

Speaker tells students how to build character

By Lesley Owusu
Staff writer

Making a difference and having positive character were the key ideas taught to students Monday night at the Creating a Community of Character conference featuring Michael S. Josephson.

Josephson, who is the founder of the nonprofit Josephson Institute of Ethics, discussed the importance of character building in the Nebraska Union.

"One has to be the sculpture of (his or her) character," Josephson said. "You

have to know who you want to be, not what you want to be."

Josephson also founded the Character Counts! Coalition, a partnership of more than 350 educational and youth organizations dedicated to strengthening the character of America's young people based on consistent core ethical values.

The "Six Pillars of Character," which include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, were identified as the most important requirements of good ethics.

Josephson discussed what qualities

can create a good character.

"A person of character makes tough choices when the cost of doing the right thing is high," he said.

Chancellor James Moeser recognized the importance of the program at a Monday noon press conference.

"Character Counts! is not just for kids," he said. "The same mechanism can be useful on campus for our own students."

Josephson said many young people have a false idea of what true character ethics are really about.

Happiness, maintaining meaningful

relationships and building a good character are the things that young people need to focus on instead of material things, he said.

"Wealth, good looks, athletic ability and fame really mean nothing when you're forgotten," Josephson said. "Many of us want to be remembered for our positive contributions we made in our lives."

Josephson encouraged students to start developing their character immediately so they can become better people. Students must also learn to be content when they don't get what they want.

"Being in control of your life is being content with what you have," he said. "Having a purpose in life gives you direction and defines your character."

The program has changed the way millions of young people behave, he said.

In Nebraska, 31,000 young people have been involved with Character Counts! programs.

Nearly 85 percent of Nebraska teachers who have had contact with Character Counts! said the program has been a positive influence on their students, Josephson said.

ASUN

SAMPLE BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION MARCH 1, 2000

ASUN

ASUN Student Government Constitution

II. "The ASUN Constitution shall be recast so that its language will be gender neutral. In order for the Constitution with its newly recast language to come into effect the changes made to achieve this purpose shall all be approved by the ASUN Senate."

A "yes" vote here calls for the ASUN leadership to prepare an updated version of the ASUN Constitution which would be clearly gender neutral, (i.e. he/she) before coming into effect, the new language would need to be approved by the ASUN Senate.

A "no" vote here calls for retention of the male specific pronouns in places where the Constitution is intended to refer to both males and females.

Election of the President, First Vice President and Second Vice-President

Currently, the ASUN President, First Vice President and Second Vice President, in order to be elected without a run-off election, must obtain either a majority of all votes cast or receive more votes than his or her nearest competitor by a margin of at least 10% of all the votes cast -- irrespective of whether the votes were cast for ineligible candidates such as Mickey Mouse.

A "yes" vote for this amendment will require that the required margin of difference must only be 10% of the total votes cast for **eligible candidates**. This will not interfere with write-in ballots for eligible student candidates, but it will prevent the inclusion of votes cast for ineligible candidates in the tally.

A "no" vote on this amendment will continue the current process whereby the votes cast for ineligible candidates affect the outcome of the election just as if they had been cast for eligible candidates.

Division of Continuing Studies

The legislative, executive and judicial branches of the Association shall be as follows:

Section 1. The Student Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

B. Eligibility.

1. Elected members. To be eligible for election to the Senate, a candidate must:

Presently:

c. The senator from the Division of Continuing Studies must be enrolled with at least three (3) credit hours.

Change to:

Delete this section.

A vote "yes" for this amendment would remove a Senate seat designated to represent the Division of Continuing Studies and reassign these students to the Division of General Studies. This amendment will make the credit-hour enrollment requirement for eligibility to run and serve in the ASUN Senate the same (12) for candidates from the Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) as they are for all other candidates. It will eliminate the special rule by which part time DCS students carrying as few as three hours are eligible to serve.

A vote "no" for this amendment will allow a person enrolled in only three hours (and who meets the other criteria) to run for a seat designated to represent the Division of Continuing Studies.

STUDENT FEE FUND B SURVEY

ASUN is surveying student opinion on the Fund B portion of student fees. This is strictly a survey which will enable ASUN representatives to further realize student sentiment on student fees. DISTRIBUTION of student fees collected from each full-time student per semester for the fiscal year 1999-2000.

FACILITY FEE.....	\$38.00
UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER.....	\$98.07
NEBRASKA UNIONS.....	\$48.39
CAMPUS REC. PROG.&FACILITIES.	\$59.70

1)YES NO Do you approve of \$38.00 of your student fees being collected to support the Facility Fee for the financing the Nebraska Union, East Union and Health Center?

2)YES NO Do you approve of \$98.07 of your student fees being collected to support the operation of the University Health Center?

3)YES NO Do you support \$48.39 of your student fees being collected to support the Nebraska Unions?

4)YES NO Do you support \$59.70 of your student fees being collected to support Campus Recreation Programs and Facilities?

ALL FUND A FEES ARE REFUNDABLE UPON REQUEST

FUND A Student Fee Allocation Question Refundable upon request.

ASUN must conduct a student referendum on the following fee agencies. This question is conducted in compliance with Regental Policy. Any agency voted down on this referendum will NOT be funded for those specific lines of their budget.

Distribution of Student Fees collected from each full-time student per semester for the fiscal year 1999 includes:

Daily Nebraskan.....	\$1.19
University Program Council Speakers Program...	\$0.50

Do you approve the allocation of a part of student fees collected to support the Daily Nebraskan during the 2000-2001 fiscal year?

YES NO

Do you approve the allocation of a part of student fees collected to support campus speakers programs during the 2000-2001 fiscal year?

YES NO

This question is conducted in compliance with Regental Policy of Fund A Student Fees approved September 6, 1991.

Case could clear up state abortion law

By Michelle Starr
Staff writer

The first of two petitions to the U.S. Supreme Court were filed Monday concerning a 1997 Nebraska law that bans partial-birth abortions.

The court's decision could clarify a long-standing national debate about the extent of women's rights to terminate pregnancies.

Similar laws banning partial-birth abortions have been adopted in 28 other states since 1995. But courts have blocked the bans in 19 of those states.

The case, Attorney General Don Stenberg vs. Leroy Carhart, a Bellevue doctor who performs abortions, is on appeal by the Attorney General's office to decide whether the U.S. Supreme Court agrees with an 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling.

The ruling said a state law banning partial-birth abortions was unconstitutional.

The law would make performing partial-birth abortions for any other reason than saving the mother's life a felony with a 25-year prison sentence.

In Stenberg's petition, it states that the law was made to regulate abortion, making late-term abortion, which is also called dilation and extraction, illegal. It does not affect the common use of dilation and evacuation procedure.

Dilation and extraction involves extracting the fetus through the birth canal, cutting the skull and draining the contents.

Dilation and evacuation involves extraction of the fetus from the uterus in pieces by using forceps. It is done within the first 13 weeks of pregnancy.

As written, the law is so vague it potentially bans all abortions, which conflicts with the Roe v. Wade decision 27 years ago, said Margie Kelly, spokeswoman for the Center of Reproductive Law and Policy.

The center, which was responsible for blocking laws banning partial-birth abortion in 14 other cases nationwide, is representing Carhart, Kelly said.

Carhart will be filing a brief March 29, and arguments will be heard from the high court on April 25, Kelly said.

Nebraska law defines partial-birth abortion as "partially delivering vaginally a living unborn child before killing the unborn child and completing delivery."

It also refers to "living unborn or a substantial portion thereof."

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf ruled no one could define what a "substantial portion" was.

Stenberg said in the petition that he disagreed with the ruling and that the law is written clearly. He also said it does not stand in the way of a woman seeking an abortion.

Carhart disagreed and said the law limited women's choices.

"I oppose the state of Nebraska's efforts to make abortion illegal, and I will be before the Supreme Court in April because I believe that all women and their doctors should not lose the right to make personal decisions about their life and health," Carhart said.

