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Panel agrees: 'Welfare needs help'

A three-member panel grappled with the frustrations of American bureaucracy during a Time Out discussion on hunger and poverty in the Nebraska Union Saturday afternoon.

"Everybody in this room is a potential welfare recipient," said panel member Barb Snook, a Lincoln resident who is on welfare. "Poverty does not pick and choose who it's going to hit. It just hits."

Another panel member, Garnet Larson, professor in the Graduate School of Social Work, agreed.

"Poor people are not dependent because they want to be, but because they're forced to be." She said that welfare agencies can control such things as how long your mother can visit, or whether your leaky roof should be fixed.

"They can tell you who you can have in your house, when they can come, and how late they can stay," Snook said. "Within thirty days after you get on welfare, a life plan is drawn up for you."

In Larson's opinion, bureaucracy becomes misdirected and coercive when

it begins excluding people from poverty programs on any basis other than need. For example, if a man lives in the house, welfare checks may be cut off under present rules.

Bureaucracy has gone too far when it provides excessive safeguards against dishonesty which doesn't exist, Larson said.

"As long as you're poor in the United States, you cannot be a full adult under our present welfare system," she said.

Anyway, most money delegated to poverty programs gets tied up in establishing, staffing and administering welfare programs, according to Snook. She said that only a portion of the original allocation finds its way to people in need.

Panel member Ken Bordeaux, a Sioux Indian associated with the Lincoln Indian Center, affirmed Snook's notion. "Seventy per cent of all Indian funds are now spent on government bureaucrats who are just so much dead wood on a reservation."

According to Snook, the future cures for poverty may

lie in how outsiders understand poor people. She thinks understanding can lead to conscientiousness.

"Use your professions to the advantage of people," she counseled students. "Not to the advantage of dollars."

Carpenter asks for 'specific reasons'

Continued from page 1

sociologists, counselors and lawyers have spoken or will speak to the group.

Since the course is 200 level, the majority of students are juniors and seniors. Majors from political science, English, sociology, and others are represented, Cole said.

In response to Carpenter's request for "specific reasons," Cole commented:

"The existence of homosexuals in society is a distinct reality. The nature and characteristics are generally unknown and misunderstood. There is a lot of fear associated with the concept of homosex-

uality. People don't know anything about it and they should."

Courses on "special groups in society" like alcoholics, blacks and homosexuals are needed in a University, Cole continued.

Because it is designed as only a one semester course, the class on homophile studies will not be taught next semester. But Cole said as far as he knew, it would be taught again next fall.

He said he had no idea what effect the hearing next week in Omaha would have on the course.

"I suppose that's up to the Board of Regents," he said.

ASUN ed. reform meeting Tuesday

Anyone interested in University educational reform is urged to attend the ASUN Education Committee meeting Tuesday, at 9:30 p.m. in the Schramm Hall lounge.

Committees for different areas of reform such as grading, group requirements and class size will be formed, according to Becky Ross, chairman. Committee membership is open.

Musicians play Spanish pieces

Sofia Noel, a Spanish vocalist, and Eugenio Gonzalo, a guitarist, will perform Spanish and Latin American music Oct. 19, 8 p.m. in the Choral Room, Westbrook Music Building.

The performance, sponsored by the University's School of Latin American and the Institute for Latin American and International Studies, is free and open to the public.

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