

HEP gives migrants a chance

by MICK MORIARTY
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Most children of migrant workers never get a chance to receive much education. This is the rule rather than the exception.

It is not uncommon for most to never finish grade school. Few have the opportunity to get a high school diploma.

Students and faculty members at the University of Nebraska are trying to alleviate some of the problems these children face due to inadequate education.

Under the High School Equivalency Program (HEP), staff members and student counselors of the federally financed program work to help HEP students receive the equivalent to a high school diploma.

Most of the HEP students come from Texas, Arizona, Mississippi and other areas densely populated by migrant workers. Some also come from Nebraska.

"HEP is an experimental program in which young migrants 17-22 are recruited. They come to the University to receive better educations, thereby getting better jobs," HEP Director Gale Muller said.

There are about 50 HEP students this year and nine regular staff members. For each student, there is one counselor. The counselors are students at the University who volunteer to help HEP students adjust to the academic environment and to encourage good study habits. They are paid minimal salaries.

The HEP students primarily study mathematics, English and history in their classrooms located in the basement of Love Library.

Muller said that over the past two years, since the HEP program began, 165 students have taken tests to receive their high school diplomas. One hundred-two have passed the 10-15 hour comprehensive exam.

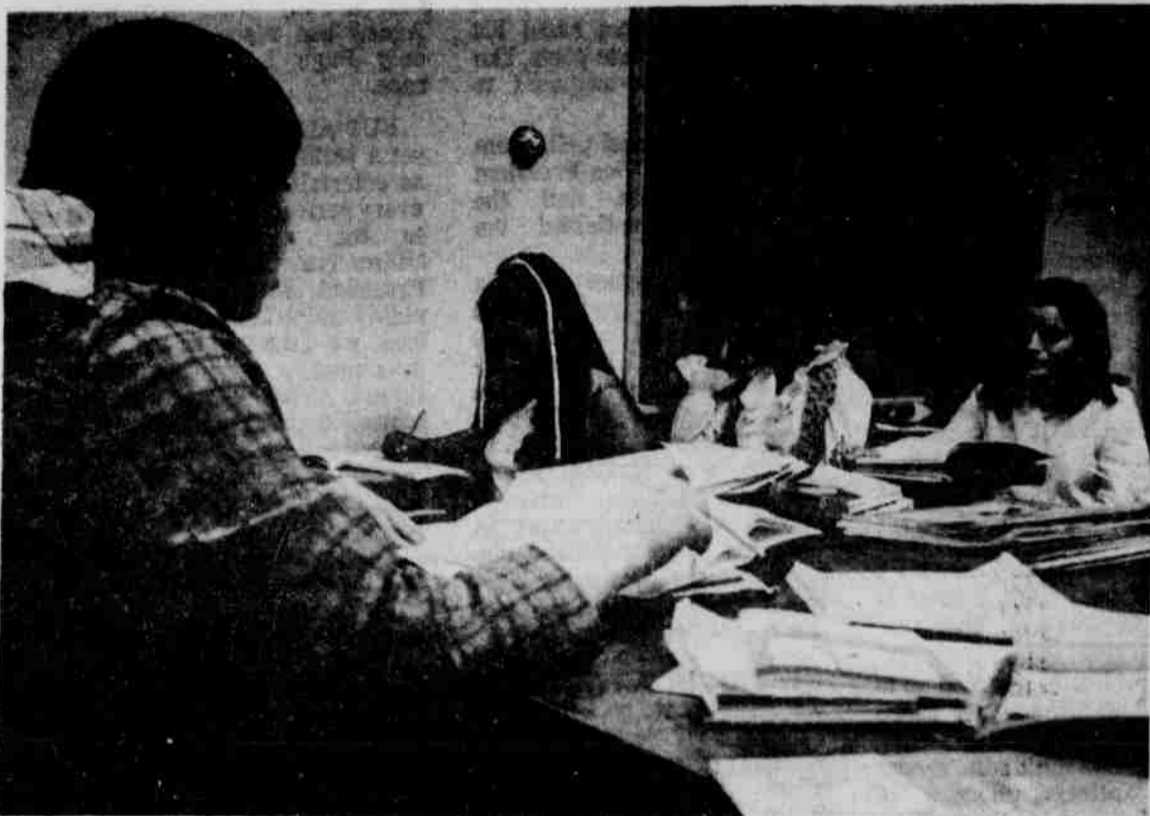
Of the number who receive diplomas, approximately 20 per cent continue their education at the college level, Muller said.

One HEP student summed up the feeling of the others quite well when he said, "HEP gives most of us a chance to receive something we never had an opportunity to get before — an education."

Another HEP student said the best thing about the program was that the people who work in HEP are "interested and concerned."

Although the students verbally expressed their appreciation for the HEP program, few words really express their feelings.

Nor can their enthusiasm be read about. It must be seen.



Black feminist speaks Friday

Florynce Kennedy, well-known black feminist and civil rights attorney, will be on campus Friday to discuss institutional oppression as part of the Time-Out program.

Kennedy, director of the Media Workshop and Consumer

Information Service in New York City will speak at 3:30 p.m. Friday in the Nebraska Union.

"Where a system of oppression has become institutionalized it is unnecessary for individuals to be op-

pressive," she says. Her appearance is sponsored by the Women's Action Group, which is concerned during Time-out with "Sexism and Women's Rights."

She emphasizes the roles of the church, courts, family, media and schools in the oppression of women and cites parallels between the Black Power Movement and the Women's Liberation Movement.

She has also been a delegate to the National Conference on Black Power for the past three years, and teaches a course in institutional oppression at Alternate University in New York.

Kennedy will also appear in two panel discussions Friday in the Union. The first, at 11:30 a.m., deals with local problems of women. The panel discussion will include Betty Jeanne Holcomb-Keller, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; Margaret Brown, Project Director of Women in Community Service; Linda Pratt, Chairman, Faculty Committee on Women's Rights; and Sandra Little, University Women's Action Group (UWAG).

The second, at 2:15 p.m. will be a discussion with Larry Magid, educational reformer; Fred Anderson, student; Harry Cannon, Director of Counseling Service; and Patti Kaminski, UWAG. It will discuss oppression in a broader sense, according to UWAG member, Toni Hillard.

At 9 p.m. there will be a rap session with Kennedy in Centennial College Grass room.

Science academy for NU students

University of Nebraska students interested in joining an Academy of Sciences may now become members of the Wesleyan chapter. For information contact Charley Jackman (466-5201) or Debbie Bourne (434-0198).

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