

The Daily Nebraskan

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Teacher Rating—Pro & Con

(Editor's note: The following editorial is the second in a series explaining why Nebraska should have a teacher rating system. Colleges and universities using such systems were contacted in compiling the information.)

Many arguments have been expressed for and against the use of student opinion as a means of evaluating effective teaching. Some of the arguments against include:

1. Students are not competent to judge the merits of either the process or the results of teaching. They are immature, superficial and prejudiced. They are inclined to make snap judgements that are unreliable.
2. The validity and reliability of students' judgements are distorted by a variety of factors. Among these are grades, fondness or dislike for teachers and amount of work required and difficulty of the subject.
3. Student ratings tend to disrupt the morale of the faculty.
4. Student ratings may make the teacher too self-conscious for effective work, while low ratings may discourage him unduly.
5. Students may acquire the feeling that they are the sole judges of the worth of teachers.

What are the arguments in favor of using student opinions and ratings?

1. Any acceptable theory of learning stresses the importance of the learners' attitudes. It is, therefore, important to learn what these attitudes are and to adjust the teaching attitudes, or to change attitudes to conform with more valid criteria. There is reason to believe that the attitude of a class is generally improved by the frank and open willingness of an instructor to be critically and publicly evaluated by his students.
2. Students alone observe the teaching process day after day. For this reason, information acquired through the systematic collection of their opinions is unique. It enables administrators to improve college teaching by consulting the consumer.
3. Since student opinion in the form of gossip and bull sessions influences students, teachers and administrators regardless of any form of teacher rating, it would be wise to admit the fact and capitalize fully on its value. The views of students may be prejudiced, mistaken, superficial and immature, but whatever their validity, they exist and exert a powerful influence on the effectiveness of the teaching and learning situation.
4. Systematic study of student attitudes and opinion makes possible a desirable sort of self-supervision on the part of the teacher in contrast to other possibly less desirable types of supervision on the college level.

Editorial Briefs

A group of giggling, babbling people in the room next door can certainly cause difficulty in conducting a business meeting in the Union. Maybe they don't realize that Union space is limited, and all organizations can't meet in sound-proof rooms.

The list of complaints about the book situation is long, but the latest to come to our office is one against so-called "pet projects." This particular gripe referred to books written by instructors for their courses, paper bound volumes which can't be re-sold to stores when students are done with them. One student said that two of the bookstore wouldn't purchase an instructor's book because it was paper bound. Yet, he said, the book has been required in the past and would be used this semester. There is no plausible reason why such books, when returned in good shape, should not be repurchased.

Mr. Simmons goes to Washington. And with him go the congratulations and respect of this University. Ray Simmons, law college senior, has topped his amazing college career with his recent appointment as a junior law clerk to Justice Harold H. Burton of the United States Supreme court. Prior to the appointment, announced Thursday, Simmons led the senior law class in scholarship, was named to Phi Beta Kappa, and managed to contribute a great deal to the campus activity picture as a member of Student Council, Interfraternity council, the University party, the Constitutional assembly, the Law Review, Law association, and Phi Delta Phi, legal professional fraternity. Even more amazing than the list are Simmons' frank and enthusiastic contributions to the organizations. A thinker, a doer, Simmons has stood on his own two feet for the things he has believed are best for the campus. This University and the State it represents can be rightly proud that Ray Simmons has received his summons to the capitol of our country.

Plans are now in the offing to somewhat reconcile the "practical" and "liberal" aspects of education. Through the cooperation of four University departments, a non-credit humanities course will be offered on the campus this month. It will be open to all "interested" students. Student interest will determine whether the course, combining art, music, history and literature, will become part of the credit curriculum. The humanities course should come as a welcome addition to students enrolled in the technical and professional fields. It will give that "cultural" broadening so often sought by the "practical" students, besides serving as a foundation for those seeking a "liberal" education. Much credit should go to the departments, faculty members and students instrumental in plotting the humanities course. Long an integral part of many college curricula, it should serve a real purpose at the University of the "White Spot of the Nation."

Sixty-eight books, valued at \$174, have been taken from the Book Nook during the semester. It's certainly too bad that some people stoop to stealing articles which have been obtained for the benefit of all.

Reno Merchants Attack Discounts
A student "discount club" whose members receive discounts on merchandise and service from certain local dealers has been frowned upon by the president of the University of Nevada. Acting President G. E. Parker of the university said that the growth of such an organization endangers the whole program of support provided by merchants of Reno thru advertising in university publications. He recommended that faculty members avoid participation in the project. Local merchants threatened to withdraw their support if the club extends to include businesses in the downtown district.

Letterip

Dear Letterip:
The thing that started me boiling was word 'gracious' in your column, second group, number 4 of the constructive suggestions (which are very good, by the way). But, why anyone should 'graciously' mention the prevalence of stealing, thieving that is, anywhere, is beyond my understanding. But then, being older, although only an undergraduate, perhaps I am old-fashioned. Maybe, that is the cause of this problem in American Universities. (And, it is in others, I assure you.) The great American game of looking around, and under, and over a thing, and not AT it. However, if professors and administration and departments are 'handing out' exams prior to the exam date, poor little students and newspapers have a hard row to hoe, I admit. Now, I admire refinement, soft voices, etc. as much as anyone. EXCEPT, you understand, when I wish to hear what is being said. Then, I do not admire a soft voice too much. There is a limit to refinement. Agree?

The first thing that has to be corrected (and first, discovered) is, whether or not, those who control the writing up and passing out of exams are for, or against cheating. If they see nothing wrong in handing out an occasional exam, our cause is sunk. All of which brings me to another angle: People have different understanding about what cheating is. The Daily Nebraskan should define it once and for all! But then, cheaters can't read. A person who found a poorly mimeographed copy of an exam which had been thrown away somewhere, maybe in a waste basket, as you mentioned, might feel that God had just come to his rescue. I AM serious. The meaning of cheating is not well understood. It is not cheating to look at a classmate's notes before the exam. During—yes. That is where difference comes in. And, oh, yes, I did forget to ask if Fraternity brothers help each other?

I fear changing types of exams is not going to change human nature. But to find so much of it in an institution or higher learning is disgusting.

Erma Quinn

Husker Alum Receives First Music Award

The Blanche Theobom scholarship foundation made its first annual award to Helen Laird, a 1947 graduate of the University school of music.
The scholarship will provide Miss Laird with \$1,500 to study voice for two years with any singing coach. The winner was selected from over 400 applicants after a series of elimination tests. At the University, Miss Laird was a member of Alpha Chi Omega and Sigma Alpha Iota. She was president of the Student Council in 1945-47 and a YWCA worker. Upon graduation Miss Laird went to Columbia University to work on her masters degree. She received the scholarship in New York.
The scholarship was set up by Blanche Theobom, who was helped similarly ten years ago. The only conditions of the scholarship are satisfactory progress and a promise to repay the foundation when the winner starts earning \$10,000 per year.

Just Around

By Rod Riggs
The Union is constantly catering to the interests of all of the students, from the most introverted to the extreme extroverts; from the Book Nook habitués to the table hoppers in the Crib.
And besides the facilities that are available, there is constant planning for more and more programs for student amusement and entertainment. The activities board is continually bringing in personalities in person-alities to entertain and divert the eds and coeds.
For example, Tuesday, Feb. 7 is the day that Ogden Nash, author and humorist will be presented at a convocation in the Ballroom. Nash, famous for his intriguing poetry, is the author of such poems as:
The Turtle
The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
Which practically conceal its sex.
I think it clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fast.
—Nash
It might be worth the trouble
For you to drop around next Tuesday at 3 p. m.
Henry Scott, who is somewhat renowned as a humorist as well as a pianist is presenting a "Concerto for Fun" at the Union Thursday. Seriously, this guy is as funny as the proverbial crutch is something of a panic. He takes this long-haired concert music (and the musicians) and kids them until it just won't quit. Tickets are \$1.20, won't be plenty, but if you can swing it, grab a date and go. Thursday at 8 p. m. in the Ballroom. And speaking of Thursday, there's a Canasta party for all of you fans, in the game room from 4 to 6 p. m.
Friday and Saturday are going to be busy days around here as the dear old Union is going to be host to kiddies from Colleges and Universities in Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota and Iowa. The occasion is the Regional Convention of the Association of College Unions. So if you see some people wandering around who look like shepherds, but don't look familiar, that's what they're doing here.
Also Friday is a great big fat dance, shuffleboard tournament and fish fry entitled the "Mardi Gras Open House." The entire Union will be literally thrown open. Yeah, literally. At 7:30 p. m. the throwing starts.
At 10 a. m. Saturday morning, the University table tennis team takes on Omaha U. I bet some of you people didn't even know there was a Scarlet and Cream Varsity Table Tennis team. But there is, and Pat Bussey, coach, director, and impresario, says that if NU ever goes to a minor letter station, the team is in-sky's.
Sunday, the faculty of the School of Music, in collaboration with the Union Music committee is presenting their third faculty recital. At 4 p. m. in the Ballroom again (is that place overworked?) Messrs. Blyth, Lentz, Harrison and Washnow, on the piano, flute, piano and violin, respectively, are going to kick it around a little. At the end of the program Lentz, Washnow and Harrison are performing a Debussy sonata a la combo. And besides, there's free coffee afterwards. And if you want to hang around for a while, there's a movie called "Manhunt" at 7:30 p. m. Of course, if it might attract movie people, but that's the way it goes.
Drop around!

Scott Combines Humor, Talent On Piano

Henry Scott, who combines a piano career with a comedian act, will play at the Union ballroom, Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8 p. m.
Scott's program includes swing, classics, pantomime, and concert humor. Life magazine calls him the "Will Rogers of the Piano." He plays boogie woogie and follows it with Chopin!
Scott has starred in Paramount short pictures, and has made numerous theater and radio appearances. He played a whole season at the Rainbow Room in New York.
Also included in Scott's list of past engagements is a series of Carnegie Hall concerts, and his debut at Town Hall, where he was acclaimed as "America's First Concert Humorist."
The program he will play at the Union includes twenty numbers. Works by Franz Liszt and Frederic Chopin, numbers by contemporary composers, and several Scott originals will be performed.
Scott is both a humorist and a concert virtuoso who combines his talents in these fields into an act that draws enthusiastic comment from critics all over the country.
The Hartford Times says he "plays the piano with the best of the greats." Metronome Magazine describes him as an "outstanding authority on swing." The New York World Telegram calls him a "one man gala."
Tickets for the program can be obtained from the main office of the Union for \$1.20.

Welding Society To Give Awards

The American Welding society is offering \$700 in prizes to both the undergraduate and the graduate students who are authors of articles on welding and the under-graduate publications printing the articles.
This is the 1949-50 A-F Davis undergraduate welding card. This award is offered to stimulate undergraduate interest in welding.
Four cash prizes will be awarded to the authors and to the publications printing the articles. The paper may be on any phase or any type of welding and its application to design and construction.
The papers will be judged for originality of subject, clarity of presentation and thoroughness with which the subject is treated. The articles must be published by the March issue of the publication to meet the deadline of April 10, 1950.

'Daily' Confuses Delta Sig Groups

The article appearing in Friday's issue of The Daily Nebraskan about the professional business and commercial fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, was erroneously called Delta Sigma Phi. Delta Sigma Pi is a professional fraternity, whereas Delta Sigma Phi is a social fraternity.

Education Cheap For Hoosier

The Indiana Daily Student reports that members of advanced reporting class visited City Hall and the police department last week as part of their editorial education.
They listened to a detailed discussion on the workings of the parking meters. On walking out of the building one student found that his parked car had been tagged for parking meter violation.
What price education?—\$1.00.



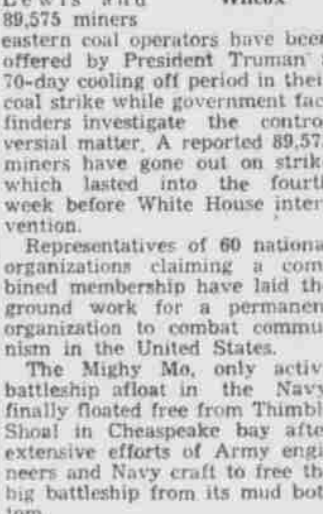
Shumate Presents Views On U.S. Electoral College

No presidential organization of this century would have been noticeably affected by an amendment to change or abolish the electoral college.
This is the view held by Prof. R. V. Shumate, of the political science department.
Shumate said that if the Lodge amendment, one of a long series of proposals, would have been in effect, the vote results would not have been different.
Shumate also doubted that the amendment will be ratified by the 36 states necessary even if it does pass the House of Representatives. It did pass the Senate by a margin of two votes. In the past, many such proposals have been advanced but thus far none has ever passed Congress.
Many believe, Shumate said, that the electoral college is obsolete, awkward, and undemocratic. Obsolescence is claimed because the college no longer serves the original purpose, which was to have the president chosen by a small select body.
Awkwardness is attributed to it because it is possible for an election to be thrown into the House of Representatives in case of absence of a majority, he said.
Lack of democracy is charged because the electoral votes are not apportioned in accordance with the popular votes cast in the states nor with the population itself.
In the election of 1944, said

News & Views

By George Wilcox
THE WEEK IN BRIEF

President Truman announced in an historical decision that the Atomic Energy Commission has been ordered to manufacture the Hydrogen bomb, reportedly to be 1,000 times more powerful than the Atomic bomb. The Hydrogen bomb stated Mr. Truman, "will be manufactured until an international control organization is initiated."
John L. Lewis and 89,575 miners eastern coal operators have been offered by President Truman a 70-day cooling off period in their coal strike while government fact finders investigate the controversial matter. A reported 89,575 miners have gone out on strike which lasted into the fourth week before White House intervention.
Representatives of 60 national organizations claiming a combined membership have laid the ground work for a permanent organization to combat communism in the United States.
The Mighty Mo, only active battleship afloat in the Navy, finally floated free from Thimble Shoal in Chesapeake bay after extensive efforts of Army engineers and Navy craft to free the big battleship from its mud bottom.



National

Washington — Dr. Klaus Fuchs, German born British A-bomb scientist, was arrested by Scotland Yard agents—acting on a tip from the FBI—and jailed on charges of violating the British official acts. FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover reported that evidence shows that Fuchs passed hydrogen bomb data as well as vital A-bomb secrets to Moscow.
Fuchs was a top scientist of the British atomic delegation to this country in World War II but was not subject to FBI investigation. He was cleared by British authorities and accepted by this country on that basis. Hoover believed that Fuchs was a paid Soviet spy as early as 1939.
Washington — Long awaited excise tax reductions are certain to come in some form in the near future, but not immediately. Reports from official Washington indicate that excise tax cuts should show up on price tags around mid-year.

International

Frankfurt, Germany — The on again, off again, truck blockade to Berlin displayed its usual pattern as the Russians suddenly reopened the truck road from western Germany to Berlin. When they stopped traffic, the Russians said the highway was too icy. Wonder what new reasons the Russians can think up next?

State and Local

Scottsbluff — An executive director will be named within two weeks to head the entire Nebraska public power program. Duty of the executive director will be to co-ordinate public power agencies, including the REA, Consumers and the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District.

NU Bulletin Board

Movies of the Nebraska-Kansas State basketball game will be shown Monday noon, Feb. 6, in the Union lounge.
No BABW meeting Monday at 8 p. m. Each board member should call or come to the office between 4 and 5 p. m. Monday.
All men interested in pledging Phi Mu Sinfonia may turn their names in to the School of Music office. This honorary is open to any men students interested in music.

Italians Invent New 'Crib' Ways

The "wave" of cribbing isn't confined to Nebraska. Italy's minister of education sent an investigator to Turin, Italy, this week to look into reports that two high school students passed Greek and Latin exams last July because of answers beamed to them by shortwave radio.
According to the reports, one student, complaining of earaches, wore a heavy bandage on his head. The bandage concealed a radio.
The other student hid his receiving set in a cast on a "broken" arm.
Translations of the texts were supposedly broadcast from a house across the street from the high school. The investigators confirmed that a probe is being made but refused to give further information.

Builders to Present Comedy Revue, 12 Calendar Girls

Rivaling Esquire, Nebraska will introduce its own twelve Calendar Girls in a U of N Builders-sponsored comedy revue.
Presentation of the 12 coeds, each representing one of the months of the year, will take place Saturday, Feb. 18, at an after-the-basketball-game show.
The Calendar Girls will be chosen by a board of three faculty judges from coeds nominated by houses, organizations and individuals about campus. For every ten sides of the Nebraska memorandum book, one girl can be nominated.
Audience members at the Calendar Girl revue will name a "Girl of the Year" from the 12 snowgirls by written ballot at the close of the revue. Ballots will be obtained at the start of the show.
"Girl of the Year" will be revealed in a forthcoming issue of Corn Shucks, campus humor magazine. She will be given a full-page spread in the March or April edition.
From nominees for Calendar Girl, the judges, Dr. Floyd

Indians Preceded 'Waist' Watchers

Watching waists was an American custom long before the present "easy living" conditions says Dr. Walter Goldschmidt, anthropologist at U. C. L. A.
The American Indian, traditionally lean and lithe of figure, was compelled by social custom to watch his waistline. At least this was true of certain tribes, says Dr. Goldschmidt.
Big eaters of the tribe were considered to be vulgar. A person of good manners, according to tribal tradition, always ate in moderation and left food in his baskets to show self-control. In case he did sneak in some in-between-meal snacks he sloughed off afterwards by the "sweat-bath," a sort of aboriginal Turkish bath. Warriors had to leave the bathroom through a narrow flue. It was a test far more exacting than the bathroom scales, for he couldn't partake of the religious sweating if he couldn't get out the flue—and that meant the spirits would not give him luck.

Penn State Starts New Division

A new division was established at Pennsylvania State College recently for the purpose of assisting students who desire to change curricula.
Called the Division of Intermediate Registration, it permits a student to spend a maximum of two semesters in the unclassified status.

Union to Change Crib Records

A new selection of records will be placed on the Crib's juke boxes. By so doing the Crib will conform to its policy of changing discs every two weeks.
Any student with suggestions concerning the selection of records to be used in the next two weeks should contact the Union Activity Office.