

# Visiting hours are important to students and professors

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school to put teachers somewhere above themselves, he said, and it's hard to forget that. "It takes courage for a student to visit a faculty member."

**VOLGYES DISAGREED.** "It's all a matter of treating them (students) like human beings, not inferiors," he said. Hardly a day goes by when at least one student does not come by to talk, he added. They make "confessions of first love" and ask for help as in the case of a girl who was pregnant but unmarried, and a young man who had been caught in a girl's room, he said.

Some professors invite students to their homes. Pharmacologist Wells said that his students are invited to call or drop by his home "any time before 10:30 — because that's when I go to bed."

Students, according to their comments, are not all disenchanted with these student-initiated contacts. As one student remarked, "I feel that if the students show an interest and attempt to get aid from their advisers or teachers, most teachers and advisers will do their upmost to help them. The students do need to make the first move though."

**ANOTHER STUDENT** commented, "The student in a large school gets

out of his education what he puts into it. Professors are usually very willing to help."

The teacher's attitude seems to be highly important in student contact. A student emphasized this in saying, "If a professor is willing to be a friend . . . he will make it known by his attitude. By the same token, if a student would like to know a professor, the student must take the initiative."

**ANOTHER PRODUCT** of large numbers is seeming indifference on the part of the instructors. According to one freshman, "Professors just don't care."

But Dr. Thomas B. Thorson, chairman of NU's zoology department, said that he spends many hours in his office with the door open, though he holds no specific office hours. About office hours, he said, no one ever used them anyway.

**AND WHAT** about those office hours?

A student complained that his professor was "never in his office."

Another said, "They (professors) often don't live up to office hours." A third said that his adviser's office hours are nearly impossible to meet — and he couldn't be reached to make an appointment.

Twenty-three professors interviewed agreed that if students can't meet scheduled office hours, they may make appointments for any reasonable hour.

**SOME** students seemed to realize this and appreciate it. One remarked, "I was surprised at the fact that professors try to find time to help students who desire help." Another said, "My profs have all been very cooperative as to office hours."

Dr. Lloyd Teale, associate professor of Romance Languages, stated that office hours are very important because they seem to help students relax. A student who comes into the office by appointment sticks to business, he said, while one who just wanders in during office hours tends to talk more freely.

But, appointment or no appointment, it's hard to talk freely about private matters in a crowded office — of which NU has an abundance. All 11 professors interviewed who share or have shared offices until recently agreed that the lack of privacy hindered student frankness.

Wells, who has a private office, agreed that his office situation might enhance his chances of having close student-professor relationships, but said that the door is usually open and he seldom has a really private conversation with a student.

**HOW GREAT** is the effect of crowded office conditions on students? Does it prevent their visiting with their professors?

Of 23 professors responding, 21 expressed dissatisfaction with the small numbers of students who consult with them.

Why, if teachers have time and would like to see more students, don't students talk to their teachers?

Office hours and crowded offices may be one factor, but students list others.

"I couldn't even find him (his adviser). I didn't know what room or building he was in," said one student.

**THIS SEMESTER,** several departments of the University are moving around. This is not a representative situation, said Dr. Dudley Bailey, chairman of the English Department, one of those moving. But for the students needing help now, it's a problem to be dealt with.

Is ego the reason for time spent in research? No according to professors.

A coed, listing another reason for lack of student-professor contact, said

she didn't visit her professors often because, "I'm frightened by most of my professors."

Yet not all students are frightened. Not all are lost. Not all are dissatisfied.

A student in Teachers' College said, "I have had three fine professors who saw great good in developing student-teacher relationships. After four years, I continue to visit one of these teachers."

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