

# 'Teaching Machines' Article Attracts Faculty Attention

The article discussed in the following story was brought to the Daily Nebraskan's attention by a letter from a member of the University's faculty.

The letter came in response to the article on "Teaching Machines" which previously appeared in the Nebraskan.

A number of leading American psychologists say that "programmed education" reduced teaching to an exact science, thus freeing teachers from routine to devote their time to more exacting work. But will the new methods produce creative minds, or well-drilled robots?

This is the provocative question proposed by an article by George A. W. Boehm entitled "Can People Be Taught Like Pigeons?"

Programmed teaching and the "teaching machines" used in this method could, if they lived up to early expectations held by many, completely revolutionize education in a decade or two.

### Vital Impact

According to the article by Boehm, programmed teaching could also have a vital impact on such educational problems as the teacher shortage and the construction of schools. "Conceivably it could upset the whole social structure of American youth."

In addition to the interest of educators in the new theory, text book publishers might conceivably find their educational market altered. Several leading publishers are bringing out their first programmed texts this fall.

The dominant figure in advocating the theory of "conditioned" learning is B. F. Skinner, professor of psychology at Harvard.

Skinner began studying the learning process in 1929. He worked with rats, then switched to pigeons. He induced patterns of behavior by rewarding a correct response by the birds with grains of corn. He succeeded in teaching the birds to discriminate among playing cards, peck out songs on a toy piano, and play a simple version of table tennis.

### "Conditioning"

Skinner thought teaching should be a science based on behaviorism. His method is based on the theory of "conditioning." The program

leads the student step by step through the course.

According to Skinner, the good program makes it nearly impossible for a student to make an error. Ideas are presented simply over and over again. Many of the statements include blanks to fill with a word or two.

According to the article the object is to have the student "participate actively in the program." By filling the blanks in correctly, he "conditions" himself to absorbing the information being presented to him.

There is another school of programming technique headed by Norman A. Crowder. The two techniques are based on different sets of concepts about learning. Crowder's programming philosophy is based on a non-behaviorist concept of learning. Rather than conditioning students to learn, Crowder provides them with programs designed to serve more as a private tutor.

### Larger Doses

According to the article, "While Skinner atomizes information into brief statements, Crowder dispenses much larger doses, often several meaty paragraphs to a frame. Skinner makes it virtually impossible for the student to go wrong; Crowder permits mistakes, tries to anticipate them, and utilizes them as an integral part of the instruction."

According to Boehm, it is a basic tenet of behaviorism that behavior patterns, such as learning, are basically the same for all intelligent species. This enabled Skinner to adapt his pigeon-training techniques to his own students.

Skinner designed his questions in such a manner that it was almost impossible to choose an incorrect answer, and he showed the student the correct answer immediately.

The response (the answer) was instantly reinforced by the reward (self-satisfaction at giving the right answer) just as with the pigeons.

### Questions

Before educators will be willing to consider a change-over to programmed education

and the "teaching machines" several questions will have to be answered to their satisfaction, according to Boehm:

1. How well do students learn under programmed teaching? Will they be able to develop original ideas and express themselves effectively?

2. How well do students retain what they learn from a program?

3. Can all kinds of students, slow as well as bright, be taught with programs? Regardless of how satisfactorily these questions are worked out, the change will be gradual if it does come.

According to Boehm, the programmed teaching might convert the teacher shortage to a teacher surplus. "In elementary and high schools across the nation the shortage at present generally runs between 10 and 15 per cent," Boehm said. "If a sizeable percentage of courses were programmed, the teaching load could be spread out, and some teachers would be out of work."

Any community that contemplates a change-over to programmed teaching would have to consider a major reconstruction program, according to Boehm.

The advantage to above-average children would be a great asset of the program. The intelligent child might possibly "complete a year's work in a few weeks," according to Boehm.

## Biz Ad Coeds Initiate, Pledge

Phi Chi Theta, professional fraternity for women in Business Administration, recently initiated five new members and named 13 pledges.

The new members are Marylu Alschwede, Mary Jo Eager, Barbara Kramer, Peggy Merica and Connie Worsler.

The new pledges are, Jean Campbell, Judy Edwards, Nadene Gaardner, Judy Graham, Jackie Hansen, Beth Johnson, Carol Ann Johnson, Jill Mortensen, Penny Purcell and Linda Stouffer.

## Coed Plans Austrian Tour To Learn Alien Customs

Carol Wilcox, a senior in journalism and a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, will spend two months in Austria this summer.

Miss Wilcox's trip is being sponsored by the Experiment in International Living, a private organization which sends 1,200 people to 26 countries each summer.

The first month she will live with an Austrian family and learn their customs and background. She will be placed with a family on the basis of a letter in which she tells of her background and the type of family she would like to meet.

The second month will be spent touring Austria with other Americans on the same program.

Miss Wilcox will try to gain a deeper understanding of life while getting an opportunity to do some sight-seeing in such places as Vienna. She will pay her own expenses for the summer which will amount to about \$900.

Nebraskan Want Ads				
No. Words	1 da.	2 da.	3 da.	4 da.
1-10	.40	.60	.80	1.00
11-20	.60	.90	1.05	1.25
21-30	.90	1.20	1.35	1.50
31-40	1.20	1.50	1.65	1.80
41-50	1.50	1.80	1.95	2.10
51-60	1.80	2.10	2.25	2.40

These low-cost rates apply to Want Ads which are placed for consecutive days and are paid for within 10 days after the ad expires or is canceled.

### LOST AND FOUND

Reward: Sterling Silver lighter, engraved "UB" sentimental value. Lost in Student Union or City Campus vicinity. Call GR 7-9211 ext. 11 before 5:30 pm—GR 7-2694 after 5:30 pm.

### SERVICE REPAIR

Professional, guaranteed service of radio, television, hi-fi by a former service technician now in Engineering College. Call Nell Wallenstein, ID 4-9082.

### FOR SALE

NRVC... Former grad has uniform for sale, size 39. Call TV 8-2499.

Shortwave Receiver just like new. Hallicrafters 6X-99, price \$10. Also 6-100 Pre amp. HP-65, \$34. HE 8-2281.

1958 MG white-radio-beater-3100. See at Western-12th & L.

### PERSONAL

Wanted—rider to Hastings every Friday & return Sun. evenings. Call Chen, HE 2-6348.

Couple would ride to Miami vicinity end of May. Share expenses. GR 7-4876, evenings.

### FOR RENT

Home like inexpensive housekeeping rooms, employed women or students. Good bus. 2111 Starr—call JIK 2-7831, Ext. 7183 days.

WANTED—Girl to go to Atlantic City via Fairbury, Nebraska. Must have won \$200 scholarship and wear the title of Miss University of Nebraska. For details contact sorority president or Dean of Women, Helen Sneider.

## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



BY THE WAY, ED, THAT'S A HI-POWER ACID IN THAT COKE BOTTLE!

## Psych Symposium Speaker Reviews Teaching Methods

Dr. W. J. McKeachie, speaking at the two-day University of Nebraska Psychology Symposium, stated that a recent study supports the theory that college teaching methods interact with student motives to determine the degree of learning.

Dr. McKeachie, of the department of psychology at University of Michigan, reported: male students high in motive power receive better grades in classes where volunteering is encouraged than in classes where it is uncommon.

"The opportunity to present one's own point of view is apparently most important for male students in the top half of the group in intelligence."

## Grants For Grad Study To Fifteen

According to Dr. Harold E. Wise, associate dean of the Graduate College, 15 students who plan to begin graduate work at the University have been offered National Defense Graduate Fellowships.

The 39 NDEA fellowships aid in the amount of more than \$260,000 to worthy and qualified graduate students in eight areas of study. There are 24 students now enrolled for graduate study under the NDEA fellowships.

The new recipients have until April 15 to either accept or decline the fellowships, which are distributed among the following departments: history, four; English, five; mathematics, five; entomology, three; and political science, two.

Each three-year fellowship will provide a grant of \$2,000 for the first year, \$2,200 for the second and \$2,400 for the third year, plus \$400 for each dependent. An accompanying grant to the University of up to \$2,500 is provided to pay for the cost of educating each candidate.

The recipients and their fields of study are:

**HISTORY:** James L. Demarce of Spring Valley, Wis.; Milton O. Gustafson of Minneapolis, Minn.; William D. Rowley of Tacoma, Wash.; and James F. Vivian of Cedar Rapids, Ia.

**ENGLISH:** Raymond A. Anselment of Duluth, Minn.; Clair B. Brohaugh of River Falls, Wis.; Richard H. Henze of Evansville, Ind.; George B. Sullivan of Newport, R.I.; and Walter V. Weber of Bloomington, Ill.

**MATHEMATICS:** Oskar Feichtinger of Superior, Wis.; Gary G. Gilbert of Tekamah; and William T. White of Kearney.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE:** John F. Ladenburger of Prague.

**ENTOMOLOGY:** Glenn M. Stokes of Alexandria, La.; and Dennis M. Danielson of Duluth, Minn.

This is the first time that the University has received NDEA fellowships in the fields of history, English, and mathematics.

Before leaving, Miss Wilcox will go to Putney, Vt. for a four day briefing, and then depart by plane from Hartford, Conn. June 30.

The Experiment in International Living's main purpose is to promote better relationships between countries through a better understanding between the peoples of these countries. It is endorsed by such men as Christian Herter and former president Dwight D. "Eisenhower.

## Mayor's Committee Plans Discussion

An employers forum sponsored by the mayor's committee for the employment of the physically handicapped will be held at the University of Nebraska today.

A series of discussions and workshops will be held at the Nebraska Union following a noon luncheon in the Pan American Room.

A University associate professor of agricultural engineering has been selected vice chairman of the Mid-Central Section of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Dr. Howard Wittmus will work with area student sections of ASAE in conducting a student technical paper contest and the Mid-Central Student Section's meetings.

# LUTHER

and

## HIS NIGHT RIDERS

### COLLEGE NIGHT

In conjunction with GREEK WEEK

## KING'S BALLROOM

# APRIL 21

## New Legacy Weekend Satisfies Panhellenic

This year's Legacy Weekend boasted an attendance of better than 175 high school senior legacies from all over the U.S.

The Panhellenic-sponsored event was termed "very successful" by Miss Madeline Girard, Panhellenic advisor. "We were very satisfied with the attendance," she said.

In past years legacies of any age attending high school were invited to Legacy Week-

end. Recently the number of legacies had grown to an increasingly large and unmanageable size. For this reason only high school seniors participated this year.

This smaller more manageable group allows the girls to become better acquainted, Miss Girard said. Another advantage was that the age gap between sorority girls and legacies is less and the girls have more in common, she said.

The plan including high school seniors only "worked out very well," according to Miss Girard, and she indicated the same plan will probably be used in future years.

## Weaver To Head Grad Club

Dr. John C. Weaver, dean of the University Graduate College, was named president-elect of the newly organized National Council for Graduate Education recently.

The Council was formed in Chicago last week by representatives of 100 leading graduate schools in the United States.

President for the coming year is Dean Henry Brent of the University of Missouri. Until assuming the presidency, Dr. Weaver will serve as vice president of the Council.

The Council was formed by six graduate school organizations: Association of Graduate Schools, Graduate Division of Association of Land-Grant Universities and Colleges, and the Midwest, West, New England and Southern Regional Conferences on Graduate Studies.

The new group represents the first attempt to create a national organization that can speak as a united voice for graduate education in the country.

Dean Weaver is the only educator in the country who will serve during the coming year as a member of the executive committees of all three of the major graduate organizations, the National Council, Association of Graduate Schools, and the Land-Grant Association's graduate division.

Dr. Weaver also was chairman of the policy committee of the Association of Graduate Schools which formulated the initial plans for the organization of the National Council.

## Panhel Sends Two to Meeting

Pat Johnson, president of Panhellenic, and Nancy McGrath, vice president, will represent Nebraska at the Big Eight Panhellenic-Interfraternity Council (IFC) Conference at Oklahoma University.

The conference will be held April 14-15 at Norman, Okla., with each Panhellenic organization in the Big Eight sending two delegates.

Last year's conference, held at Nebraska, was the first time Panhellenic delegates attended the meeting in connection with IFC.

## Theta Sigs Plan Matrix Banquet

Helen Wells, Chicago Sun-Times woman's editor, will be the featured speaker at this year's Theta Sigma Phi Matrix banquet on April 29, according to Mary Lou Reese, University chapter president.

Miss Wells' talk will precede presentation of the fifth annual "Woman of the Year" journalism citations. A woman journalist in both the weekly and daily field of newspapering will be honored at the Student Union program.

In addition, recognition will be paid to women in both fields of journalism for achievement in news writing, feature writing, women's page stories and columns.

The second annual workshop for women writers will be conducted the afternoon of April 29 by Theta Sigma Phi members at the School of Journalism.

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