

Ag Advisory Board acts as student advisor

by Terri Bedient

A common lament heard in college communities is, "I can never get ahold of my advisor," or "I wish I could talk to somebody about what courses to take."

Ag Advisory Board, a 9-member group elected by the students of their college to advise the Dean of the College of Agriculture, may have found a partial solution to this problem.

Board members were instrumental in promoting a system in which junior and senior students in the College of Agriculture, with the help of a faculty advisor, co-advise freshman students.

The student advisors at present receive 1 hour of credit for their advising job by taking independent study in Ag Education. This study is taken

on a Pass/Fail basis. The faculty advisor the student is working with does the grading.

One student advisor, Jeanne Dolan, stressed the importance of a flexible four year plan. Many of the courses on East Campus are only offered one semester. Others have prerequisites. Still others involve time conflicts. Another problem that plagues an Ag student is that very few Ag courses are offered during summer school sessions.

Dolan, a junior majoring in Agronomy, plans to go into Ecology research. She has 18 advisees, all of whom she tries to see regularly. Before school started, she contacted all of her advisees, and set up an informal coffee for them. They had a chance to meet her and their faculty advisor, as well as 17 other freshmen.

These freshmen have a

chance to see their advisor every Friday afternoon. Dolan puts up a sign-up sheet and the student picks a time when he is free. Each student has Dolan's phone number, just in case of small questions that must be answered immediately.

Dolan said, "I encourage the kids to get involved. I also encourage them to talk to their profs. Lots of times you get conflicting opinions, but it gives you a chance to weed out what you as a student want."

Ron Huss, freshman from Burr Hall, said "I think it's a really good idea—I wouldn't know where to start by myself. A four year plan is necessary."

Steve Anderson, another of Dolan's advisees, said "It really helps a freshman out. You learn by others' experiences. Jeanne's taken most of the courses and tells you what to expect."

NFT favors affiliation with national AAUP

It was the "overwhelming opinion" of the Nebraska Federation of Teachers (NFT) members present at a recent UNL meeting that affiliation with the American Association of University Professors to form a non-exclusive bargaining unit would be advantageous, said Paul Olson, NFT vice president.

NFT President George Rejda explained Nebraska laws make it almost impossible for an employer organization to be an "exclusive bargaining agent."

An exclusive bargaining agent speaks for all the employees -- in this case the whole faculty -- and a non-exclusive union can only bargain for its members.

Rejda said "the members want action" and the legal difficulties in becoming an "exclusive bargaining agent" and realization "we don't represent the majority of the faculty" has led to talk of working with the well-established AAUP.

Future decisions of NFT's 70 members will be influenced by its current membership drive and the faculty sympathy expressed in a poll now being conducted, Rejda said.

In other action, the NFT sent a letter to the Board of Regents suggesting the Board "abide by the letter and the spirit of the law" in their decision-making, Olson said.

He said, in relation to the board's decision not to re-hire ass't political science Prof. Stephen Rozman and others, the NFT feels "the Regents' public discussions don't bear any relationship to their decisions."

The letter complained the "secrecy in Regents meeting" before the public ones puts doubt that any business is really conducted at the public meetings.

Olson said faculty attempts to determine if they're "employees or professionals" is "from the beginning an inappropriate issue" since faculty status is really "a matter of the spirit in which University matters are conducted."

"And faculty members are beginning to feel more and more like employees," Olson said.

Discussion on the issue at the Tuesday meeting included a letter from Governor Exon which began, "Dear Fellow Employee..."

A copy of the University budget is now in Rejda's office and Olson said NFT members will be "making an analysis to study its priorities, equities and inequities."

Olson said he sees that as "a way of helping the administration," since any effort to conduct University more efficiently should be appreciated by them.

Short Stuff

Students interested in reading "The Young Voter's Guide to Voting Rights and Residency" may see copies of the book in the Dept. of Speech Pathology (Temple Building), CBA, the Chancellor's Office, the circulation desk at Love Library, Student Affairs, and the Political Science Office.

Everyone is invited to attend International Night—A Colorful Array of Cultures Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Kimball Hall.

The entire UNL Library system will close for Thanksgiving Vacation at 4:50 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 24 and remain closed until 7:30 a.m. Monday Nov. 29, with the exception of the Law Library which will be open Friday Nov. 26, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday

Nov. 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 28, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The PoorHouse will sponsor a Turkey Dinner Monday Nov. 21 from 1-5 p.m. at the Malone Center, 2030 T. Cost is one dollar for adults and 50 cents for children under 12. The PoorHouse is a new coalition composed of City Wide Tenants, Lincoln Organization on Utility Problems, Welfare Rights Organization, Tenants Advisory Committee, and Home and Neighborhood Development.

The U of N Weight-lifting Team is sponsoring the second annual Nebraska Collegiate Invitational Powerlifting Championships and the Mr. College Physique Contest this Saturday at the Men's Physical Education Building starting at

1 p.m. Admission is one dollar for adults and 50 cents for students.

This week's Chemistry Dept. seminar will host Dr. Desmond Wheeler of UNL Chemistry Dept. speaking on "Some Recent Work in Organic Synthesis and Photochemistry" at 3:30 p.m. Friday in 104 Hamilton Hall.

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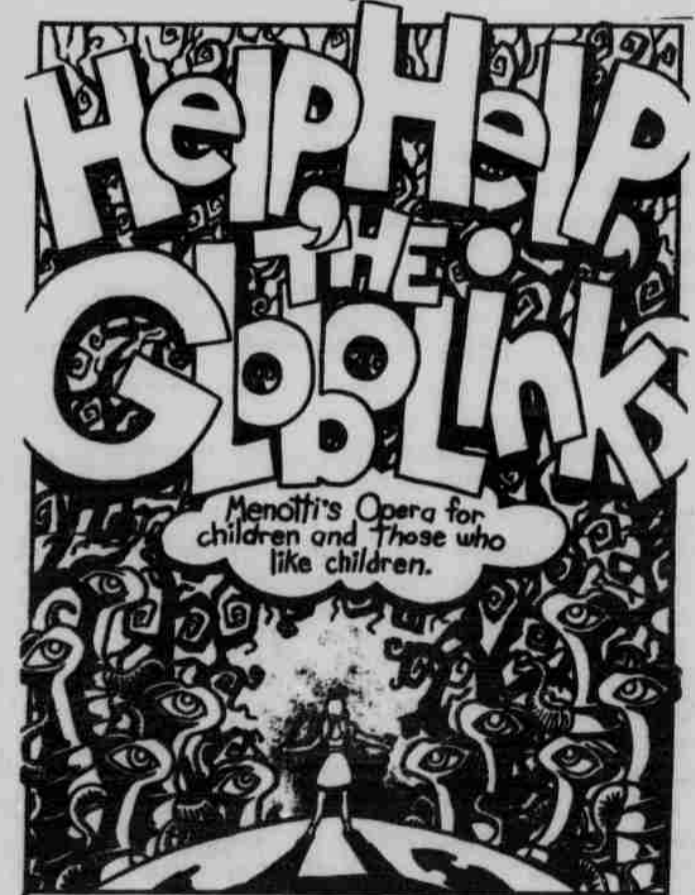
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