



LORI SIMPSON/DN

MITCHELL DOMANT and more than 600 other children assembled from day cares and elementary schools to pet sheep, chickens and cows as a fund-raiser for UNL's Block and Bridle club. The event was held at the Animal Science Complex Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kids mingle with farm animals

By **MICHELLE STARR**
Staff writer

A herd of children running toward a cattle pen was nothing out of the ordinary for the Kids Day event Thursday on East Campus.

More than 600 Lincoln pre-school and elementary children experienced what event co-chairwoman Cindy Zimmerman called "a giant petting zoo for farm animals."

The University of Nebraska Lincoln's Block and Bridle club sponsored the event - held twice each year since 1971 - which ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at UNL's Animal Science Center.

"It is really important to expose kids to farm animals so they will understand them," said Zimmerman, a senior animal science major.

John Snoko, a junior animal sci-

ence major, agreed.

"A lot of people have not been around them much," he said. "They have simple questions."

Block and Bridle members answered questions about the animals at each station.

A baby lamb, goats, chicks and Snickers, a 15-year-old horse, were among the most popular animals.

Interaction between the children and animals provoked varied reactions.

Some children held their noses to combat the smell of the animals, others made animal noises and most had smiles on their faces.

First-grader Marco Ramirez, when Zimmerman told how old the mother goat was, exclaimed "It's 9 years old! It's not big enough. I'm 7 and still not married!"

Zimmerman said some of the children's questions were "really cute."

"One little girl asked me, 'Why does the cow have phone numbers in her ears?' She was talking about her ear tags. I tried to explain it to her that they are like name tags."

Two plastic, life-size horses were also provided, one with a Western saddle and the other with an English one, to let children feel what it would be like to sit on a horse.

Junior animal science major Brent Pohlmann, the event's other coordinator, said the hardest part of putting the day together was trying to get enough people to help because of conflicting class schedules.

Lincoln children left the event - coloring books and information in hand - with more exposure to livestock.

Zimmerman said she enjoyed sharing the experience with the children.

"It's good to carry on an important tradition, and it's a lot of fun."

Permit fees may increase by 2004

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business and finance, said the project is estimated to cost the university \$50 million.

"We are not adding new inventory," he said. "We are simply replacing."

Concerns about the future of parking for UNL faculty, staff and students began to rise in 1997, so campus officials decided to create a solution.

"The university is dealing with a campus parking crunch and crisis on both (City and East) campuses," Main said.

After considering three different strategy plans, McDowell said, the best option was the parking garage additions.

The garages are the best alternative, because they centralize parking for all users, increase safety for students who live on campus and better serve commuter students, he said.

They would also increase parking for visitors, he said.

The other two garages on City Campus will be located at 14th and Avery streets and at the east entrance to campus on Vine Street.

In addition to the parking

garages, an Express Transit System will be implemented, which will run faculty members and students from the parking structures to the core of the campus.

It will operate in a loop that will take no longer than five minutes to get from place to place, and hours will be extended at night to better accommodate students.

Also in the works is an Intelligent Vehicle Tracking System, where a monitor would be connected from each bus to the office of Parking Services so campus officials can monitor the whereabouts of all the vehicles at any time.

McDowell and Main urged patience among UNL students, staff and faculty members.

"It's trial and error," Main said.

The purpose of the new garages is to benefit this university's students years from now, Main said, because today's students are benefiting from their predecessors' sacrifices.

McDowell said the university is planning today for what could be a problem 10 years from now.

"There's a transition period that will be painful," he said, "but once it gets done, you will be a lot better off than you are today."

Kelter wins teaching award for excellence

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College in New York in 1976, Kelter came to Nebraska for his doctorate because his undergraduate grades were not very good.

While a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kelter taught his first academic classes and learned to teach from role models, both good and bad.

One of Kelter's positive role models, Health and Human Performance Professor Charles Ansoorge, said Kelter has an unbelievable amount of energy.

"The campus is lucky to have someone like Paul," Ansoorge said. "The students are the true benefactors."

After finishing his doctorate in 1980, Kelter followed opportunity elsewhere, including post-doctorate work in Georgia, a stint at NASA and most recently eight years with the Wisconsin science outreach program.

"It is important to get away and hone your craft," said Kelter, who came back to UNL in 1993.

"I'm better for having those other jobs before coming here."

In addition to experience, motivation is important to effective teaching, said Kelter's colleague and friend, chemistry lecturer Bill McLaughlin.

"What makes anybody a good teacher is motivation," McLaughlin said. "Paul is always student-cen-

"The campus is lucky to have someone like Paul. The students are the true benefactors."

CHARLES ANSORGE
professor

tered." The bottom line is always treat students with dignity and respect, Kelter said.

"I teach students to play on their strengths while working on their weaknesses," he said.

Kelter said he tried to challenge his students in class while being responsive to their needs.

"Questioning is a powerful tool in teaching," Kelter said, "but you have to be flexible ... good teachers can go with the direction of their students and then bring them back to the point."

In his teaching, Kelter has set a simple standard of success for himself.

"Students should learn in class, and leave class with a hunger to learn more."

Bill would require senators to wait one year to lobby

BILL from page 1

not support this type of bill," he said. "Where there is not a problem, there really is no need for legislation."

In 15 years with the Legislature, he said, he did not see members crossing what he considered the line of proper behavior. Introducing such a bill implies that something is wrong.

Withem resigned as speaker in November 1997 to take the university position.

Committee chairwoman DiAnna

Schimek, who joined Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen in voting against the bill, said it would probably not reach floor debate this late in the session unless a senator prioritizes it.

She said she voted against it because she did not want it to go forward without building more of a consensus among senators.

"I felt that it should be part of an overall interim study on ethics," she said. "I'm a little bit leery of just putting something out on the floor without building a consensus."

Legislature

Death-penalty bills advance

The Legislature's Judiciary Committee advanced two death penalty bills in an executive session Thursday night.

LB76, introduced by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, moved with a major reconstruction. The bill was originally intended to abolish the death penalty. As amended by the committee, it would place a three-year moratorium on setting execution dates during a study of whether or not the punishment is applied fairly.

Omaha Sen. Kermit Brashear, committee chairman, said he supported the death penalty, but is concerned about disparate sentencing. In Nebraska, 165 people are jailed for first-degree murder. Only 10 are on death row, he said, even though some, who are not on death row, have been committed for multiple or heinous murders.

"That becomes a matter of discretion," he said, referring to prosecutors' decisions to make murder cases capital

cases.

Chambers said he is not afraid of anything the study might uncover and added that he wants a prolonged discussion about the issue.

"The issue is too grave," he said. "The matter needs to be debated by the Legislature."

Sen. Tom Baker of Trenton cast the lone vote in committee against the amended bill. He said he had circumstances within his family that would not permit him to vote to send the bill to the floor, but he would listen to the debate.

"You'll just have to work harder on me," he said.

The committee also advanced LB52, introduced by Brashear, which would change Nebraska's method of execution from electrocution to lethal injection. Anyone who received the death sentence before the bill's effective date would be able to choose the method of execution if the bill passed.

Concealed-weapons bill sent to floor

The committee also advanced a concealed-weapons bill to the floor.

LB476, sponsored this year by Sen. Ray Janssen of Nickerson, would allow citizens to obtain permits for carrying concealed weapons if they passed background checks of criminal and mental-health records and completed gun-safety training.

A similar bill, introduced by Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton in 1997, fell short of passage last year. As the 1998 Legislature drew to a close, the bill was dropped when it became clear Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha would use all the allotted debate time to filibuster and block the bill.

Thursday, Chambers said he would fight the bill on the floor again this year.

Legislative notebook compiled by **Shane Anthony**

Daily Nebraskan

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