

Study shows health aide program is effective

A three-year study of the effectiveness of health aides as educators has recently been completed by the University Health Center.

The report concluded that peer education, as represented by the health aide program, is a "relevant and effective alternative (to formal education) in the health education field," realizing that its effectiveness depends on the individual educator and his relationship to those in his living unit.

Results of the study show that while all of the health aides were relatively effective in imparting health information, not all were able to

change their peer groups' attitudes toward smoking.

The health center staff rated the health aides according to how much shift in behavior was noted among the student groups. The largest change in smoking behavior was noted in groups having more effective health aides.

One fact obtained from the survey, according to Dr. S. I. Fuenning, project director, was that while a close friend was most often influential in starting the subject to smoke, it was the subject's mother who had the most influence in getting him to stop.

THE HEALTH AIDES program, instituted by the Health

Center in 1957, is composed of one individual from each living unit on campus. The program is designed to make health information more readily available to students.

To implement the study, tests were taken of a sampling of University students to determine knowledge of the health implications of smoking, attitude toward smoking, and smoker behavior. The surveys were taken in the fall and then in the spring of each year.

The sample population was divided into two groups. The control group was not exposed to any information on smoking other than that with which they normally would come in contact. The experimental group underwent a smoking education program presented by their living unit's health aide.

The research project was undertaken with the cooperation of the United States Public Health Service.

Chancellor appoints administrative assistant

With improved communications high on the list of University priorities, Chancellor Durward Varner has recently appointed a 1970 graduate as his administrative assistant.

The Chancellor's new assistant is Mrs. Mary Lynn James, formerly Miss Mary Lynn Nelson of Albion, Nebraska.

Mrs. James describes her function as being "the other eyes and ears" of the Chancellor.

The unique aspect about the new assistant is that she is the only woman graduate student holding an administrative position in the University.

As part of her new job Mrs. James will be travelling around the state and making presentations explaining the functions and rewards of school administration.

Before ending her one year

term with the chancellor next summer, Mrs. James has considerable work to do.

Currently, she is organizing a student advisory council for the chancellor, working on the University budget as well as the never-ending job of keeping the avenues of communication open between students and administrators.

Talks and Topics meet Thursday

An open meeting of the Union Talks and Topics committee is planned Thursday to choose speakers for this year's Union speaker series, according to committee member Bob Russell.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Centennial College Pumpkin Room, he said.

Varner: 'May unrest will not help...'

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AAU schools in library holdings.

—Nebraska provided less support for higher education than 7 of 9 neighboring states measured on a basis of appropriation per \$1,000 personal income.

While admitting Nebraska has not yet made the commitment to quality in the University, Varner said the State can support a first-class university since its per capita personal income is now higher than that of eight adjacent states.



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