

Residence halls sponsor leadership conference

By KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

Two weeks after students tie up their carpets and move their couches out of residence halls for the summer, thousands of people will take their place.

And the new residents will brainstorm how to make the halls better.

More than 2,800 students representing colleges and universities from across the nation will pack Harper, Schramm, Smith and Sandoz halls for the annual gathering of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls Leadership Conference.

The conference, held between May 21 and 24, will focus on improving campus residence halls, said Alan Nietfeldt, conference chair.

"I think it's a great opportunity for students," Nettle said. "This is a great opportunity for individuals to be involved that previously wouldn't have been able."

The conference will attract students from more than 200 schools and will last for four days.

"We have a pretty diverse set of programs," said Josh Anderson, programming chairman. "There is a

wide range of stuff ranging from making the Residence Hall Association better to stress relievers."

The presenters also come from schools across the nation and represent every geographic region, Anderson said.

The annual conference started in 1953 and has since been held at dozens of different U.S. universities.

NACURH is one of the largest entirely student-run organizations in the country, Nietfeldt said.

More than 100 volunteers will help carry off this summer's conference.

"All will get a wonderful volunteer experience and a chance to meet 2,000 new people from around the nation," said Tarina Cox, volunteer chairwoman.

Volunteers working for the conference and not attending summer school simultaneously also will get free room and board, free T-shirts and many other benefits, Cox said.

Nietfeldt stressed that all students, including volunteers, have a great deal to gain from NACURH '98.

Students interested in volunteering should call the NACURH office at (402) 472-5200 by Tuesday.

Ethnic studies program observes 25th anniversary

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

Though it has been instrumental in bringing about change in minority representation at UNL, the Institute for Ethnic Studies has room for improvement, its first director said.

"We really have not done as much as we could have," said Ralph Vigil, who helped start the program and was the original director.

Because a large number of the institute's faculty members are minorities, the program plays an important part in increasing diversity within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's faculty and in keeping faculty members on the campus, said Marcela Raffaelli, assistant professor of psychology and ethnic studies.

The institute is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

The institute was established by activists who felt minorities needed better representation on campus, said Vigil, a UNL professor of history and ethnic studies.

Vigil was the institute's first director in 1973. The institute's current director is Miguel Carranza.

The creation of the Institute for Ethnic Studies has led to more minorities in teaching positions, but the representation needs to increase outside of the institute as well, Vigil said.

Vigil said the new curriculum was geared toward nonminority students.

Ethnic Studies 100, an introductory class, covers ethnic issues such as the history of immigration to the United States, the relationships between native people and non-natives, discrimination and social

change.

The Institute for Ethnic Studies offers courses in Native American Studies, African and African American Studies, Chicano Studies and Latino and Latin American Studies. Students can major in Latin American Studies.

The mission of the institute is to encourage interdisciplinary studies and the exploration and understanding of minority experiences, Raffaelli said.

"The thing that links us all is that the point is to understand experiences of ethnic people," she said.

But the program needs a few more professors who have expertise in each of the areas ethnic studies teaches, Vigil said.

"It doesn't mean you have to belong to a minority group to teach it," Vigil said.

Vigil, who was recruited for the director position from the University of Texas, retired as director in 1978 to publish a political biography of Alonso D. Zorita, a Christian humanist who lived from 1512-85. The prize-winning book was published by the University of Oklahoma press in 1988.

The humanist view, Vigil said, is that all people, regardless of race or background, are "brothers under God."

"This, of course, was what ethnic studies was all about," he said.

Vigil is retiring after this semester.

He said the program has been doing well for the resources it has.

"I might note that we do have some rather good people in ethnic studies," Vigil said.

"Given the time and funds, they are doing excellent."

Expert on architecture speaks at commencement

From Staff Reports

A nationally known expert on parks and architecture will be the guest speaker next Saturday at UNL's commencement services.

Roger Kennedy, former director of the National Park Service and current emeritus director of the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institute, will

address more than 1,800 graduates at 9:30 a.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Kennedy, who will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree, was appointed as National Park Service director in 1993 by President Clinton. He retired from his position in 1997.

Kennedy served as director of the National Museum of American History from 1979 to 1992 and is the author of several books on architecture history.

Dogs kill 26 animals; Hastings man charged

HASTINGS (AP) - The owner of two dogs that killed 26 animals was charged Thursday with four counts of harboring a vicious animal, four counts of dogs running at large and 56 counts of possessing an unlicensed animal.

The misdemeanor charges, filed in Adams County Court against Sheryl Lee Feik, stemmed from an attack Tuesday by Feik's two Siberian Huskies on animals being raised by a 4-H group.

"It's an issue of public safety and of great public concern," said Bob Sullivan, assistant city attorney in Hastings.

Each count carries a fine of up to \$100. On the charges of possessing an unlicensed animal, Sullivan said each charge represents one day that Feik failed to license the animal with the city.

Sullivan said he told Feik he will drop the charges if she has the dogs destroyed. However, she still must pay restitution to the 4-H group and court costs.

Feik said she has consented to have one of the dogs destroyed, but she wants to build a kennel and keep the other dog. She said she believes it will help if the dogs are separated.

Sullivan said he has no intention of allowing the release of either dog unless required by law. The dogs are being held at the police department's animal shelter.

Feik's dogs reportedly killed

four sheep, 15 ducks and ducklings, four chickens, a goat, a tom turkey and a rabbit, according to a Hastings police report.

The deaths occurred at about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Rural Ranchers 4-H barns in Hastings.

The animals were cared for by Lincoln Elementary sixth-graders and other students up through high school working on 4-H projects.

Feik said she believes someone let her dogs out of her yard, which is enclosed by a 7-foot fence. She said the dogs could not escape without human assistance.

"I feel somebody is letting them loose," she said.

Feik said several people in her neighborhood have told her about similar incidents.

Scottie McMillin, Adams County 4-H coordinator, had said the dogs have killed animals at the barn before. McMillin said he asked Feik to pay for damages.

Feik said she spoke with McMillin but never received an estimate for damages. She said she plans to pay for all the damages.

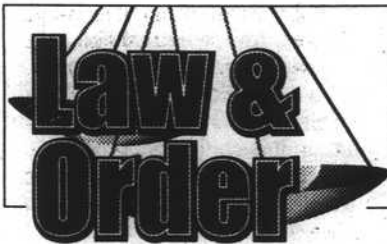
"We apologize for the loss of the kids' animals," Feik said.

The dogs have never attacked people and are not vicious, she said.

Feik said the animals at the 4-H barn are not protected well, and the barns have openings where other dogs could enter.

CLARIFICATION

In Thursday's story about threatening e-mail, the origin of the messages was stated incorrectly. Police have determined the messages were sent through an out-of-state e-mail server, but they do not know where the messages originated.



Man cited for open burning

UNL police cited a homeless man Wednesday for roasting a chicken over an open fire.

Brian King, 27, wrapped a chicken he had found in newspapers and started a small fire to roast it, UNL Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The officer found King roasting his chicken near Behlen Laboratory around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

King was cited for open burning.

Blind man robbed

A legally blind man was knocked down and robbed on a street corner Wednesday night.

The 39-year-old man, who was drunk, was walking along 21st Street to the Super C convenience store, 21st and G streets, when someone pushed him down from behind around 9 p.m., Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The attackers kicked the man and took his wallet, containing \$10, and fled south on 21st Street.

Road rage flares up

In a case of road rage, one man assaulted another man's car in traffic, causing \$400 damage Wednesday night.

The victim of the attack changed lanes in front of an Audi near the intersection of 16th and G streets, Heermann said.

While the cars were stopped, the Audi's passenger got out and yelled "let's fight."

When the man tried to open the driver's door of the 1993 Lincoln Continental, the driver of that car said "I don't have time for you. Get a job."

The man responded by kicking the Lincoln's door and punching the hood.

The Audi left westbound on G Street.

Compiled by Senior Reporter Josh Funk

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