

Editorial Comment:

Semester System Best?

Back during Christmas season a month and a half ago, a lot of students complained that they really didn't have a very relaxing vacation because the start of finals only two weeks after the re-beginning of school hung over their heads.

The ones who studied said they had a poor vacation because of that reason; the ones who didn't study generally came back to school more than a little angry at themselves and perhaps with a little less belief in their strong willpower.

In any case, vacations with finals coming up in just a few weeks often tend to act as a psychological barrier to that free feeling so welcome after a couple of months of concentrated study.

Solutions? Well, a switch to the quarter instead of the semester plan of academic scheduling could solve that problem and perhaps a few more.

First of all, let's take a look at how a typical quarter system plan might be set up at this university. The first quarter logically could start in about the last week of September. The quarter could continue for about 12 school weeks, through October and November and the first two or three weeks of December.

Then, after quarter finals, there'd be a free period over the Christmas holidays until early January when quarter number two could start. It could then continue through January, February and March.

Then, after a short vacation, the last quarter could start in early April and continue to the last part of June.

Besides the single psychological effect of having a worry-free, study-free Christmas vacation, the quarter system could provide other benefits. For instance, many members of this agriculture-oriented state university could more or less go back to the farm after the second quarter to help out with spring planting and carry on through the summer until late September when it would be time to go back.

At Colorado State University, a large number of agriculture students do this very thing. It may prolong graduation, but it can help their fathers harvest bigger crops in the fall, and consequently they can afford to send their boys back to school again.

And National Guard or Army Reserve personnel might drop out of school at the same time, to squeeze in their six-month active training program, missing only a quarter instead of a whole semester.

And near-graduating seniors could come

back in the fall to complete their work during the first quarter, and set off on their careers a month and a half early.

Another argument for a quarter system is that the student probably will take less subjects and concentrate on them harder. Taking five or more subjects, which is the average number now, permits students to have diverse programs and to sample many fields, but it also divides their attention and induces superficiality.

It might lead to better work and less frenetic lives.

But of course all the arguments concerning a quarterly system don't support such an arrangement. The argument that students learn better in a quarter system is countered by the complaint that courses are so compressed that better learning really doesn't result.

Other arguments against a switch to the system might be that it is harder to transfer to and from colleges using opposing semester and quarter calendars. In both instances, there's liable to be a layover of a month or so if transferring in mid-year.

A quarter system would mean more graduation ceremonies, more registrations, more paper work. Switchover from semester to quarter plans would hardly be a snap.

Neither system can please all of the people all of the time or some individuals any time. But in the present time, when our educational system is getting its closest scrutiny in years, no system is worth overlooking.

Quarter systems, teacher systems, many educational ideas all have their merits. The important thing to remember about them all, though, is that they are means, and not the end.

Cardpulling No Fun

Late registrants are finding the going a little tougher than their counterparts did during finals week registration.

Latecomers had to go back to the old process of handpulling cards, and in general the scene at the Registrar's Office was more or less one of confused order.

In general the process carried on in the P.E. Building in January went very smoothly and quickly, in comparison.

The revised registration system may have tinges of bureaucracy. But most of us seem to like it that way.

From the Editor's Desk:

It Seems to Me . . .

By Carroll Kraus

One of the more interesting things about working for the Nebraskan is the opportunity you get to read all the mail that comes pouring into our basement office every day.

Complaints, a little bit of praise, requests — all these are a part of the local letters that staffers open.

But they can hardly supply the variety of reading material that comes through the many pamphlets, letters, post cards, magazines, newspapers and books that have postmarks all the way from Washington, D.C., to Munich, Germany.

We recently got some material, for instance, from a self-styled Jesus Christ II. He announced three appearances to take place in Protestant and Catholic churches and a Jewish temple in Los Angeles.

He also sent us copies of telegrams sent to California Governor Pat Brown and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

The former called on Brown to release Caryl Chessman, convicted murderer and author, from captivity. The latter telegram directed Khrushchev's attention to world disarmament.

The letter to us said the same messages had been telegraphed to Supreme Court justices, President Eisenhower and UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold.

Anyway, we felt rather important to be on the mailing list.

A few more provocative items we've had in the mail lately included the announcement of the Kansas City Midwest Cat Club Show, a copy of "Hearings before the Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor and Management Field," direct from Congress.

A copy of a magazine printed in German



Kraus

called "Spuren;" another magazine, "Youth and Communism," published by the East European Student and Youth Service; and a pamphlet from the "Committee for World Development and Disarmament."

And, oh yes, we've received announcement of a new safety floor finish from a chemical company, material from General Features Corp. trying to sell Paul Harvey columns and more important news from the American Water Workers Assn.

We're on the mailing list of newspapers, college and otherwise, including such names as Greenwich Village's own "Village Voice," "The Ainsworth Star-Journal" and the James Madison High School "Constitution" of Portland, Ore., which incidentally is "dedicated to complete and accurate coverage of school news."

A fine dedication.

Elvis Presley becomes a civilian next month and an article in Redbook Magazine (which also is on our mailing list, apparently), quotes E.P. as saying the army has left him a "changed man."

Hooray for the army. Anyway, Elvis still says he's going to sing rock-'n'-roll, since his public demands it.

Why quit, says Elvis. "Listen, if you could make a million dollars singing rock-'n'-roll, would you sing ballads?"

Enough to make a believer out of you.

Talking about music, I made my cultural debut of the year Friday night and went to the opera "Die Fledermaus," at Howell Theatre.

It was pretty good and Virginia Duxbury was terrific, as always.

But I was disappointed just a bit in the plot. I thought the whole thing centered around the life of a bat.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"HE SAYS HE HASN'T HAD ANY EYE STRAIN SINCE THE DOCTOR FITTED HIM WITH GLASSES."

The Huskers

By Mary Lou Reese

Who are the Huskers? They're the Nebraska football team, of course, but I think they're more than that. Huskers are a very special breed of people.

You can tell a Husker first of all by his or her location. All Huskers have, at one time or another, lived, worked or played on or near the Husker campus. Thousands of them live there every year, drinking Crib coffee to prove they have stomachs of cast iron. Occasionally they take a flying trip to Casey's to check up on the doings of the outside world, but mostly they live around the Husker campus.

More important than where they are, though, is what they are doing. Among all the Huskers, student-type or administration-type, there is a very special breed of Huskers. They do things. They made the Husker campus what it is today. More of them will shape tomorrow's campus.

Pepole make a school great. When did a new building ever inspire school spirit — unless it was a monument to people? The carillon tower, for instance, is the gift of a Husker to the Huskers who made it possible for him to have an education. The football stadium is more than just another stadium because it is dedicated to the memory of Huskers.

Huskers are deans, students, professors, activity queens, athletes, Rag staffers, ministers, Greeks, independents, Builders, workers, caesar, alums and men and women from other



Mary Lou

schools who take an active interest in the future of the Husker campus. Most of them are nice people, interesting people.

I hope you'll join me in getting acquainted with a few of these very special Huskers this semester. We'll try to find out what makes them work, what sets them apart from the main body of Huskers. What do they think about Nebraska today? How do they feel about the campus of the future? What kind of school inspires Huskers and the Husker spirit?

Spirit is getting to be such a Rag tradition that no new columnist would dare forget it. Don't tell The Editor or Diana, but I don't cheer too loudly in the rain myself; when I do, though, it's for the spirit of the Huskers who are doing their bit for the school in the middle of a muddy field. Or for the high tower pealing out victory bells after a winning game. Or for the Husker who left school out after we beat Oklahoma. Or the men with cameras or markers freezing on the sidelines.

Those are the Huskers we'll be meeting this semester, I hope: the men and women behind the Husker spirit.

—On Other Campuses— Zen Buddhism Offered As Iowa U Course

The School of Religion at Iowa University will offer a new course in Zen Buddhism this semester.

The seminars will cover the Indian religious background of Zen and the Chinese influences and the history of Zen in China.

Instead of a regular paper, students will be permitted to submit a painting, sculpture, short story or poem which they feel embodies the spirit of Zen.

Rose Bowl Okayed

The Minnesota Student Association Senate recently voted unanimously to support Minnesota's participation in the Rose Bowl.

As this year's game marked the end of the present contract between the Big 10 and the Pacific Coast schools, it is now up to the faculty representatives of the Big 10 to decide whether or not they want to continue the traditional game.

Cheap Living

The "Daily Lass-o" of Texas Woman's University reports that Brown University researchers asked an IBM computer how much it would cost a man to live if his diet were determined strictly by scientific considerations.

The computer reported that minimum quantities of needed protein, calcium, iron, phosphorus and five vitamins could be obtained in only four foods at a nominal cost of 21 cents a day.

The four foods listed by the computer included lard, beef liver, orange juice and soybean meal.

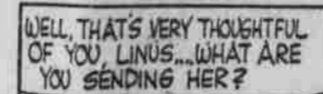
But Brown researchers haven't been able to figure out a way to combine the four into a palatable meal yet.

Like, No Man

Southern Illinois University "Egyptian" carried this item:

"A beatnik received quite a shock from a member of the Office of Student Affairs recently.

"An unclassified student was being advised for the winter quarter by a mem-



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