

College Students Feel 'Spoon-Fed,' Not Educated

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a four-part series by Senior Staff Writer Julie Morris concerning the concept of total education and its application on the University campus.

"What did ya learn in school today?" the folk song queries.

"I learned that soldiers never die, I learned our presidents are all great men, that's why we lect them again and again," the response goes.

Foolish, yes, but many college students feel that they are being "spoon-fed" material almost as ridiculous as this in some of their courses. Material that is handed down by the professor and that students are "expected to regurgitate on the hour exams," as one coed put it.

University students have criticized the educations they are receiving, characterizing much of it as "training" or "busy work."

Training Vs. Education
Dr. John Davidson, associate professor of botany, said

the difference between training and education is that "one is a cramming process, the other is a drawing out process."

"Education, from the etymology of the word, means drawing out. You start at the level of the student and you draw out until the student is satisfied. The important thing here is what the student says to the guy who is doing the drawing out."

In a training process, Davidson said, "A trainer sets up standards and he requires the human response, if the response is not forthcoming, the stimulus is repeated and repeated until the response is forthcoming. The trainee must satisfy the instructor."

Training in skills, such as languages, "cannot be avoided," Davidson said, but training should not be what a college student receives during his entire curriculum.

Students interviewed agreed with Davidson. Dick Schulze said training is neces-

sary because "we have to be realistic. The goal of most students is to get training, to prepare themselves for a career."

Depends On Teachers

Educational quality may be dependent upon teachers, G. Robert Ross, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Affairs, said. "In general, educational quality, whether right or wrong, is probably measured by the faculty."

Ross said if teachers are competent in their fields and keep abreast of developments, incorporating these things into their classroom lectures, quality will be high and the teaching better.

Schulze said a good yardstick for measuring teachers is "the ability to affect students as opposed to the ability to convey facts."

Students' comments in the ASUN Faculty Evaluation Book echoed these sentiments. One student criticized a teacher because he "stymied independent thinking

somewhat by constantly reasserting his opinions." Another teacher was praised because he "encouraged independent thought and self-education."

Dr. Ernest R. Hilgard, professor of psychology at Stanford University, wrote in the National Education Association Journal, "It is surprising that, after all these years of classroom experience and research, we know so little about what makes for effective teaching. Studies of class size, of discussion versus lecture methods... point to few differences in the effectiveness of teaching."

Size as a factor in high or low quality education is one that has been debated in many circles. Davidson said that class size after a certain point doesn't affect his teaching because contact has already been lost in the first increase.

"With 60 students I've lost personal contact. I'd as soon

have 12,000 as 160 students," he said.

500 Or 50?

"What is the injury to soul or spirit if 500 rather than 50 other students are exposed to Hegel at the same time?" Nicholas Katzenbach, U.S. Attorney General, said in an address to the American Council on Education in October of 1965.

"Fact and truth do not exist in finite amounts, like a pot of mashed potatoes in the dining hall, to be pro-rated according to the number of students," Katzenbach said.

An editorial in Moderator magazine in November 1965 stated that "Size is not the factor controlling quality. Rather the combination of attitudes, people, and facilities on a particular campus at a particular time, and a student's interaction with them, are crucial in determining the nature of available educational opportunity."

"Not a few American undergraduates have become

convinced that they are being shortchanged. Feeling cheated on the educational end, particularly at the larger institutions..." Andrew Hacker of the department of government at Cornell wrote in the New York Times Magazine in June 1965.

Hacker said that as college enrollment expands, bureaucracy sprouts and professors become more and more detached from students as they work instead for the favors of juicy research and travel grants.

"The mere mumbling of the sacred incantation 'research' is sufficient excuse to bow out of the introductory courses, to confine one's offerings to graduate seminars, to depart for another institution where more grandiose projects will be more generously underwritten," Hacker said.

Ballooning Enrollment

University enrollment has ballooned in recent years,

soaring from 8,000 in 1959 to 17,053 this fall. To handle the influx of students, class sizes have shot up. Beginning level courses in the social and natural sciences often include upwards of 100 students. Large enrollments also caused a budget deficit this year for the University.

One student said many students "are not getting classes they want" because of the enrollment problems. Ross said the administration is faced with the problem of denying students entrance to courses they need or increasing class size to include all students who want the course.

Many speakers and writers, like Katzenbach, have concluded that size does not affect teaching quality to a great degree. A teacher's enthusiasm can affect students in a large group as well as a small, and size is and will continue to be a fact of life for modern universities, these observers agree.

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CCFU Drafts Goals, Structure For Nebraska Free University

By Cheryl Tritt
Junior Staff Writer

The Coordinating Committee for a Free University, CCFU, has edited a statement of purpose to inform University students of the goals and structure of the Nebraska Free University.

The statement is "directed not only to the Nebraska academic community but also to the people of Nebraska." Gene Pokorny, a CCFU member, said.

A meeting for persons inter-

ested in attending or leading courses in the NFU will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Pokorny noted that questions persons have concerning the CCFU's statement of purpose will be discussed at the meeting.

The CCFU statement asserts that the University is not realizing its goal for total education.

Total education is defined by the University as an "acquisition of a pattern or knowledge, skills, attitudes

and values that will result in increasingly responsible and protective behavior," according to the CCFU statement.

However, because the University curriculum lacks courses relevant to the "desires and needs of a significant segment of the student body" and courses which address themselves to the "serious concerns of students," the University is not fulfilling its goal for total education, the statement notes.

Rather than instructing course work in a way where it "becomes a creative learning experience" the University teaches an "academic rote game" leaving student participation and involvement undeveloped, the statement claims.

The committee, (CCFU) is not so naive to think the NFU is a complete answer to this problem," Pokorny said, but it is a means for a partial answer to the problem.

NFU will seek a "partial answer" by offering learning opportunities not found in the established University curriculum and offer learning experiences where "creativity, discovery and critical inquiry is promoted," the CCFU statement explains.

To achieve these goals the NFU will provide a structure where any interested persons or organization may lead courses on any subject.

Pokorny added that at present a group of ten faculty members, graduate students and campus organizations have committed themselves to lead NFU courses.

"Each course will have to justify itself and keep itself going solely on its own merits," the CCFU statement stresses, as the NFU participants, not the CCFU, will determine the courses offered and the method by which they are taught.

Big 8 Convention Approves Spring Presidents' Meeting

The convention of the Big Eight Student Government Association, (BESGA) held at the University last weekend, passed several pieces of legislation designed to improve the communication of ideas among the schools.

Bill Hansmire, University student and president of the BESGA, said that he felt the convention "went off fairly well. An important factor was that this is the first year that all Big 8 schools have been

represented at the convention."

Those in attendance at the convention approved an amendment to the BESGA constitution setting up a President's Conference in the spring.

Hansmire applauded the move, saying that it would allow the new presidents and past-presidents of the eight schools to get together with the executive of BESGA to discuss the purposes, actions and programs of the association.

"This will aid in maintaining the continuity from administration to administration in regard to BESGA. Programs could be continued throughout the spring rather than waiting for the Fall convention," he said.

An amendment was also approved which would provide for a "Big 8 Newsletter" to be sent monthly to the schools containing information on what presently is happening in the various student governments.

A resolution was passed asking each government to approach their athletic departments on the advisability of reducing the price of visiting school student tickets to \$1.00 in the Big 8 conference football games, presently the rate is \$5.00.

A proposal was approved directing the vice-president of BESGA to obtain information from all the schools in the conference that have summer flight programs and compile this information and distribute it to the schools.

A final proposal enacted by the convention was to organize a committee to study the possibility of coordinating speakers at the school's convocations so that somewhat of a tour could be devised.

Election of officers was held with Paul Peterson, from Oklahoma University, elected president and Al Gebauer, from Colorado, elected vice-president.

Discussion groups were held among convention delegates Friday afternoon. Topics for discussion were convocations and speakers, European flight plans, student rights, and faculty evaluation books.

Hansmire said that one of the problems faced by the BESGA is "that the schools are trying to justify BESGA. They expect too much out of it. Oftentimes they expect to be handed what they want without having to work to get it."

"However, the future looks good. Even if the conventions are held only to develop good will among the schools once a year, they will be serving a worthwhile purpose. I think the new president, Peterson, will do an excellent job and possibly will be able to overcome the problems of communication and cooperation," he added.

Polly Rhynalds Lauded For AWS Reform Role

The first letter of nomination for "Outstanding Nebraskan" has named Polly Rhynalds for the award because of her "often unnoticed but significant contributions to the University."

Letters will be accepted in the Daily Nebraskan office until noon Dec. 15. Two "Outstanding Nebraskans", one student and one faculty member, will be named in the Dec. 19 issue of the paper.

Miss Rhynalds, the letter continues, has served the University in many aspects, but "most specifically in the areas of AWS reform and service to her sorority."

"As a constant gadfly of AWS, she was one of the foremost instigators in the movement that resulted in structural and regulatory changes in AWS last year," the letter continued.

Freshmen women with 10 p.m. hours and sophomores with 11 p.m. week night hours as well as all women who stay out until midnight on Sundays "should thank Polly for spearheading the drive that made the change possible," the nomination added.

Miss Rhynalds "still is involved with AWS her senior year", the letter notes, through work on the senior key committee.

Diversifications of interests and activities "is also a notable entry on Polly's record," the letter adds. She has worked as a copy editor on both the Daily Nebraskan and the Nebraska Blueprint and was a member of the ASUN public relations committee.

Although involved in campus activities and maintaining over a B average, Miss Rhynalds "contributions to her sorority Sigma Kappa are too great to be overlooked," the nomination stated.

"As pledge trainer and later as president, she provided leadership that can only be described as outstanding and truly great," the letter said.

The nomination concluded that "outstanding does not always mean being continually in the spotlight but accomplishing much and this describes Polly Rhynalds for her accomplishments are outstanding and for that reason, she is an Outstanding Nebraskan."

Tree Lighting Ceremony



DECK THE HALLS... Gary McCord, Sherry Kables and Georgia Stevens ornament their tree on East Campus.

The official tree lighting ceremony of the East Campus Union will be held at 6:30 p.m. west of the C. Y. Thompson library, according to Marvin Schluntz, night supervisor of the East Union.

This is the second year for the ceremony which is supposed to become an annual event.

Only one tree will be lit, a cedar tree just west of the library.

Everybody on campus is invited to

attend. Christmas carols will be sung.

The singing will be led by the East Campus Choraliers under the direction of Mrs. Adelaide Spiglin.

Schluntz said he expects about 100 students to attend. He says he does not know whether Monday night meetings by East Campus fraternities will cut down on attendance.

The main purpose of the tree lighting is to stir up Christmas spirit, he said.

Housing Regulations To Stiffen For Men, Moderate For Women

University housing regulations for male students will not necessarily be increased in number but there will possibly be a stricter adherence to the present regulations, according to Russ Brown, assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Brown had said Thursday at a student housing forum sponsored by ASUN that in the immediate future, stricter regulations will be incorporated for male students while regulations "will be modified downward for coeds."

"Along with this stricter adherence of rules for men, it is my feeling that there will be a modification of rules for women, especially pertaining to living in on-campus residences," Brown explained.

Brown foresees a trend toward equalizing the disparity between regulations for men and women.

"In actuality, the Regents by-laws set the same regulations for men and women, but due to a shortage of housing for men, these regulations have not been strictly enforced," he said.

The requirement for a student to live in University approved housing is one of the regulations that Brown believes will be more closely followed.

"Presently, due to a limited staff, we are only able to approve the housing for freshman and sophomore men. With an added staff, the approving of housing will be expanded to include all University students," Brown said.

Recently there have been rumors that with the completion of new dormitories, that if vacancies should develop within these residences, men students may be forced to live on campus.

Brown said that this possibility could occur.

"But in essence it is already enforced now. It is a question of determining what is approved housing. Conceivably, dormitories could be de-

MB Applications Are Due Dec. 14

Unaffiliated junior women who live in Lincoln may pick up applications for Mortar Board, seniors women's honorary, this week in the Student Activities Office. Applications are being distributed to women's campus living units also this week.

Junior standing, at least a 3.0 accumulative average, participation in extracurricular activities and service to the University are among the requirements for Mortar Board membership.

However, members request that all junior women submit applications so that they may form an overall picture of junior women's activities and may select the most deserving members of the Ivy Day Court.

Applications must be completed and returned to Diana Focht, Peggy Wagner or to the Mortar Board box in the Union not later than Wednesday, Dec. 14.

termined to be the only University-approved housing."

"However, in the past there has always been the problem of more on-campus housing requested than is available. Consequently our present problem is usually finding adequate off-campus housing for the student who can't get in on-campus housing," he stressed.

"I see no radical changes in policy in the future, but then there is always the chance. The question is being able to work with existing regulations and by-laws," he continued.

"The changes will probably come in the area of disparity that exists between men and women. It will result in more equal rules and regulations." Regulations and actions concerning liquor will probably remain the same. Presently there is a state law which forbids alcohol on state property.

Brown said that there is no effort to enforce this law in respect to University residences by searching for liquor. The same policy is followed in other on-campus housing.

"We respond to problems or the reports of possible problems in this area but we make no effort to search for the liquor," he emphasized.

Concerning off-campus problems with liquor, Brown said that the University could potentially take action, which would probably consist of talking with the student involved.

"If we get a complaint from a neighbor about any problems, we refer them to the civil authorities," he noted.