

# Sex, judo, bridge: NFU course offerings

by Sara Schwieder  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Nearly 600 University students are looking for something more than conventional education by participating in the Nebraska Free University.

NFU has a large variety of course offerings this semester ranging from judo to problems of origin and meaning.

"Beginning Bridge" is a very popular course, led by Pierre Flatowicz.

"The only way to learn how to play bridge is to have someone there to point out what you're doing wrong," he said. Flatowicz learned to play bridge several years ago and is now playing in regional competition.

While the bridge set explores the many possibilities of the game, another group will be exploring nature.

"Nature Experience" is designed to train people to appreciate nature. Works by Thoreau, Muir and the Sussels will complement field trips to wilderness areas. The group will also

consider the value of nature in today's world and conservation.

"One doesn't have to be in the Rockies to love nature," group leader Joe McCarty said. "Just noticing things around you, whether it be in Nebraska or Colorado, and appreciating it is good."

## Physical fitness

An equally out-doorsy group will be concentrating on their physical fitness by jogging. "The Theory of Long Distance Running" betrays an academic tinge to an essentially non-academic activity. The course will consist of group discussions on the physiology of exercise and exchanges of tips among members.

Academic meetings will be once a week, with group runs taking place more frequently.

"There are two areas to consider when you speak of jogging," said Lawrence Wolfley, English instructor and course leader. "One is the fitness angle and the other is running for the

joy of it as opposed to competitive running."

Wolfley said jogging will be done outdoors until cold weather forces the group inside. Then the group will run on indoor tracks.

Physical fitness bugs who don't dig running can dig into the age-old sport of judo. Designed to promote mental and physical attitudes becoming to a judo (one who practices judo), the course will attempt to instill a sense of self-confidence through bare-handed fighting.

## Popular

Although judo was originated by fierce Japanese warriors, it attracts large numbers of women. Nearly 45 people had signed up for the course on Wednesday, a large percentage of which were girls.

For those preferring to wrestle with inner aspects of the body, several courses will be offered.

For instance, an "Introductory Personal Development Laboratory"

composed of six men and seven women in a course called "T" group experience. The group is unstructured and will study the way each of the members relates in a group.

"Each person examines his behavior in relation to everyone else," commented Joseph Zannini, University residence director and leader of the group. "Sometimes people don't realize that they appear like they do to others. It is the job of the group to tell them."

women will explore the realm of social relations between each other. The course has already been filled.

Another group will explore the inner self. In addition, a human relations workshop and a course entitled "Structure of Beliefs and Methods of Intrapersonal Domination" will provide students with new insights into themselves.

Along the same lines, is a course about transcendental meditation. However, the course will not be the actual practice of transcendental meditation, but a discussion of the

subject. Students who wish to continue with actual meditation may do so with the help of group leader, Doshi Girish.

A course that has been consistently popular for several semesters of NFU is being offered again.

Dr. Alan Pickering will conduct his course on marriage. Mrs. Sue Tidball will help the group examine male-female expectations, sexual attitudes, value systems and various other social and moral aspects of modern society.

## Post honeymoon

Similar in nature, but concentrating specifically on problems of married couples will be "After the Honeymoon," led by Mrs. Twig Daniels.

Reflecting changing mores, a new course in communal living is popular with students. The course will include discussion on the philosophy and mechanisms of communal living with an emphasis on survival and nature.

A sky-diving course is also being offered. The course will include techniques of sky-diving, along with actual sky-diving. A thirst for adventure and a strong stomach are prerequisites.

Equally exciting, but more down-to-earth is the glass-blowing course led by Don Adams. Each student will be required to pay \$12 for materials, but he will emerge with a knowledge of an age-old art.

Many more courses are being offered than are possible to list here. Folk guitar, the philosophy of Herman Hesse, an analysis of the student movement, scandals and secrets of history, Chicago study and radio broadcast are all included.

With a wide diversity of course offerings, backed by \$2,500 appropriated by ASUN, the Nebraska Free University caters to the tastes of every student.

All courses are free except those needing special materials.



# The Daily Nebraskan

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1969

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Vol. 93, No. 22

## Popularity, controversy . . .

# Value of group dynamics is questioned

by John Dvorak  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The concept of group dynamics — also known as sensitivity training, human relations laboratories and "T" groups is growing more popular despite the controversy it has evoked.

Group dynamics has been employed, especially in the last year, within fraternities, sororities, residence halls and community organizations. However some students, faculty and alumni are not sold on the value of such programs.

"There is some opposition to the concepts involved," Peter G. Wirtz, an assistant in student affairs who is one of the strongest proponents of group dynamics, said Wednesday.

There has also been misunderstanding or misinformation about the purposes and techniques of group dynamics.

"When we talk about group dynamics, we're talking about the behavior or operation of a group, why the group moves forward or why it is retarded," said Wirtz, who along with Dr. Russ Brown, dean of Student Development, has often led group dynamics sessions.

## Develop goals

In general, the sessions are to help the group develop goals and move toward them.

Wirtz emphasized that group dynamics can take many forms and that many techniques can be applied. Workshops, seminars and discussion sessions are often employed.

The first thing Wirtz clarified is that all dynamic sessions are voluntary. No one is ever forced to take part and participants may leave at any time.

The first activity in any group dynamics situation is to get people acquainted with one another.

"We've got to get people communicating and get them to know the good things about their colleagues, or the sessions will fail," Wirtz said.

As a beginning, enjoyable methods are often used to stimulate people and get them actively involved.

Oftentimes, Wirtz said, participants are asked to think of themselves in terms of an animal. Other times participants are asked if they had all the time and money in the world, where would they go and who would they go with.

"These type of things help show what really makes a person tick," Wirtz said. "They show what really interests a person."

"Sensitivity training involves a very deep inter-personal relationship," Wirtz said. "In sensitivity training you allow others to give you open and honest feedback on how you come across and you agree to openly and honestly give feedback on how others come across."

Because participants make a previous commitment to have their personal behavior examined, some

kind of screening beforehand by the professional leaders is necessary.

Another aspect of the group dynamics concept is how can groups be started or how can groups function more effectively.

"We just try to get people started communicating and get them to know each other," Wirtz said. "For instance we will involve three or four people in a relatively safe and interesting

discussion. In this way, people get used to each other."

Another form of group dynamics is called brainstorming. Groups of people are given a time limit and assigned a task — for instance, identifying

as many areas of concern to freshmen students as possible.

Participants must not evaluate ideas, only suggest them. The object is to see how many ideas are generated.

"Through this, we can show that people can formulate more ideas in five minutes of brainstorming as they can in an hour of general discussion," Wirtz remarked.

Numerous other techniques are involved, Wirtz added. The overall purpose is to get people actively involved in the group process as well as to establish lasting relationships.

"Group dynamics is not for everyone," Wirtz said. "People learn in different ways — some prefer an isolated session while others choose a more social situation."

Two faculty members in particular Dr. Frank M. Hallgren, director of Placement, and Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the museum, are against many of the aspects of group dynamics, but both refused to comment further.

Hallgren said he has never been directly involved in a group dynamics session. Schultz said he is out of touch with the situation, having just returned from a three month stay in Europe.

Lee Johnson, a student assistant in Harper Hall, said that based on the group dynamics sessions held for student assistants, he has negative reactions.

"In SA orientation, much of this touchy-feely thing is more or less wasted when other things of more benefit could be done," he said.

Outside of the SA orientation, he feels group dynamics could be valuable, especially in a group that

would be together over a long period of time.

## Overemphasized

Another Harper SA, Bob Brandt, feels that the concepts of group dynamics are overemphasized. Perhaps sensitivity group sessions are valuable once or twice, but many different sessions in different areas are too much.

Perhaps the most opposition has come when group dynamics sessions were held in Greek houses.

One sorority in particular, Alpha Chi Omega, had several group dynamics sessions last spring. Alumni disapproved and sessions are no longer being held.

"At one time I thought I had lost my presidency because of the group dynamics," said Jeanne Baer, who was removed as president over the summer by alumni. "Other factors were involved, but the group dynamic sessions were a contributing factor."

Some sophomores and other residents of the Alpha Chi Omega house are concerned about the torpedoing of the group dynamics sessions, but most people aren't really upset, Miss Baer reported.

Perhaps 20 or 25 members of the house would be interested in more group dynamics type situations, Miss Baer continued. But the entire house isn't ready for it. The issue has not been brought up this fall.

"I was trying to improve communication in the house," she said. "But apparently many members of the house would rather go out on dates."

Many people are opposed to the concept because they have heard of persons who had bad experiences. Incidents in California and at Doane University publicized group dynamics sessions that were less than successful.

Wirtz emphasized that he has not experienced a great deal of opposition and has never attained bad results with groups he has worked with.

Some people of course, feel the sessions have no effect, participants just get a "blah" feeling, Wirtz said.

"Some people have been hurt, although not on this campus that I'm aware of, and this needs to be recognized," Wirtz said. Generally, he added, problems arise when non-professional people conduct the sessions.

## Lab plays to be staged free in Temple arena

Lab plays will be presented at the Temple Building Sunday and Monday, October 26 and 27. Admission is free.

From 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. there will be two one-acts in the Arena directed by Mike Gruett.

A comedy satire "Suppressed Desires," written by Susan Glaspell and directed by Bev Proctor will be presented from 7:40 p.m. to 8:10 p.m. From 8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. will be the comedy "William Tell" directed by Everett Laughlen.

## Married students' dance is scheduled

A married student dance will be held Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight at Gateway Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 per couple.

The folk rock music of "The Hydra" will provide the entertainment for the dance, sponsored by the University of Nebraska Dames. Dress is grubby.



Peter G. Wirtz, assistant in Student Affairs

# 'Campus minorities' speaker, NSA president to be featured

The director of the Center for Afro-American Studies at Cornell University and former organizer of black students at Northwestern will be one of four featured speakers in ASUN's Time Out program.

James Turner will speak on "Minorities on Campus" next Tuesday Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. in the Union Centennial Room. He will also be participating in a rap session the same day at 9:00 p.m. in the Abel-Sandoz dorm complex.

Turner feels American universities do not prepare blacks to cope with their problems in an adequate way as it prepares white students.

In an Ebony magazine article, he said, "Conscious black students want knowledge and skills that are relevant to the experience and conditions of

their people. They are determined to provide a purpose for their education, their desire is to develop professional and technical careers tailored to the needs of black people."

The black studies director believes the American education system perpetuates the subordination of black people. He thinks the white educational system either refuses to educate black students or mis-educates them by teaching only white values and culture.

## Black students

"However, colleges today are getting an unprecedented number of black youth from urban, working class communities.

"The contemporary black student

passionately resents the idea of obtaining a college degree as a means to escape the black community and refuses to renounce his cultural lifestyles or to remain politely moderate on questions relating to the systematic subordination of black people in America," he said.

Some of the questions black student leaders are involved in on campuses across the nation are campus social inequities, relevant education for blacks, and university expansion into black communities.

Turner believes overt symbols of racism have been removed by civil rights demonstrations and legal battles. However, he thinks racism is still a significant force shaping American society.

"Racism has become institutionalized in American life," according to Turner, "and has taken on a dynamic of its own that is supported by pervasive social practice if not explicitly in legal code."

Turner believes the main black struggle today is to provide their race with a collective economic base and political control over property and land. "There can be no self-determination of any kind, that will improve the conditions of life for the greatest number of black people without a revolution reversing the power and economic arrangements toward the benefit of the masses."

The stress on black capitalism and the recruitment of black college students by industry and business, in Turner's opinion, is blunting the main thrust of the new black movement to secure control over their economic future.

# ASUN gives temporary okay to Campus Gold Girl Scouts

In a brief meeting Wednesday, ASUN Senate considered a proposal to establish a committee on administration affairs.

Senator Brad Kollars who introduced the bill said the committee would provide students with the opportunity to study the administrative structure of the University. The motion was passed.

In addition, the senate approved

Karen Huff as ASUN director of records and gave temporary approval to the Campus Gold Girl Scouts organization.

A motion to conduct two ASUN meetings per semester on East Campus was tabled for one week.

Steve Tiwald announced that the Time Out Program is to be held Monday and Tuesday of next week. Speakers will be on campus all day Tuesday and will have the opportunity

to talk informally with students, he said.

Tiwald also announced that he will establish a small library of National Student Association material in the ASUN office soon.

Vice president Diane Theisen announced that there is a senate vacancy in the College of Engineering and Architecture. Applications are being taken for selection at the senate meeting next Wednesday, she said.