

Centennial project aids Free School

It's time for a change in education, say some UNL students. And they think they may have an answer—the Lincoln Free School.

Fifteen Centennial College students, dissatisfied with their own education, are involved in the project supervised by Scott Morgan, assistant professor of English and Centennial College Fellow.

For six hours credit, the students go out to the school twice a week for a couple of hours. Though they have only been involved for three weeks, most students have reacted favorably.

The Free School, run by Bob Frangenberg, is an

experimental non-accredited program at 27th and Vine Streets. They are free to paint, watch television, play games or almost anything they wish to do, he said.

"Kids are really cool. They are creative, spontaneous and uninhibited," Marry DeBacker explained. "I really like the Free School. No two days are alike."

"The theory is that the children can learn on their own. The teacher doesn't have to be there," she said.

The children "aren't inherently more creative, but the Free School allows them to express themselves," Drey Samuelson said.

Children aren't made to think they are either smart or dumb, Samuelson stated. "That's the way education should be. The kids are the ones responsible for learning."

Freshman Karen Brumm agreed. "I found school intimidating. At the Free School, the teacher is not your superior. Instead, he is on your level and both teacher and student respect the other's wishes."

"Children are free to do what they want, they aren't forced to learn things they aren't interested in," she added.

Mary Hansen stressed that Frangenberg was the central figure and that the children did obey him. She said the children were "testing" the students and they did not know when to "say no" to the youngsters.

Samuelson said children will jump on tables and even throw scissors. However, Brumm noted that Frangenberg did place certain limits on them. They can't use the phone and are supposed to pick up after themselves.

"But in a free atmosphere like that, it's hard to tell them what to do," Brumm noted.

Because of the lack of structure, many UNL students involved said other alternatives to education might be a happy medium between the extremes of the regular classroom and the Free School.

Several of the UNL students mentioned that because the Free School was such a radical approach, it would be many years until it reached the school system.

Debacker, a junior in Teachers College commented, "The methods courses I've taken would be of no use in a Free School because there is no one true method."

short stuff

Nebraska Public Interest Group, (NebPRIG) will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Nebraska Union.

There will be an organizational meeting for a local chapter of the National Audubon Society at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in 20 Morrill Hall.

The Union Program Council Talks and Topics Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Union.

Young Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Union to elect new officers.

A student composers recital will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in Kimball Recital Hall.

Students interested in working at the Nebraska Youth Caucus Saturday and Sunday may call 475-1361 or meet at the Union at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Applications are being taken in the ASUN office, 334 Union to fill an ASUN Senate vacancy in the College of Architecture and Engineering.

Graduating seniors who plan to work for graduate degrees and who are members of Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honor society, may contact Leslie Hewes in 232 Burnett about the national \$300 scholarships available. The local deadline is Feb. 25.

Interested students may contact the Lincoln Family Planning Center for volunteer work. An information session will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Center, 3830 Adams. Students may sign up in the student YWCA office, 345 Union.

Training Retarded Youth (TRY), Headstart and the Madonna Home need volunteers, interested students may contact Mary Dean at 472-2486 in the Volunteer Bureau, 338 Union.

There is an opening for a student on the Faculty Senate Conventions Committee. Any full-time student may apply at the ASUN Office, 334 Union.

Ag students get honors option

The UNL College of Agriculture has developed an honors program which director Franklin Eldridge said aims "to get talented freshmen out of standard beginning courses and challenge them."

"If there's any indictment of a university, it's to have students come and to have them leave without a challenge," said Eldridge, an associate dean of the college.

In an attempt to challenge the top agriculture students academically, 16 freshmen—the upper four per cent of their class—are selected yearly for the agriculture honors program.

John Robinson, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he disagrees with the honors approach. First, in comparison, Robinson said the Arts and Sciences' integrated studies program, which like agriculture honors allows a student to choose much of his academic program, has no grade average restrictions.

And Robinson said any honors program tends to elevate the status of a few students over the majority. Treating students

more-or-less equally "presents an amazingly complex problem," he said.

"The way to go with gifted students is not to have specific honors programs, but rather to move them along quicker," Robinson said.

During the second semester of their freshman year, agriculture honors students take a two-hour seminar course designed to give them a broad perspective of agricultural studies.

The sophomore year includes two one-hour independent research courses. Midway through the first semester the student writes his own degree requirements (128 hours minimum).

Vernon Williams, coordinator of UNL's Teaching and Learning Center, is currently evaluating the agriculture honors program. His research indicates the program is achieving "openness in the advising relationship and realism in occupational thinking."

Although advocating such ends, Williams said he finds it "difficult from a practical point of view to justify spending that much money for the number of students it does affect."

The honors program costs more because professors spend more time with individual honors students than they do with regular students.

up & coming

Thursday
12:30 p.m. Nebraska Union—NFU "Free School Philosophy"
2:15 p.m. Union—CSL Student Fee Committee
4 p.m. Union—NU Governance Committee
5 p.m. Union—Placement

5:30 p.m. Union—Mortar Board	6:30 p.m. Union—Recreation Advisory Board
5:30 p.m. Union—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia	6:30 p.m. Union—Union Board recognition dinner
5:45 p.m. Union—World in Revolution	7 p.m. Union—Christian Science Organization
6 p.m. Union—Union Talks and Topics Committee	7 p.m. Union—Spanish Club Film "Dona Barbara"
6 p.m. Union—AUF exec.	7 p.m. Union—Young Democrats
6:30 p.m. Union—AUF	

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