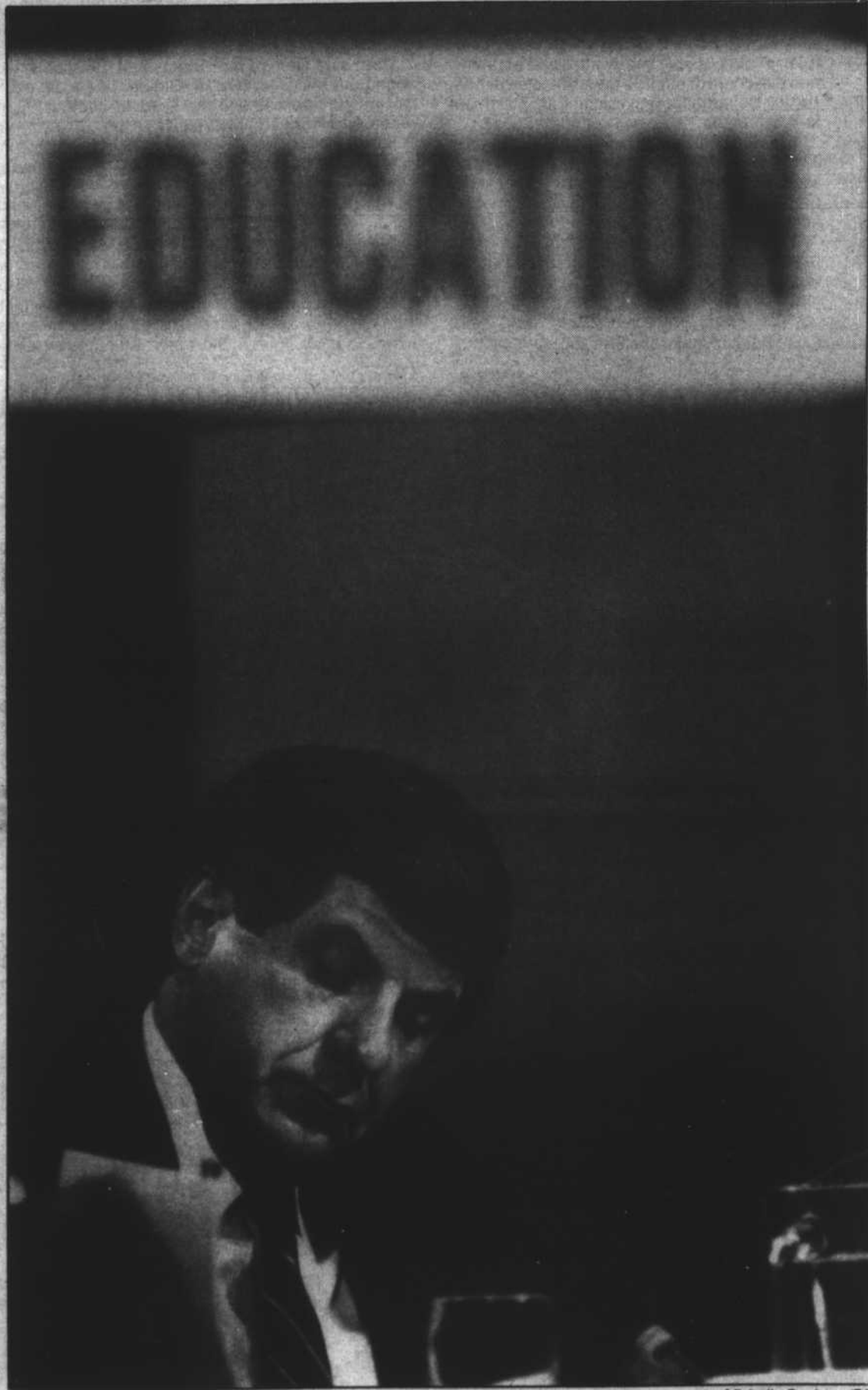
Diane Massell, a research associate and co-author of a report on the issue, said the group would encounter three problems with standardization.

For example, she said, a broad consensus for such a plan would be difficult to assemble. A standard curriculum will never please everyone, she said.

"A barometer of leadership and change is a certain amount of discontent," Massell said.

"If too many compromises are struck and controversies are avoided, we may be left with the same de facto standards we have now," she said.

A second problem the panel will need to look at is involving



Gov. Ben Nelson studies a report during a meeting of the National Education Goals Panel Wednesday. The group discussed goals for integrating technology and a standardized curriculum in the nation's schools.

Michelle Paulman/DN

enough people in decisions on what would be the content of a new curriculum.

Massell said states that had focused on including many groups in the process were more successful.

A final problem the group

should consider, she said, was reconciling the desire to have dynamic curriculum at the forefront of the nation and the risk of changes overwhelm the system.

Massell said states that had adopted new standards often left teachers without textbooks to

teach.

In other business, the panel discussed the role of technology in today's classrooms.

Janet Kuehl, a German teacher from Omaha Westside High

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Some greeks plan earlier initiation for new members

Pledge programs becoming shorter

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Traditional pledge program schedules at some fraternities and sororities are growing shorter.

Beginning next fall, two University of Nebraska-Lincoln sororities — Alpha Delta Pi and Kappa Alpha Theta — will abandon the conventional semester-long pledge programs and install five-week schedules for their newest members.

They will join two UNL fraternities that also have shortened or abandoned their respective pledge programs.

Julie Sederson, pledge trainer for Alpha Delta Pi, said her house was changing to a four-week pledge program, as dictated by the sorority's national office, but could not comment on the details of the change.

Melanie Bills, president of Kappa Alpha Theta, said her house was changing to a five-week program. She said the change was a result of a national policy.

"We're the last Theta chapter to adopt it," she said.

Bills said the shortened program promoted all-house unity and made the new members feel more comfortable.

"They won't be treated as pledges," she said. "They are immediate members of the house."

Bills also said the shortened program would give the house an edge during rush.

"It's a good thing," she said. "At first we didn't want to switch, but now we're really excited."

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of greek affairs at UNL, said fraternity and sorority chapters throughout the country had been employing shorter pledge programs.

In some cases, she said, they've abandoned the pledge process entirely.

At UNL, Anderson said, fraternities and sororities are urged to wait until the second semester to activate pledges.

UNL's Interfraternity/Panhellenic constitution states that a student must obtain a grade point average before they are activated.

"We encourage heartily to implement the shorter pledge program, but not initiate new members until the second semester," she said.

If there is a conflict between a fraternity's or sorority's national office and a university's greek constitution, the constitution would have priority.

However, members of two UNL fraternities don't see it that way.

See PLEDGES on 6

Fraternity members work to keep fights in the ring

By Matt Woody
Staff Reporter

Organizers of the Sigma Chi Greek Fight Night say this year they aren't pulling any punches.

The annual event, now more than 10 years old, has been battered by problems in the past. While fraternity members duked it out in the ring, audience members would take to fighting in the stands.

Jeff Moeller, co-chairman of the event, said there were no problems last year, and he didn't

Sheriffs, security officers to be on hand

expect any this year.

Moeller said the fights might have been a result of the drinking that accompanied the boxing matches.

Last year, he said, alcohol was eliminated at the event. This may have prevented fights from breaking out in the audience.

But Moeller said another factor weighed into the crowd's passivity.

"If it happened again, then we wouldn't be

able to have the fights," he said.

To make sure outbreaks do not make a comeback this year, six Lancaster County sheriffs and four Wells-Fargo security officers will be on hand, Moeller said.

As of Wednesday, about 30 people had signed up to participate in the fights, Moeller said. Allowing for no-shows, 13 or 14 fights should take place, he said.

Attendance never has been a problem,

Moeller said. He expects a crowd of approximately 2,500 people to turn out for the fights.

"We easily sell out," he said.

Sigma Chi had to obtain state "bout permits" as well as insurance from the Amateur Boxing Federation. ABF representatives will be on hand to make sure all rules are followed, he said.

Participants are required to wear headgear and gloves. This rule is one of many safety regulations Sigma Chi must enforce for the

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