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THURSDAY

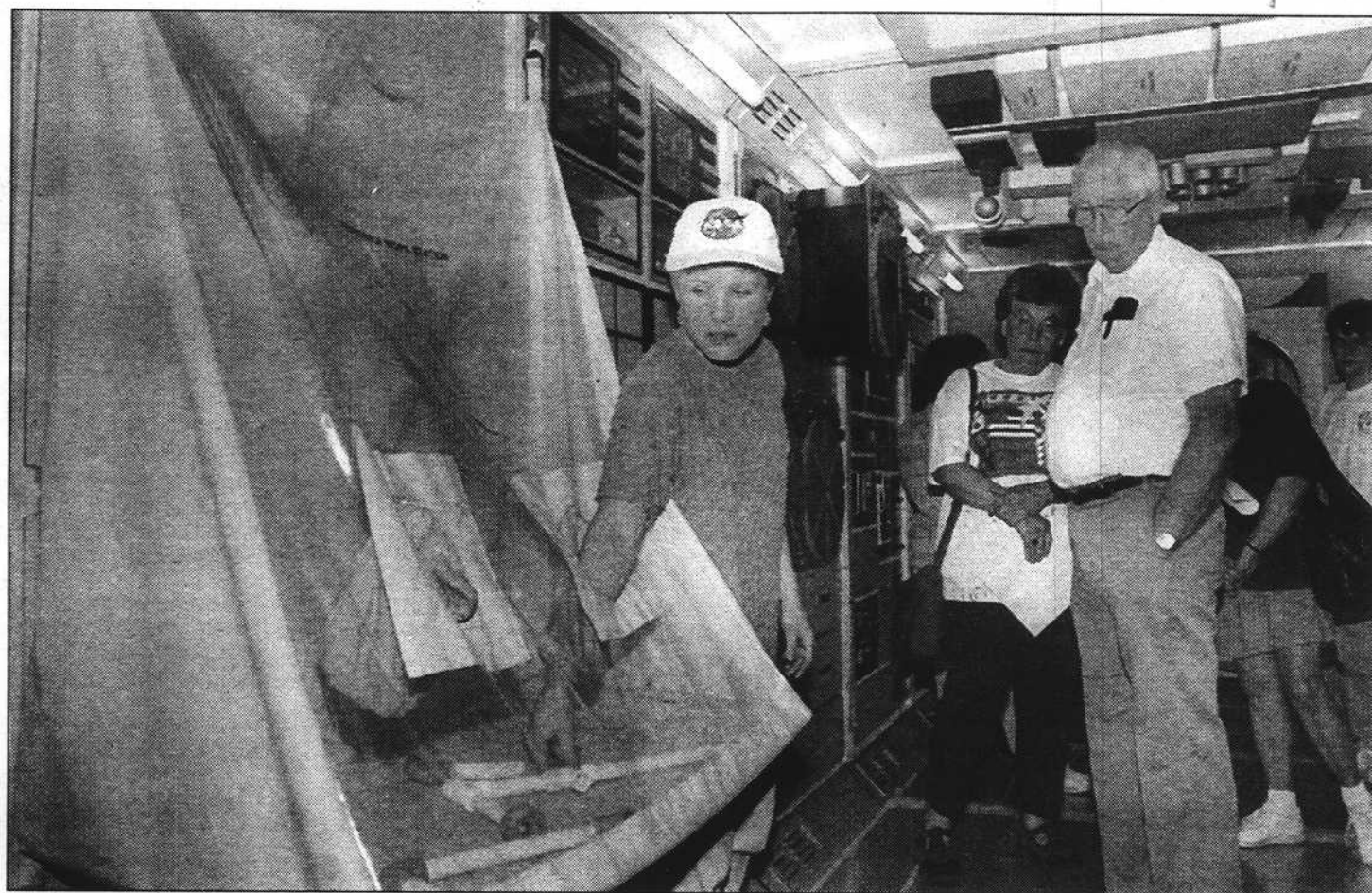


WEATHER:

Today - Partly cloudy & cooler. Northwest wind 20 to 30 mph.

Tonight - Mostly cloudy, low around 35 to 40.

April 25, 1996



Jennifer Cantrell, a NASA public information associate, takes volunteers through the replica of NASA's International Space Station parked behind Oldfather Hall.

Scott Bruhn/DN

Commission helps girls go to work

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

In a world of nontraditional families, not all girls have someone to tag along with today on "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

Some girls don't have two parents. Some parents don't have jobs.

Lincoln Public Schools assembled a list of 50 such girls.

Enter the Lincoln-Lancaster County Women's Commission. The schools sent the list to the commission, and the commission found the girls mentors.

Commission member Bonnie Coffey said girls in those situations should not miss out on the opportunity to go to work for a day.

Jan Wahl, a multicultural education professor at UNL, said her experiences with the event last year made her excited about participating again this year.

"I had a great experience with a little third-grader," Wahl said. "She went to classes with me, helped pass things out and picked up evaluations. We walked all over campus and went to a luncheon."

Wahl will take a sixth-grader from Dawes Middle School to class this year.

"I think 'Take Our Daughters to Work Day' is a viable concept given the work we still need to do in encouraging young women about career possibilities," Wahl said. "Especially in jobs like engineering, areas where there is not cross-over."

Young men might need to get in on the program, too, Wahl said.

"There's another side of me that says it would be a nice idea to encourage young men to get involved in more nurturing professions," Wahl said.

Getting boys involved has been an argument of the tradition since it was started four years ago by the Ms. Foundation. Some companies have responded to the protests.

First Data Corp. of Omaha, which employs about 6,500 people, has decided to hold its own "Kids to Work" day tomorrow instead of "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

"We wanted it to be more inclusive," said Marge Kalina, special projects coordinator.

"Ours includes grandkids, nieces, nephews, sons, daughters and mentoring kids from Omaha," Kalina said.

"We understand that the day for daughters started because in some cases women don't have the role models young men do, but our company is really committed to diversity and felt it was better to be all-inclusive."

Kalina said about 600 kids would be visiting First Data's 40 Omaha offices.

Coffey said a day for both boys and girls wasn't as effective.

"I don't have a problem with taking sons to work; it should just be on a separate day."

"I think it still misses the point that we need an opportunity to focus on girls. For one day they get to be important, and we get to focus on them."

NASA displays future at UNL

Space station replica features astronauts' living quarters

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

In 2002, NASA astronauts will board the completed International Space Station orbiting Earth.

But today, UNL students have a chance to board a full-scale replica of NASA's International Space Station behind Oldfather Hall.

The space station will be at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, courtesy of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, through Wednesday.

"We're proud of what we're doing, and we want to show it off," said Jennifer Cantrell, a NASA public information associate.

The replica, formed by two adjoining trailers, shows how the two modules will look on the inside.

The living quarters module includes the refrigerator-sized sleeping quarters, kitchen, entertainment area, shower and toilet. The second section is a laboratory.

Visitors will need to look up to see a vital part of astronaut life — exercise. A rowing machine for the astronauts hangs from the ceiling.

"In space, there's no such thing as upside-down," Cantrell said.

Because there's no gravity in space, astronauts can exercise on the ceiling and use

"That's just a pleasing sensation for the astronaut. It's basically a mind game."

JENNIFER CANTRELL
NASA public information associate

the toilet on the wall.

The only way to tell directions on the space station is the different colors of the ceiling and floor.

"We're calling this up, and we're calling this down," Cantrell said. "That's just a pleasing sensation for the astronaut. It's basically a mind game."

The anti-gravity environment requires special equipment so astronauts can work and live as normally as possible, Cantrell said.

Astronauts are strapped into their beds, which are merely sleeping bags anchored to the ceiling, Cantrell said. Without the sleeping restraints, astronauts would float around the module and bump into things.

In the bathroom, astronauts must put their hands into a glass bubble to wash them,

Cantrell said. Water is sprayed onto their hands, then sucked back into the unit to prevent loose water from floating around the module.

Anywhere an astronaut wants to work also must be contained with a clear, plastic "glove box" to keep loose tools and parts from floating away, Cantrell said.

The development of the space station has already led to a spinoff in water recycling, Cantrell said. Astronauts will not have their water replenished regularly because all forms of water are cycled through filters to be used again.

All shower water and water vapor is vacuumed back into the recycling unit.

"Urine is actually recycled and turned into drinkable water," Cantrell said.

In the laboratory, space station visitors will see examples of the experiments astronauts will conduct.

The space station replica has been on display across the country since March of 1995. Cantrell said the replica would continue touring the United States until the real one goes up.

"We'll try and reach as many places as we can with our limited budget," she said.

Children from Lincoln schools will visit the replica from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today, and it will open to the public at 3 p.m.

Moore: Law may reduce turnout

By Kasey Kerber
Staff Reporter

The "motor voter" law has drastically increased the number of registered voters in Nebraska, but one official is concerned that the law will decrease the percentage of registered voters who make it to the polls.

"It's fine to register to vote," said Secretary of State Scott Moore. "Yet the underlying question is whether most of newly registered voters will actually vote."

The "motor voter" law, which took effect in 1995, allows anyone of voting age who renews or receives a driver's license to register to vote in one easy step.

The law contributed to a record

high of 962,869 voters registered in Nebraska as of Jan. 1. Since the law was implemented, 70 percent of all new registered voters have registered to vote through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

But Moore said he thought the number of "motor voters" wouldn't keep rising indefinitely.

"At one point this will level off because not all people that renew their license for the second or third time will want to register to vote," Moore said.

The "motor voter" law also allows registered voters who haven't re-registered after changing addresses within their county to vote through "conditional ballots."

Those ballots will be tallied 15 days

after the official election, after officials have verified that voters cast only one ballot.

"If it's a close election, these conditional ballots may very well have an impact as far as time is concerned," Moore said. "In the past a close election might be decided in two days. Now it might not be for fifteen."

Moore said he thought it was important for voters who showed up at the polls to be allowed to vote — no matter where they registered.

"If someone cares enough to go to the polls, then I want them to be able to," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Panel opinions differ on affirmative action

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

Affirmative action based on race is illegal and on the way out the door, a law professor said Wednesday.

Richard Duncan, a professor of law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said affirmative action policies based on race should be replaced by policies based on economic status.

Because minorities often fall into

low-income categories, he said, they still would receive benefits of affirmative action.

Duncan was among campus educators and administrators who voiced diverse and sometimes radical ideas at a panel discussion at the Nebraska Union.

Classification by economic and social disadvantages are legal, he said, and would benefit the right people.

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