

# An Inmate's Day On Campus . . .

. . . Nothing Unusual



SOMETHING ALL THE TIME . . . Bob Sweigart's day consists of a variety of activities. In the extreme left picture Sweigart is helping a 14-year-old baseball player in batting techniques. The boy is Allan Newbill, student at Whittier junior high school, whom Sweigart coaches every Saturday. In the next picture Sweigart

is seen studying in Love Library. The next picture shows Sweigart holding a baseball trophy which he helped win. The trophy is on Supt. George L. Morris' desk at the Reformatory. The extreme right picture was taken during biology lab, where Sweigart concentrates on dissecting a frog.

## Progressive Education On Trial At NU

### PE Major Plans Job Of Coaching

By JOAN KRUEGER  
Editor

He's just an ordinary guy. Nice looking—medium height—loves sports . . .

His personality is friendly, but that doesn't mean he won't get mad and blow off steam sometimes. He's no Phi Beta Kappa, but he's not flunking out of classes either. Some classes he likes; others, he just tolerates.

In a crowd one wouldn't look twice at him unless he knew him well enough to speak.

His name is Bob Sweigart. His address, the Nebraska State Reformatory. He is one of two men attending classes here while serving a sentence at the Reformatory. Carrying 15 hours this semester, he is majoring in physical education. The second inmate is a part time student taking art courses two afternoons each week.

You might identify Bob with several occupations by speaking to him. Bob says his English tutor recognizes three definite accents—a regular one, a Chicago trace and a penal one. Bob also admits to a fourth—acquired in the navy, where he served 28 months. Just talking to him, however, one can't recognize any one particular accent.

Attending classes on the GI bill, Bob just began his third semester. He started in summer school in June, 1951. He does not receive the usual \$90 a month subsistence fee from the Veterans administration since he is state supported.

Serving a 5 to 7 year term for robbery in Omaha, Bob lacks about 10 months of being at the institution as long as Supt. George Morris who arrived in 1947.

Bob attributes much of his change in attitude to Morris, who, along with Waldo Dahlstedt, educational director, has been instrumental in promoting a new education program at the Reformatory. Because Bob realizes the important part he plays in the success of future programs of sending inmates to the University, this student says every action taken must be one which will not reflect poorly on the program, the Reformatory or himself.

Although Bob's role in the program is only one tenet, it is one directly connected with University students.

His chief interest in baseball has been used in various ways. He has played three years on the State Reformatory team which is in the Blue Valley and Salt Creek Valley leagues. Each man on the baseball team must enroll in at least one school course offered at the institution. It is sort of an honor system.

Bob has been doing a lot of thinking while he's been attending University classes. He definitely believes that interest in

### Sweigart's 'Sincere' Attitude Admired By Teachers Who Say He 'Tries Hard'

By DON PIEPER  
Managing Editor

One day last semester Ramey C. Whitney was explaining to his social science class the possibilities of a man once convicted as a criminal returning to unlawful practices after serving a sentence in a penal institution.

One student asked if he could come to the front and explain certain aspects of the questions.

Whitney granted permission and Bob Sweigart stepped forward and gave what Whitney described as an "excellent lecture." Sweigart explained to the class that he was an inmate at the Nebraska State Reformatory for Men and attending classes here under special permission.

Several class members asked questions which Sweigart answered "honestly and completely," Whitney said. One student asked, "How come they let you?"

"I begged to come to the University of Nebraska," Sweigart answered.

This sincere attitude has carried into every class that Sweigart has attended at the University, according to his instructors.

Miss Alice Hupp, Sweigart's English instructor, commented she had never seen a student "try any harder to succeed in class work" than Sweigart has tried.

He seems to feel, she said, that he is carrying the whole load of future inmate students. This responsibility has made him "more deeply anxious to succeed," she added.

One real objective of higher education, Whitney said, should be to teach tolerance. He believes the program of having Reformatory inmates take training as part of the regular University classes helps create tolerant feelings.

girls' athletics should be increased in some way. He thinks it might be a good idea to have a girls' swimming or tennis team. Firmly convinced coeds would be a lot better off taking part in sports, he is anxious to see girls' athletics expanded.

Bob travels to and from campus with Robert Bollman, another University student who is a guard at the Reformatory. They arrive some time between 7 and 8 each morning, except Sunday. Bob often referees various intramural games in the evenings.

Although he spends the day on campus attending classes and studying, Bob is expected to carry out regular work at the institution either before or after classes.

Chancellor R. G. Gustavson, who has pointed out it is the policy of the University to cooperate with other state institutions, also believes that society must assume some responsibility for the rehabilitation program. Inmates are carefully considered before they are allowed to enroll.

Even though it was not known publicly until recently, that inmates were attending the University, Bob has never tried to hide the fact. He admits there have been a few unfavorable remarks made directly toward him. Some accuse him of increasing the tax burden by using state funds for college. However, his GI bill pays for books and tuition. This is true of the part time student also.

The idea of sending inmates to school started about a year ago after the Reformatory had much success in sending several men to the Millard trade school.

The Nebraska State Reformatory is the only one in the country to permit inmates to attend classes outside the institution, according to Morris. Bob considers this important for by making a success of his trial, he hopes others will benefit.

Bob also has some pretty concrete ideas about the Reformatory program, which he says should include some coeducational functions. After all, he points out, the men will have to live in a world with both men and women when they are released.

Originally from Chicago, Bob would like to coach in high school someday. He is also quite interested in Midget baseball teams.

And there you have it. Bob Sweigart—age 25—veteran—carrying an average number of hours—an avid sports enthusiast. Nothing unique about his personality or appearance, and he likes cream and sugar in his coffee.

But the most important aspect of the program, all of Sweigart's instructors agree, is the help a University education can do in rehabilitating an inmate for life in society after his release.

Sweigart wants to coach young boys. "I'llie Lepley, physical education instructor, explained the value of Sweigart's training.

"Bob realizes his mistake," Lepley said, and he should be able to "show through athletics the right attitude" for young boys to take.

Sweigart grew up in Chicago where, he feels, there is a great need for giving youth a more solid environment. Someday, he said, he would like to work in a boys' club directing recreation.

In Lepley's course, theory and principles of physical education, Sweigart has shown intense interest and sincere effort to improve, the instructor said. Lepley feels this interest in physical education will benefit society.

"Bob has a purpose," he said.

All of his instructors were impressed with the way Sweigart is helping himself. Each teacher mentioned that the attitude of the classes toward Sweigart was in every way friendly. No one, they said, has complained or had any objectionable reactions.

In fact, one student told Whit-

ney that the day Sweigart talked to the social science class was the most interesting day in that student's life at the University.

Public reaction to inmate instruction at this state school has been a definite detriment to Sweigart's education here, his instructors felt.

"The unthinking public," Whitney said, has hurt and will hurt progressive attempts like this.

Although Sweigart is not exceptional in his studies, his interest in an education has kept his grades slightly above average.

Miss Hupp cited Sweigart's work in English class as an example of a "deep desire to learn." She feels inmate instruction program has "saved a boy's life socially." More can be saved too, she believes, if the experiment is tried with more inmates.

It was the opinion of all the instructors, however, that definite care would have to be taken in choosing men to come to the University.

Inmates, as other students, the instructors said, are subject to University rules.

The most common comment on the overall program was "wonderful."

Everyone interviewed by The Daily Nebraskan believes, that Sweigart will prove a good example when future plans for inmate-instruction are considered.

Due to the size of his class, Dwight D. Miller, biology instructor, did not have close contact with Sweigart, but expressed confidence that the program would prove beneficial to society.

Although the principles of the program were generally accepted, there was some argument with a few details.

For example, Bob Hamblet, physical education instructor, stressed the importance of choosing the right men to be sent to the University.

Not every man, he said, would fit into the program. The main difficulties, as he saw them, were the subjective choice of men, and the man who would do the choosing.

Despite this, Hamblet believes the program has a great deal of merit and will prove helpful to the University, the Reformatory and, especially, the men.

### Baby Picture Contest Ends On Ag Today

Wednesday is the last day that Ag students may enter the Baby Picture contest sponsored by Ag Union. The contest ends at 5 p.m.

Winner of the contest will be announced at the Ag Sno-Ball dance Friday, and will receive a valuable prize. The person whose baby picture is chosen the "cutest" by those entering the contest will also receive a prize.

Entries include 20 pictures of prominent Ag students—10 boys and 10 girls. Ag students are to try to match the pictures with names listed by them. The pictures are on display in a showcase in the Ag Union.

### Delta Sigma Pi Hears Speech On American Life, Problems

"The American Way of Life and the Problems Facing Our Generation" was the topic of John E. Curtiss' speech to members of Delta Sigma Pi attending a recognition dinner in the Union Monday evening.

Curtiss, director of public relations for Consumer Public power, told the group that there should be a confidential relationship among the citizens of the country and that they should work both together and individually to reach predetermined goals.

Curtiss quoted Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," applying it to the part people must play as citizens of this country.

Delta Sigma Pi, professional business fraternity, recognized Bob Patterson for outstanding service to the fraternity and to the College of Business Administration. Don Mathes, an alumnus now an employe in a Lincoln

bank, made the award.

At the dinner new officers were installed. The outgoing president, John Greulich, was presented a golden gavel by the new president, John Grow.

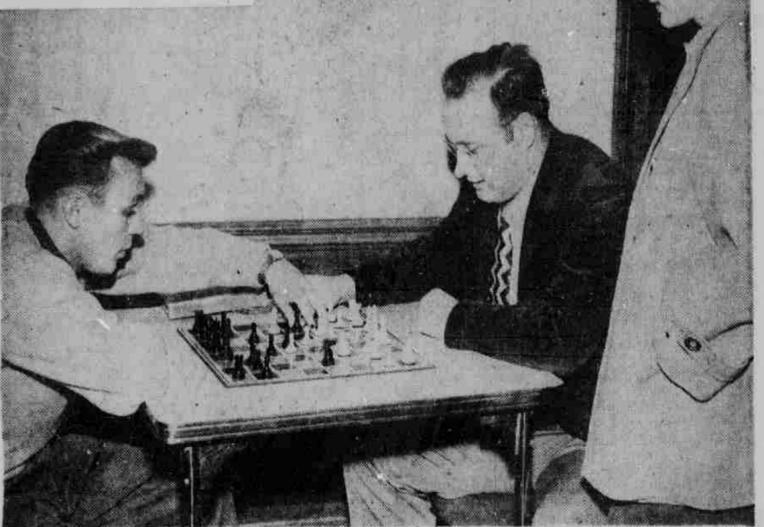
Officers installed were Grow, Kenneth Neff, Stanley Meyer, Roland Haas, Walter Tompkins, Bob Roeder and John Lynch.

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MATCHING WITS IN CHESS—Sweigart and Robert Bollman, another University student who is a guard at the Reformatory, play moves in a chess game at the Union, where Sweigart spends any leisure time. Watching the game is Pat Patterson who stopped on her way to the Crib.

### Fulton, Swingle Write Papers For Next Meeting Of PST

Sarah Fulton and Kathryn Swingle will present papers on "Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz: 1651-1681" and "Theories on Cervantes' Motives in Writing Don Quixote" at the next meeting of Phi Sigma Iota, national romance language honor society. The group will meet Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7:30, in the faculty lounge of the Union.

Phi Sigma Iota was founded thirty years ago to further relations with French, Italian, and Spanish speaking nations, and to encourage scholarship and re-

search in those branches of language. Each undergraduate member is required to present an original paper to the society during his term of active affiliation. Qualifications for membership restrict it to college faculty and advanced students of the languages in their junior, senior or post-graduate years.

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