

High School Equivalency Program

Former counselor agrees with charges

by CAROL ANDERSON
Nebraska Staff Writer

A former HEP (High School Equivalency Program) counselor agrees with charges of racism made against HEP last week by ASUN Sen. Phil Medcalf.

After a year and a half with HEP, Genia Bolich said she was fired last month because she disagrees with the program's philosophy of anglosizing HEP minority group students, most of whom are Chicano.

Miss Bolich said that she was fired supposedly for dating a HEP student who had graduated from the program six months earlier.

She pressed the issue with officials of the Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, which operates HEP. "Basically they said if I didn't agree with the philosophy I should get out," Miss Bolich said.

In staff meetings Miss Bolich said her opinions deviated from

the philosophy of those administering HEP.

"I thought HEP should be more student oriented than curriculum oriented. They (HEP administrators) are more interested in the program running smoothly," she said.

Student counselors are hired to be a friend to the HEP students who come mostly from migrant families whose educational opportunities are haphazard. Miss Bolich says all the counselors are white and receive no HEP training to help them understand the Chicano culture.

At last week's ASUN Senate meeting Mercedes Crawford, HEP reading teacher who is also Chicano, said that although counselors are given little formal training concerning the Chicano culture, that she is always available for the formal sessions.

HEP Director Gale Muller told ASUN that "special efforts" are made to recruit Chicano counselors, but so far none have been hired.

Not only does HEP ignore the students' cultural differences but the program gives the students little say in planning their social activities, Miss Bolich charged. She said the students should have more freedom on weekends instead of counselors setting upmost social activities.

Miss Bolich was among three fired HEP counselors attending the ASUN meeting along with

one former counselor who said he quit before he was fired. He, too, said he disagreed with the HEP philosophy of anglosizing the students.

HEP Director Muller refused to discuss the firings of counselors before ASUN, but said HEP standards are not necessarily value-laden.

Muller was contacted Tuesday by the Daily Nebraskan and again refused to comment.

Nonvoters will defeat voters in ASUN election

All full-time University students are cordially invited to attend the sixth annual ASUN elections today. But how many will show up?

Electoral Commissioner Glenn Nees foresees a low turnout of about 3,000 students. ASUN President Bill Chaloupka said he expects 3,000 to 4,000 students will vote Wednesday.

If the past two ASUN elections are any indication then there will be a low turnout for today's elections. Last year 26 percent (3,423) of the eligible students voted and in 1968, in the lowest voting turnout in ASUN history, 19 percent (2,660) cast ballots.

The highest turnout occurred in 1967 when 43 percent (5,763) voted. However, in the five previous ASUN elections the average turnout has been 31 percent of the eligible voters.

Nees said he expects a low turnout today because this year's election campaign was not very exciting. However, he hopes the election tent and the voting for the May Queen will boost the voting turnout.

Chaloupka expects a low turnout because "the campus hasn't really been excited about a particular issue or candidate."

F. E. I. Hamilton lectures April 22

London School of Economics Professor F. E. Ian Hamilton will lecture Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. on "Locational Decision-Making in Eastern Europe."

Hamilton's lecture will be in the small auditorium in the

basement of the Nebraska Union.

The lecture is being sponsored by the Department of Geography and Slavic and East European Studies Committee.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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Conference tackles pollution

Three national leaders in the area of environment will speak at the 1970 Montgomery Conference entitled "Man and Environment" May 8 at the University of Nebraska Union.

Guest speakers at the afternoon and evening program include:

—Stewart L. Udall, former U.S. Secretary of Interior, now chairman of the board of Overview Group, an international firm dealing with environmental problems.

—Robert L. Rudd, professor of zoology at the University of California at Davis and author of "Pesticides and the Living Landscape."

—Thomas H. Jukes, professor of biochemistry and associate director of the Space Sciences Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley.


Joseph Soshnik, president of the Lincoln campuses and outstate activities, will preside at the afternoon session. The event is open to the public and there is no registration fee, according to James Drew, chairman of the Montgomery committee.

Chancellor Durward B. Varner will moderate a panel discussion at 6:30 p.m. May 8, featuring the three afternoon speakers, Dr. Everett Peterson, professor of agricultural economics at the University; T. C. Reeves, farmer at Central City and member of the Nebraska Water Pollution Control Council; and two University students who will be named later.

Happy birthday

Today is the one hundredth anniversary of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin's birthday.
Happy Earth Day birthday.

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