

Earth Day teaches environment issues

Students acquire awareness through displays, speakers

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

To Sara McLaughlin, a freshman environmental studies major, Earth Day means more than booths around Broyhill Fountain; it is a chance to learn about current environmental issues.

"I found the fair very informative and helpful," McLaughlin said. "I got a lot of interesting pamphlets about environmental organizations on campus. I also thought it was a great way to promote Earth Day."

The blazing sun and summer-like weather made conditions perfect for McLaughlin and other students who attended the Earth Day Fair on Monday.

"The purpose of the fair is to educate people about the problems that we face and about the changes we can make in our lifestyle to promote a sustainable earth," said Mark Peterson, president of Ecology Now.

The Earth Day Fair, sponsored by Ecology Now, included information booths, technology displays and guest speakers, including Gov. Ben Nelson.

Booths at the event provided information about the environmental organizations on campus and in the Lincoln area.

"I think students can see the changes they can make in their own lifestyles," Peterson said. "Maybe they can see that by using efficient lighting or by seeing the vegetarian booth, students can realize how they can help the environment."

Other booths at the fair included Rainforest

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— Sedlacek
freshman advertising major

Action Network, Wildlife Club and Citizen Action.

Karma Magnuson, a freshman environmental studies major and a member of the UNL Wildlife Club, said she thought the fair was a good source of education for students.

"The programs and pamphlets offered help to educate. Even if people are just here to wander around, it shows the real education is outside of class," she said.

Technology displays at the fair included an electric car, tire recycling and energy-efficient lighting.

Jeff Riggert, a representative from Energy Solutions International, demonstrated the benefits of energy-efficient lighting. In Riggert's demonstration, a kilowatt meter was used to compare energy-efficient light bulbs to a regular light bulb.

"I want students to be aware of how they can save money by changing their light bulbs," he said.

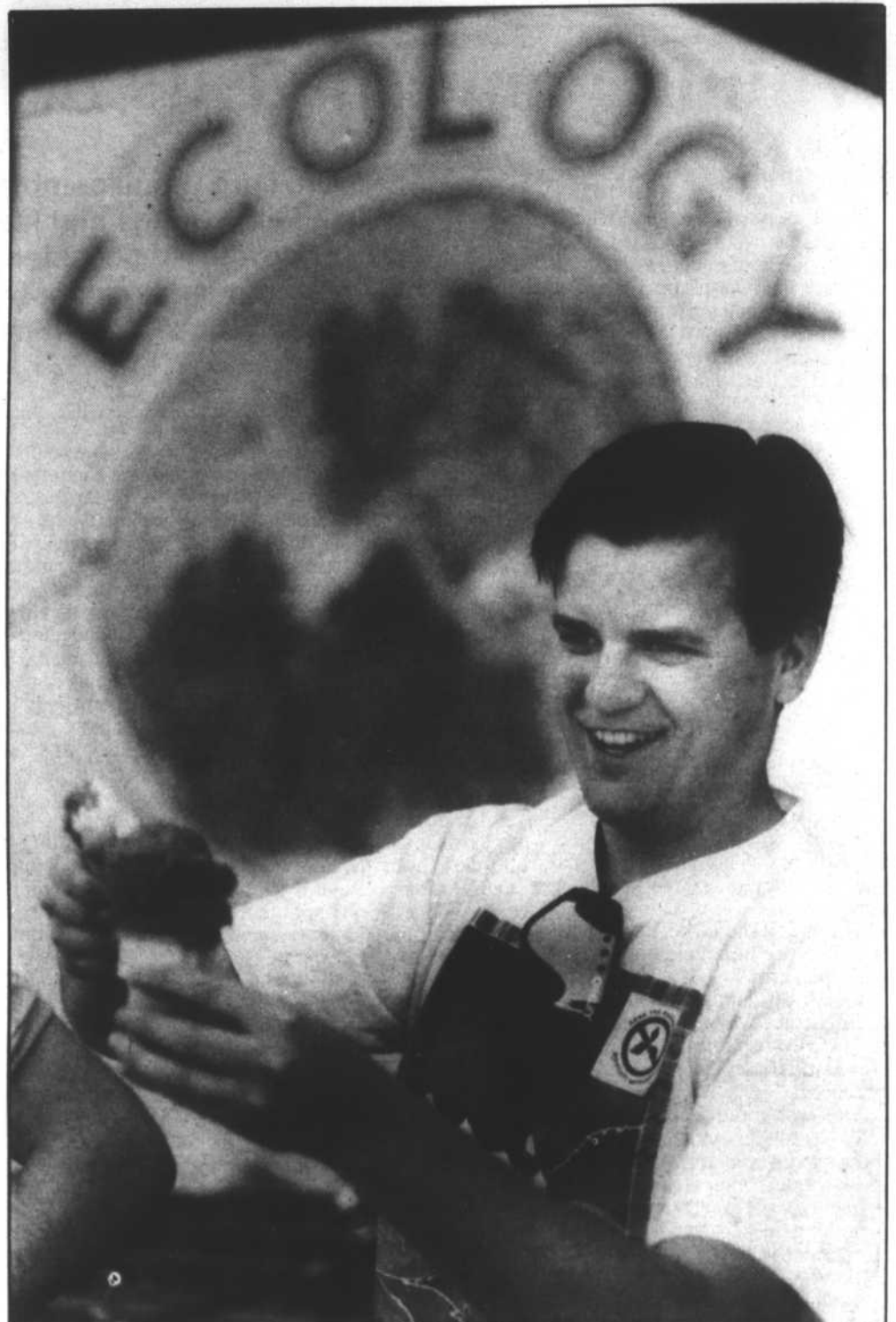
Speakers throughout the day addressed recycling at UNL, population growth and a variety of other issues.

Amy Sedlacek, a freshman advertising major, said the fair helped raise environmental awareness on campus.

"This is a good opportunity for people to learn how to make a difference," Sedlacek said.

Chad Pierce, a freshman international affairs major, agreed.

"It was beneficial because it helped inform students who haven't been exposed to things like this before."




Jeff Haller/DN

Eric Moss, an electrical engineering graduate student, serves up frozen fruit sorbet cones with a smile Monday at Broyhill Plaza.

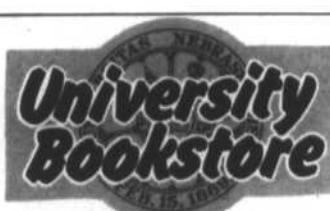
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


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