

Children allowed to create media, professor says

Elementary school children are becoming more involved in the production of their own instructional media instead of being passive receivers of media messages, according to Dr. Wesley C. Meierhenry, chairman of the department of adult and continuing education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Meierhenry spoke last week at the first "Know Your Professor" forum sponsored by the elementary education department at UNL.

Dr. O.W. Kopp, department chairman, said he plans to have one "Know Your Professor" forum each semester to give students an opportunity to become better acquainted with faculty members who have achieved local and national distinction in their disciplines.

A Nebraska native, Meierhenry has been a UNL faculty member since 1943. He is a member of the University's Teaching Council and is chairman of the committee developing the State University of Nebraska, an educational television project which will provide opportunities for Nebraskans to earn college credits in their homes.

Meierhenry's international activities include: member of

the U.S. National Commission of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); participant in a Paris meeting of experts on teaching and learning sponsored by UNESCO and the International Assn. of Universities; consultant to the University of Puerto Rico; consultant to the Territory of Guam in the revision of its educational system.

Describing the development of media use, Meierhenry said the traditional approach was teacher-centered.

"The teacher was an active presenter of materials, and the students were passive receivers of the message in a rigid environment," he said. "Materials and resources were designed to supplement the teaching process."

According to Meierhenry, current trends emphasize student participation in the production and preparation of instructional materials.

"We're putting media in the hands of youngsters," he said. "Media can be used or created to express their own feelings and ideas. Media use today is characterized by attention to values and attitudes of children."



Two students buy international student identification cards and get travel tips from the International Information Center before setting out on their summer trip.

Center screens overseas travel, study, job offers

Students who want to travel abroad have a consumer protection agency working for them at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) — the International Information Center.

"We're here to help students as consumers of international opportunities," Zoya Zeman, center coordinator, said.

The center collects and disseminates information about international opportunities and screens programs to find those that are most economical and educational, Miss Zeman said.

The center has information on travel programs, service projects and volunteer work abroad, family living programs, overseas jobs, study programs and fellowships and, for foreign students, information on travel in the United States. Information also is available on student transportation and accommodations. The center sells international student identification cards and youth hostel cards as well as tour guides to cities.

According to Miss Zeman, UNL students who travel abroad do so in connection with organized study, travel or religious programs, but most of them are hitchhiking, camping or bicycling on their own. She said specific statistics were not available on the number of UNL students traveling abroad,

but nationally, more than a half million passports were issued to students in 1971.

"I'm a little uncomfortable about just pouring hordes of hitchhikers into Europe," Miss Zeman said, "so we're trying to push for more in-depth experiences."

To do that, the center sponsors orientation workshops so persons planning to travel abroad can get tips from those who already have done so. The center also is compiling a Nebraskans Abroad handbook with travel information.

International seminars are planned in which travelers will be able to share experiences they've had in different cultures. The center also sponsors an annual Overseas Opportunities Fair to display such information.

Currently, the center is collecting information for faculty members on study tours abroad.

Located at Piper Hall 4124, the International Information Center is open weekdays afternoons.

"With Nebraska being as landlocked as it is, people don't have an opportunity to see many different life-styles," Miss Zeman said. "People can expand their horizons by foreign study and travel."

Robert Rivett, a UNL student who studied in Valencia, Spain, first semester 1971, said increased experience, was the greatest benefit of his semester abroad.

"It was good to know what it was like to do without a hot shower every day and the motor vehicles we depend on so much," he said. "And I had a chance to see Americans as foreigners see us. But I learned that, basically, people everywhere are fairly similar."

International House . . .

Foreign cultures, friends mingle

Learning to appreciate people for what they are has been the greatest outcome of International House during its first year of operation, according to Mike Lyster, International House program assistant.

"At first, we were trying to go too many directions at once and got bogged down," Lyster said. But a house retreat at the beginning of second semester resulted in greater coordination, a new governing structure headed by an elected council of five students and a five-year plan for general direction.

"We've managed to create a place for cultural exchange in a normal living environment," Lyster said. "And it has become a close community, with friendships close enough to talk about cultural differences. There's a real sense

of sharing.

International House, located in Piper Hall, was filled to its 74-student capacity during the year. About 50 were foreign students, but only 7 of those were women, Lyster said. Some 400 foreign students are on campus altogether, he said.

International House residents included students from Australia, the Dominican Republic, France, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Lybia, Pakistan, Peru and Taiwan.

According to Lyster, International House was the result of cooperation among the International Student Office, the University Housing Office and individual faculty and staff members.

"A number of fund-raising projects throughout the year allowed us to send people to visit other international houses," Lyster said. "One of the things we learned is that we have one of the best and probably one of the very few international houses in the Midwest, especially with regard to housing facilities and general University support."

But the five-year plan calls for further improvements.

"Some of the things we'd like to do would require lots of physical changes, like having a library and nice guest rooms for visiting dignitaries and office space for an international center," Lyster said.

Immediate plans for fall include helping new foreign students get accustomed to the University and American culture and soliciting faculty interest in International House. Lyster said the major project for next year will be an intensive study of international communications.

International House has 44 summer session residents, and most planned activities center on recreation. But it also is headquarters for two foreign language study programs, French House and German House, headed by Gerard Gardin and William Brown respectively.

Eighteen German students and sixteen French students are studying the second year of their foreign language for six hours credit in first summer session.

Brown said the students are "totally immersed" in the language.

The student hears German all day," Brown said. "We have reading and grammar lessons in German, and the students speak German at meals."

Evening activities include films, slide shows, singing, culture discussions, picnics and soccer games all in German.

"This is definitely a successful way to learn the language because people are

not distracted from it; they give all their attention to it," Brown said. "It's a more relaxed atmosphere than a classroom, and there's really quite a lot of esprit de corps among the students. We don't have to force them to speak; they want to."

Brown said he believes the language house programs help students learn more of a foreign language and retain it longer.

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