Holt discusses teacher freedom

"What I choose to learn, I can learn, by golly, when I want."

That's a child's natural feeling before the school system forces him into a fixed curriculum timetable determined by the teacher, John Holt, (author of books on contemporary education) said

This rigidity of schedule and subject in effect slams doors on a student's inquisitiveness, Holt told NU Teachers' College and Tri-University personnel in a question and answer period. The result: many kids get "turned off by schools," he

Exposure to television lets children today see problems that exist in the world, the former elementary s c h o o l teacher said. These problems raise questions which pupils soon discover their elders don't know anything about, don't do anything about or aren't willing to discuss.

Learning material should grow from the needs of the people involved, Holt said. "Each student should have a unique place in the classroom and a unique relationship with the teacher."

"Education is the growth and expansion of a person into the world around him," he said. "Living is learning. Education may happen in a school, but it can also happen in a lot of other situations."

Any coersion from the teacher only reduces the chance that learning will be genuine, Holt warned. "Kids pretend to be learning," he said. "They memorize information to get an A on the test. Then phft...it's gone."

Holt also criticized compulsory attendance. "We're running day jails for kids," he said. "Anyone who is interested in education should realize that

growth and learning are voluntary."

Compulsory sex education would also be coersion, Holt noted. A teacher with anxiety,

worry or shame about sex should definitely not be forced to talk to children about it, he

To illustrate his point, Holt quoted a news columnist who jokingly wrote, "If teachers can do for sex what some have done for English literature, the population problem will be solved."

Holt emphasized that every teacher has the right to help children to learn in the way that seems best to the teacher.

"The only rule of professional conduct," he said "is for the teacher to do what he thinks proper, helpful and appropriate to facilitate learning."

CONTINUOUS DAILY FROM 1 P.M.

NU is test center for teacher exam

The University has been designated as a test center for the National Teacher Examinations on Nov. 14, according to Lee De Jonge, Director of Teacher Placement.

College seniors preparing to teach should take the tests, he said. Last year approximately 105,000 candidates took the examination.

Bulletins of Information describing registration procedures and containing registration forms are available in the Teacher Placement Office, Room 101, Teachers College Building. Prospective teachers planning to take the test should obtain these soon, he

Calendar

Wed., Sept. 30

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American Art Exhibition: Sculpture forum — Question and Answer session with Colette Roberts, critic, 10:30 a.m., and Tony Smith, sculptor, 2:30 p.m., heldon (allery Auditorium, Foreign Film Series; "The Two of Is" (Franch), Free Showing for reshmen — 4 p.m., Nebraska Theater, Student Print Show — Union Gallery, Free University Registration — Neraska Union.

Teacher Placement Meetings — 4:30, ove Library Auditorium.
Art Exhibition: Arts and Crafts of Isadagascar, Elder Gallery, Nebraska Vesleyan University.

Activities Mart — 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. onference Rooms, Union.

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