

CAMPUS OPINION

Course Evaluation

Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared in a September issue of the Minnesota Daily.

A similar program has been initiated by the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska Senate. The guest editorial makes OUR point satisfactorily.

The Minnesota Student Assn.'s course evaluation program can be of tremendous benefit to the University—or it can do irredeemable damage.

If administered properly, it can tell students things about courses that no bulletin could. It could also put pressure on teachers to improve their teaching.

IF ADMINISTERED UNWISELY, it could ruin careers and turn potentially excellent young teachers to other professions.

This is not to say teachers should be sacrosanct beyond criticism. Obviously, they should not.

Professors with or without tenure and teachers teaching unique courses should be fair game for responsible criticism, no matter how strong. If an established teacher is doing a poor job, the students and his superiors should know about it in explicit terms.

Yet course evaluation would be meaningless without unfavorable recommendations in such courses as Freshman English, and similar early sequences which require large numbers of young teachers.

ONE POSSIBLE solution would be to publish only lists of recommended teachers for such courses. A teacher's omission from such a list would be meaningful to students signing up for the courses.

To give the young teachers the maximum benefit of course evaluation, they should be provided as detailed criticisms of their teaching as possible.

In this way course evaluation could serve its function without unnecessarily ruining careers, and possibly lives.

'Beauty' List

Dear Editor:

Ah, the quaintness of campus politics!

Last week we all rejoiced that our Homecoming Queen would no longer have to depend on a list of activities for her position. Everybody was happy that the skin-deep virtues finally got just representation.

But an apparent breakdown appeared in the supreme communications between the choosers of beauty and the publicizers of finalists, and the release of the 10 finalists read exactly the same as it has in the dark ages of activity predominance.

Rather than reading about heights, weight, measurements, color of hair and eyes, and platitudes about the musical quality of laughs and the serenity of smiles, we were again subjected to the ridiculous list of chairmanships, finalistships and house officerships.

So, really, until the change becomes final and we start reading about womanships, all students should realize that it is still activities that play the supreme roles here.

Dirty Old Man

Go In Debt

Dear Editor:

I was, on October 1, thoroughly delighted by one of the most magnificent movies I have ever seen. The acting was superb, the music was beyond compare, and the scenery and photography was spectacular, but best of all is the feeling you receive when you leave the theatre.

It is a feeling of, "how grateful I am to live in the land of the free, in a land of choice not dictatorship." I know there are many on campus who have yet to see this movie. I urge you not to hesitate. GO INTO DEBT if you have to. You will never forget it. The show is truly wonderful and from it you can see why we must fight to keep freedom alive forever.

The show is of course, The Sound of Music by Oscar Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers, starring Julie Andrews.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Kushner

More Dimensions

Dear Editor:

I read with interest "To Deepen Dimensions" in Monday's Daily Nebraskan. I for one will welcome the end of an ancient regime comprised of apathetics and of "isolated malcontents," but spokesmen of the new era seem, as yet, ambiguous in their terms. "Community," for example, is clear to me, but I wonder how much meaning it would have when not read in the context of Gemeinschaft?

And what about the term "special interest groups?" Are the writers trying to say that the university's three component parts (students, faculty, administrators) do not in themselves have special interests; or that they are not also united by a common interest when acting as the component of a larger, social system?

Tom Bleser

Bleakness Is...

What will be if they keep trimming the trees on 16th Street.

Being a senior and still wondering what you're doing here.

No campus opinion to read in the Daily Nebraskan. Being the marketing manager of National Cash Register Company and wondering where you've failed—Go Big Red.

Being a Phi Delta, throwing a glass out the telescope room and not having the first car run over it.

Going to Crib lab and not recognizing anyone with whom you can sit.

Watching your friends going to Myron's and counting the days.

Living on Uni. Terrace and watching your neighbors get serenaded.

Being required to attend a serenade when you're in the shower.

Being a Xi and not able to return the water balloons so graciously bestowed on you.

Watching the 10:00 o'clock news with friends when your Harry high school team was defeated.

Not being able to obtain the same type of brick for your new addition.

Knowing the grader who is assigned to correct another section's papers.

Brand new saddle shoes so everyone knows you're conforming.

No Name



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The 13th Of Never

Have you seen the new cash register in the Union? It's all red with a big white "N" on it. Touching, I thought. Symbolic, I thought further.

This is the time of year when the bank starts sending little messages about how much money I haven't got any longer. That's always a jolt, since I'm so busy spending I get behind on the check stubs, and therefore the increasingly depressing decrease never bothers me. After you've paid for tuition, fees and parking stickers, bought foreign films and Community Concerts, and stocked up on supplementary rations against those times when veal cutlet starts turning up under various disguises three days a week—well, your outlook may be prejudiced into thinking of the University as a red cash register with a big white "N" on it.

And, of course, the expenses are just beginning. Consider all the things you have to have to go to a football game. There was a time (certain of my acquaintances are getting pretty weary of my tales of the dark ages When I Was A Freshman) that if you were so foolhardy as to venture out on a Saturday morning, you were in danger only of being assaulted by the eager-beaver sellers of those traditional carnations, and those yummy suckers that somehow always got dropped, brushed against someone's mohair sweater, or sat on before you finished eating them. Since the odds were that you'd run into a friendly Corn Cob or Tassel who knew you, buying something was almost inevitable.

Now just look at all the spirit you can get for your unneeded cash. Charming red hats in a variety of styles from Western to Tyrolean. Badges, so that if anyone doubted, you are plainly marked as a fan. Cute little football dolls in plastic, plaster of paris or cloth. Pennants, Neckties, Hairbows, Headscarves. And the local merchants would be delighted to sell you a new red-and-white outfit for each and every game. Why, first thing you know, people will expect to be purchasing spirit when they buy their football tickets. Yes, sir, folks, just \$10, \$20, \$50 in a little old red cash register, and—instant fans. Naturally, they will be demanding refunds if the point spread isn't what they'd bargained for, calling in the Federal Trade Commission every time the ball is lost on downs, and complaining to the Better Business Bureau if the opposing quarterback completes too many passes.

On game days, everyone gets into the act, even those organizations which give you a plastic poppy or something for your donation and make you feel like one of the lesser invertebrates if you don't give. I'm thinking about putting on a shabby but respectable red and white outfit and carrying a tin cup labeled "For Charity." It looks like the only solution to that question: how do you get through college without going bankrupt; or, it's not the tuition that's a problem, it's the incidentals. m.m.

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