

Diversity in History

Editor's note: Each day during Black History Month, the Daily Nebraskan will tell the story of a minority who made an important contribution in America's History.

Because he attended Columbia University in New York and became the first black American to earn a medical doctor of science degree in 1940;

Because he discovered blood plasma while working as a surgeon at Howard University's Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C.;

Because he spearheaded efforts to collect and dry blood plasma for thousands of life-saving transfusions on World War II battlefields in Europe and the Pacific;

Because he organized, founded and directed the nation's first blood bank, the American Red Cross Blood Bank, in 1941, and later was responsible for collecting blood for the U.S. Army and Navy.

Dr. Charles Drew is recognized as the black surgeon and scientist who saved thousands of lives daily by revolutionizing blood plasma storage and founding the model blood-banking system for the world before his death in 1950.

JENNIFER WALKER/DN

Education-incentive bill draws support from crowd

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Supporters of a bill that would provide incentives for schools to enhance student performance flocked to the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee Monday.

Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings, Education Committee chairwoman and sponsor of LB1228, said she hadn't anticipated so many people would come to testify in favor of the proposal. Several educators and state education officials testified during the hearing, which lasted more than two hours.

The bill, known as the Quality Education Accountability Act, would provide incentives for qualifying schools. To be eligible, schools would have to meet the following criteria:

- Adopt academic standards as accepted by the State Board of Education.
- Provide alternative educational opportunities for expelled students.
- Provide programs for high ability students.

■ Have a graduating senior class in which at least 60 percent of students took a standard college admissions test.

The quality education incentive payments, which would be made from the Education Innovation Fund, would provide \$50 per student under the adjusted formula. Schools in sparsely populated areas would receive \$100 per student.

The legislation would require the State Board of Education to oversee a statewide academic testing program

designed to evaluate individual students' performance and schools' success in meeting standards.

LB1228 also would require school systems to implement and provide to taxpayers and the State Department of Education a financial reporting system accounting for all spending.

Several educators and education officials testified in support of the bill, arguing the incentives would push schools to improve student performance.

"I think the number of testifiers indicates the number of areas this bill touches," Bohlke said.

One person spoke in opposition to the bill. Ross Tegeler, chairman of the Excellence in Education Council, objected to the source of the funding.

Use of Education Innovation Fund money for the quality education incentives would jeopardize the programs currently sponsored by the fund, he said.

The Education Innovation Fund supports programs encouraging local control of schools, educational innovation and the dissemination of educational ideas that have proven successful. These programs could be squeezed if funds were used for quality education incentives, he said.

"I think the impact on the fund's existing mission is obvious," Tegeler said.

Tegeler estimated the cost of the incentives could reach \$7.5 million. But Sen. Deb Suttle of Omaha, an Education Committee member, said cost estimates for the fiscal year 1998-99 were closer to \$2.6 million.

World Spotlight

Saudis weigh U.S. use of bases

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday that Saudi Arabia sees "eye to eye" with the U.S. position on inspecting Iraq's weapon sites, but apparently hasn't agreed to allow American warplanes to use Saudi air bases if U.S. military action is taken.

Reiterating Clinton administration demands that Iraq rid itself of chemical and biological weapons, Albright said Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region are in danger of attacks from Iraq.

But after talks with Saudi officials in a desert retreat, she sidestepped whether the Saudis had approved use of air bases here for American warplanes.

"If we had gotten a yes, she would have said so," said a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Saudi leaders will weigh the issue of U.S. use of air bases here while Albright is in Bahrain Monday night before going to Egypt then home on Tuesday.

In Moscow, a Russian news agency reported today that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is ready to receive the chief U.N. weapons inspector and name up to eight presidential sites for inspection. A spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin said Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov called Yeltsin to tell him of Saddam's offer, ITAR-Tass reported.

But hours later, Iraq denied there was any agreement.

Albright said Primakov discussed a similar proposal with her in Madrid when they met last week, but she was skeptical of the offer, and it fell far short of U.S. demand for unconditional inspections, said the U.S. official.

Twice declaring herself still "skeptical" of Saddam's intentions, Albright said Monday that it was up to Richard Butler, chairman of the U.N. commission on inspections, to decide "whether he sees any reason" to go to Baghdad.

President Clinton, meanwhile, called Yeltsin to discuss "the serious situation concerning Iraq's noncompliance" with U.N. mandates, a White House official said.

Veterans worry Osborne field will take emphasis from them

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cussing the issue as early as Dec. 28 last year, and the board meeting when the issue was passed happened nearly 20 days later.

Allen went on to say the decision to name the field "was made in an open, public session at which interested citizens would have been welcome to voice an opinion."

DeCamp yelled during a phone interview that for the regents to consider the meetings open when they were hardly publicized was "bullshit."

"There was no reasonable time frame for organized veterans groups to meet, develop a position or relay the position, or participate in the renaming process," he said.

In his statement he called Allen's claim that the veterans should have acted more quickly "true ignorance."

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo disagreed and said DeCamp's allegations were unfounded.

"He accuses the regents of not having public hearings and somehow sneaking this through," O'Brien said. "It was on our public agenda that we intended to take action on this matter."

No veterans spoke against the naming at any of the discussions the regents had, O'Brien said, but many people attended in support of the

field's naming.

Osborne himself was originally opposed to naming the field but eventually agreed when regents and UNL administration insisted.

John Leabsack, service officer for the Douglas County Veterans, said people would refer to the stadium as Osborne Field, effectively forgetting its dedication to veterans.

"In common usage," Leabsack said. "It will just become Tom Osborne field."

The University of Missouri-Columbia's Memorial Stadium, Leabsack said, was simply referred to as (Don) Farout Field among fans and the press.

"We feel that we're losing something as veterans," he said.

NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne disagreed on whether people would begin referring to the stadium as Tom Osborne Field.

Byrne said part of the stadium's renovation includes placing the name Memorial Stadium in huge letters on its west side.

"We intend to continue calling it Memorial Stadium," he said. "That's our address."

Byrne said he has not been contacted by DeCamp or the Veterans Council and would not reply to the statement until he is.

"Frankly, I haven't paid much attention to (DeCamp)," Byrne said. "And until we hear something officially from him, we don't plan to

respond."

O'Brien said although naming a football field was not unprecedented in the Big 12 Conference, she and each of the regents had received a letter from the Veterans Council condemning the field's naming.

O'Brien said she had a hard time seeing how the naming of the field denigrated any Nebraska veterans.

"My feeling is that the regents are comfortable in their action," O'Brien said, "and we have received other feedback, or at least I have received feedback, from several veterans that in fact supported naming the field after Tom Osborne."

Leabsack said he and other veterans have "all the respect in the world" for Osborne, but he thought there were more appropriate ways to honor the retired coach — such as naming a football award after him.

O'Brien said she would be surprised if the regents decided not to name the field for Osborne.

But if the regents do not reverse their decision, DeCamp said, other action may be taken.

"We never quit," DeCamp said.

"Leave Memorial Stadium dedicated totally, completely and only to the dead veterans," he said in the statement.

"It is their one, their only public monument where all Nebraskans gather to enjoy life fully and to honor totally those who made that life possible."

Bill would create jobs, proponents say

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approved facility before being released on the market, he said.

None of the states in the Midwest now have testing centers, Hullet said, so a Lincoln location would not only keep money in Nebraska, but would attract revenue from other nearby states.

Lincoln Sen. Carol Hudkins, who has made LB1173 her priority bill, said the new center would create 12 to 15 new jobs, as well as attract new high-tech businesses and stimulate growth in existing businesses.

Creating the center is a cooperative effort of the state, private industry and higher education to support and promote Nebraska's electronics industry, which is considered a desirable industry, Raikes said.

In addition to creating a certified testing center for electronic products, the center would expand access to new technology in Nebraska and provide training for students and employees in the electronics industry, Hullet said.

"Nebraska, like other states, is in a situation where there are not enough qualified workers," he said. "This is an effort to provide the industry with the tools it needs to expand."

The \$5 million would be appropriated to Southeast Community College to build the center and buy equipment.

SCC would then lease the building to the Nebraska Center for Excellence in Electronics, a nonprofit corporation comprising several area businesses.

Marshall Borchert, owner of Riser Bond Instruments and president of the NCEE board, said NCEE would staff the center and pay for its maintenance.

In addition, 12 companies in Lincoln have signed an agreement to use the testing facility, Hullet said.

"They realize that on their own they couldn't do something like this," he said.

SCC was interested in the project, Hullet said, because its role and mission includes developing applied technology.

SCC would use the center to train students and employees in using new technology.

Raikes said UNL's role in the center has not yet been specifically defined.

However, he said, the university will have an active part since the center is located in the Tech Park, which is owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation.

He said he envisioned university personnel working with the center to develop and expand it.

"We're hoping this can serve as a model for other industries that have a need for a cooperative effort to expand," Raikes said.

Hudkins said the proposed center would benefit all Nebraskans, not just larger communities, by bringing in more small businesses.

"If we can catch up with other states, it might mean more than 6,000 new jobs for the state," she said.

The Appropriations Committee has scheduled a public hearing for LB1173 on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in room 1003 in the State Capitol.

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Fax number: (402) 472-1761
World Wide Web: www.unl.edu/DailyNeb
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.
Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
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