Many on faculty favor quarter system

By John Dvorak Nebraskan Staff Writer

No exact statistics are available, but there appears to be considerable support for a quarter system among University faculty members.

"I went to school under it, I have taught under it and I like it," said Prof. Lyle E. Young, assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture.

"It is mbre flexible. You can divide the material up into small pieces, which is desirable," he continued.

The quarter system meshes with traditional vacation times also, Young pointed out. Students can leave for Christmas and spring vacation in a more relaxed atmosphere.

THE QUARTER PLAN would divide up the school year into four nearly equal learning periods, all without major interruption.

The calendar employed by the University of Minnesota for 1966-1967 is a typical example of the quarter

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Many large schools such as the
University of California, Michigan
State and Iowa State use it. The
Milford Vocational Technical School
and the NU College of Medicine in

and the NU College of Medicine in Omaha utilize the quarter system.

The Medical School is unofficially on the quarter system, commented Dr. Mary J. Henn, assistant dean of student affairs on the Omaha campus. Grades are reported twice yearly, like a semester system, but course of study is divided into four units!

BEGINNING NEXT school year, Dr. Henn commented, the College of Medicine will officially go to the quarter plan with the almost unanimous approval of the students and faculty.

With the increasing amount of medical knowledge, the quarter plan is best for flexibility and scheduling, she said.

A survey on faculty preference to the quarter system was taken last year by a University Senate Ad Hoc Committee. Thirty four staff members from the Medical School responded, and all favored the quarter plan.

Full time faculty members in other colleges tended to be less enthusiastic about a quarter system however. For example, out of 186 respondents in the College of Arts and Sciences, 55 favored the quarter plan.

A TOTAL OF 456 staff members at the University were polled on the

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model for evening drawing experience necessary, \$3.50 traveling time. Call colleclept. Doane College, Crete question, and 192 favored a quarter plan while 88 listed it as their second choice

Faculty members gave a variety of reasons for favoring the quarter

Dr. Samuel B. Treves, chairman of the geology department, opposes any break in the normal pattern of a course. Therefore, he favors the quarter system.

"There are many sides to this question," he said. "But I feel the quarter plan allows a person to take a greater variety of subjects, which is desirable."

THE BOBTAIL period after Christmas is both inefficient and ineffective, according to Dr. James T. Horner, chairman of agricultural education.

He favors a quarter system, even though most quarter plans allow about one week for final examinations. Horner would like to integrate finals right into the regular quarter period and forget the final test period.

The quarter plan would work es-

pecially well with the chemical engineering department's cooperative programs, according to Dr. James H. Weber, chairman of that department.

Under these programs, he explained, engineering students take time off from school to work in industry. Under the quarter plan, they could spend three or possibly six months working and then return to school.

"ONE HAS TO remember that the

department of chemical engineering is relatively insignificant when compared to the rest of the University," noted Weber. "What is good for us is not necessarily good for everyone

Dr. Lawrence S. Poston, associate professor of English agreed, saying that faculty members sometimes think in terms of themselves only.

He pointed out that teachers in the sciences seem to prefer the quarter system, while those in the humanities tend to back the semester plan. No one system will be good for everyone.

There are nine colleges and 80 separate departments on the two Lincoln campuses. Naturally, all must be under the same system.

ONE OF THE staunchest advocates of the quarter plan on campus is Dr. Dale K. Hayes, chairman of educational administration.

He favors, however, a much more far-reaching proposal. Every school in Nebraska, from kindergarten through college, should be on the quarter system, he said.

Transferring between schools is often a problem, and there are problems coordinating high school schedules with college schedules, he noted. In addition, parents with several children in different school

systems would suffer less inconvenience if all schools fell under the same scheduling.

Hayes acknowledged that problems would be encountered in changing to a quarter system.

ALL HOURS of credit would have to be interpolated, he said. Each semester hour would equal two thirds of a quarter system credit hour.

There are actually two types of credit hour structures in the quarter system sometimes called Plans A and R

Hayes favors Plan A. Classes would meet, as under the semester system, for 50 minutes a day three times a week. Present year long courses would remain unchanged and would

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cover three quarters. One semester classes would have to be altered so that the subject matter would fit into a 10 or 11 week class schedule.

Plan B means that one quarter credit equals one semester credit. Under this idea, students would only average three classes instead of the

Continued on page 4

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'Students unfriendly to most foreigners'

Continued from Page 1

for the foreign student to reach out and befriend Americans.

Speakers mentioned positive programs in other schools to make foreign students part of the group. Atwal pointed out a scholarship program for foreign students in Colorado which makes it possible for them to join fraternities and sororities. This does not exist at Nebraska, he said.

"Granted: This place is not Utopia," an American student said. "But if you don't like it get out."

"I'M INDIGENOUS to this country," a black student replied. "So why should I leave?"

Another American student, Norman Adler, told why he felt students should want to talk with foreigners. He said the University fills the student's head with information from books, gives him a sheepskin and calls him educated. But he has no real knowledge of the world, Adler said.

This is not so in other countries, he added. There, a person is not considered educated unless he has travelled and can communicate with people; then they consider calling him educated, Adler said.

Americans try to "propagate Americanism by eliminating any culture but our own," said Dennis Berkheim. He charged that studies at the University often tend to force the student to accept the American system as good while ignoring any possible value in other systems.

Singh asked the students to think about what they'd heard and to do something about it. "Don't just go to your dorms, close your doors, play your old records and go to sleep," he requested.



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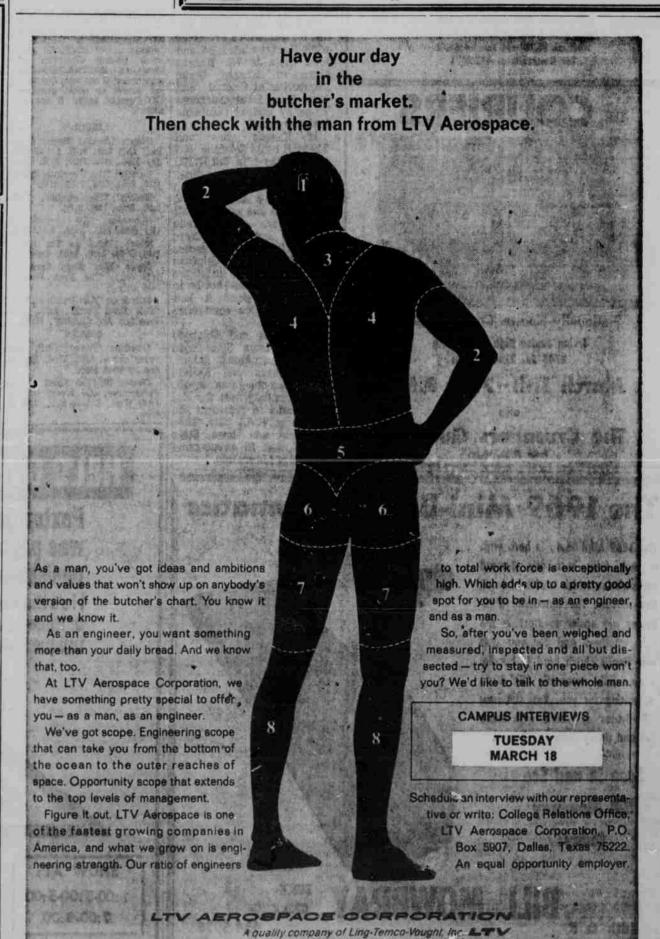
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