

Volgyes prods student involvement in learning, University community



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by Jim Pedersen
Junior Staff Writer
This semester's faculty selection may be the only truly "revolutionary" Outstanding Nebraskan on the University's peaceful campus. He is Dr. Ivan Volgyes, professor of political science.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1936, Volgyes served as European correspondent for a Hungarian wire service for two years, and was attending the University of Budapest law school when the Hungarian Revolution broke out.

Volgyes actively participated in the student demonstrations which took place during the revolution. Although he favored the extension of political liberalization in Hungary, he was not forced to leave after the revolution had been crushed, but did so anyway, arriving in the United States in January, 1957.

Volgyes uses discussion

The students who nominated Volgyes stated that he "turns a normally stale classroom situation into a discussion-type interchange and has a rare concern for students outside the classroom."

"I believe in bringing outside talent to the University and to my classes. For this reason, the three most important people in the field of Soviet studies came here to lecture and talk with several classes, Volgyes said. There must also be as much contact between professor and student outside of the classroom as possible, Volgyes said. He stressed, however, that this contact can only be maintained with those students who desire it.

Volgyes holds a seminar every Tuesday in his home to discuss various topics related to courses he teaches. It attracts what he calls "the most talented and interested students."

Students lead class

Volgyes' nominator also commended the professor for his varied teaching methods. "I believe there should be an infusion of lecturing and discussion to challenge the student," Volgyes said. He added, "I often appoint a student to take over the class, and in this manner create a panel discussion between student and student."

Volgyes emphasized that there should be more communication between professors and students, but that the student should take more initiative in establishing this communication.

Volgyes, who graduated from the School of International Service in Washington, D.C., holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations, Masters degree in Soviet and Eastern European studies, and a Doctorate in international relations with several sub-fields, most of them concerned with Soviet politics.

Teachers must publish

According to Volgyes, large

lecture classes are an educational need at the present. This necessity stems from a lack of teachers and the forcing of teachers to publish or perish by the administrations, Volgyes said. Teachers thus have less time to teach therefore making it necessary to put more students in fewer classes, Volgyes added. Volgyes nevertheless stated that publishing is the only sound criteria to judge a teacher.

Volgyes is also active off the campus, and he is presently working in the Kennedy for President organization. Volgyes feels that Kennedy is qualified and has the ability to be president, and listed several reasons.

"I worked with John Kennedy in 1960, and found RFK to be very efficient and someone who succeeded in choosing exceptional advisers," Volgyes said.

Volgyes feels that Kennedy's Senate record is ample proof of his qualifications. According to Volgyes, Kennedy has consistently been on the side of major issues which require responsibility and will bring about a "new day in America."

Supports Kennedy

Finally, Volgyes thinks that the Kennedy program generates a feeling of hope in America. The two greatest issues in America today are the Vietnam war and the Negro problem; on both issues Kennedy has taken a more active stand than his contemporary Democrats, Sen. McCarthy and Vice president Humphrey, Volgyes said.

Volgyes has published three major scholarly articles and ten book reviews. This year, Volgyes expects the three books he has written will be published. They are: *Hungary in Revolution, Communism Comes to Hungary, and The Hungarian Soviet Republic: An Evaluation and a Bibliography.*

Volgyes has definite ideas about what the role of the student should be in the educational process.

"I believe in student power. The administration treats students like children. They should give the students as much power as possible over their affairs," Volgyes said.

The University population fails to realize the responsibility involved by both groups, according to Volgyes. Students do not become adults just when they turn 21 or graduate, but rather when they become students, he added.

The ASUN has the power and is in the position to lead the students at the University, Volgyes said.

"If it fails to lead effectively it will wither away. It must take definite and vigorous action," according to Volgyes.

Students should act

Volgyes believes it is also important for students to become interested and active in the affairs of the community

and nation. Students should have a voice in the Vietnam matter, Volgyes said.

Volgyes also holds emphatic views on the purpose and the future of the University.

"The University should not be a training institution but rather a learning institution," Volgyes said. "I want students to learn as human beings, broaden themselves, and have the intellectual courage to say 'I don't know,'" he added.

According to Volgyes, many students fail in this respect because it demands responsibility they do not want.

"Students should never expect to know everything, but they should know a little bit about everything and everything about a little bit," Volgyes said.

Volgyes, who has held teaching positions at other institutions, feels that the faculty at the University of Nebraska grades ten times easier than anywhere else.

The biggest reason for low grade averages and a high percentage of freshmen on probation at the University, according to Volgyes, is an inferior primary and secondary education in the state of Nebraska. The result is students who are actually educationally underprivileged, Volgyes said.

Grading change no solution

The University's grading change will not solve the problem, Volgyes feels, however, it will make it possible for more students to remain in school.

"The sad truth is that there are many students who should not even be at the University," Volgyes said.

Volgyes sees the problems of inequalities in salary between departments, the inability to attract and hold talented young teachers, and a lack of graduate assistants to aid teachers as basic stumbling blocks to a better University of Nebraska.

To create a better University of the future with truly equal opportunities in education, Volgyes feels that all forms of tuition must be abolished.

To replace this loss of funds, the state and federal governments should subsidize higher education, Volgyes said.

"We are not perpetuating inequality, we are perpetuating

inequality, and for this reason higher education should be subsidized to provide the opportunity for everyone to attain a college education," Volgyes said.

Education extends inequality

"The white, upper-middle class children are the people who go to colleges. The more white and the more upper-middle class they are, the more likely they are to go to college while many other people do not have that opportunity," Volgyes stated.

Teachers becoming less impersonal, co-educational living units, a three level grading system of graduate school material, pass, and fail, smaller classes, an improved library with a sufficient budget with which to operate, and less emphasis on grades and more on learning, are all changes Volgyes would like to see in a future University of Nebraska.

"All this will take money. Nebraska needs a responsible state legislature which will allocate those funds," Volgyes said.

Unfortunately, most state legislatures want to see an institution that will "turn out educated young people," according to Volgyes.

TJ Brass to perform Friday

Herb Alpert, backed by the Tijuana Brass, will be performing at the Coliseum on Friday at 9 p.m.

Alpert has gained acclaim as a performer-origination of a new sound in music that reflects Western society.

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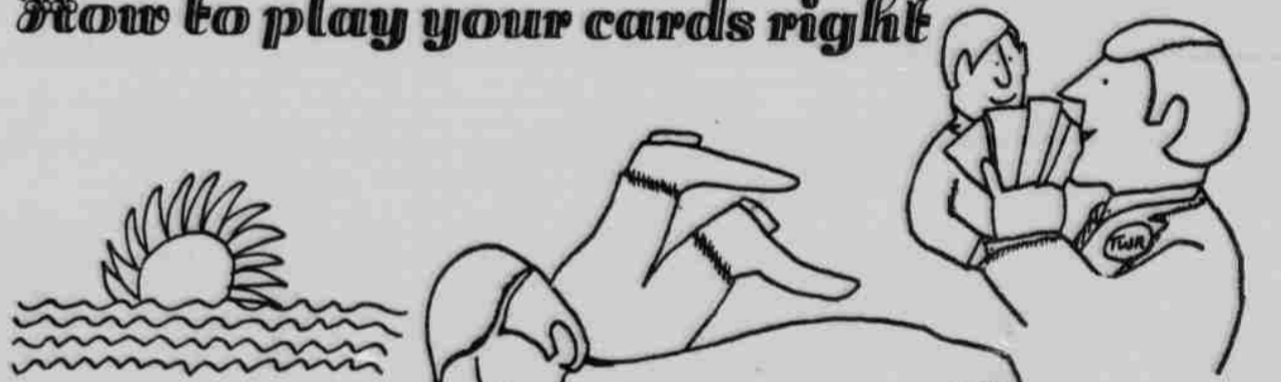
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The result is more of a vocational training school with certificates than an educational institution, Volgyes said.

Nebraska should be proud of having a good educational institution rather than just having one, Volgyes noted.

If the improvement is handled as a case of need, rather than a political issue, and if students want to become more active in their University, the University will improve, Volgyes said.

How to play your cards right



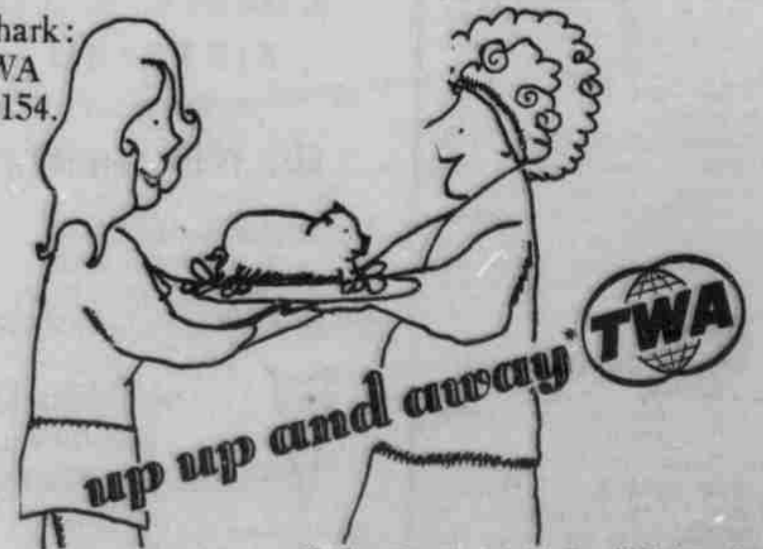
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