

# HEP— chance for success in academics

by Jane Owens

"I'm learning more here than I did in 12 years of school."

"HEP gives you a second chance, even if you goofed the first time."

"Everybody treats you like a real person here. They don't put you down."

These are just three student reactions to the High School Equivalency Program (HEP). Directed by Gale Muller, HEP is a federally-financed program to help young migrant workers receive the equivalent to a high school diploma.

At UNL, HEP is handled through the Nebraska Human Resources Foundation, located in the 501 Building.

Students range from 17 to 24 years old. They have dropped out of high schools all over the country.

"HEP's main purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to be successful in an academic setting," Muller said. He emphasized that success is important not only in the classroom but also in athletics, special interests and social activities. During the week, students attend classes in literature, social science, math, grammar and science.

"In one classroom we might have students with third grade to twelfth grade reading abilities. Our instruction is largely individualized, and every student operates at his own rate," Muller said.

Students must also enroll in "Phase I"—a vocational training course. "We believe that when a student comes into the program, he ought to start thinking about what he's going to do when he leaves," Muller said.

After classes, students can participate in several activities including drama club, intramural sports, and the school newspaper.

Before graduating from the program, students take a series of General Educational Development (GED) tests in math, social science, literature, science and grammar.

Muller said that students stay in the HEP program an average of eight months. The Lincoln program has about 75 per cent of its students complete the program. The national HEP completion rate is 70 per cent, according to Muller.

Muller said that the average HEP student increases his reading level by about 2.25 years in one year's time. The increase in math skills is almost the same, but there's not a great increase in factual kinds of information, he said.

What makes students stay in the HEP program after dropping out of public school?

"Students are free from any kinds of financial and family commitments here," Muller said. He added that migrant workers often have had to drop out of public school from March to October—the season for farm work.

"We also have a pretty good student-to-teacher ratio," he said. Each teacher has eight to 14 students in a class. "Teachers aren't just interested in a student's academic ability. It helps (a student) to know that someone really cares."

"In public schools they assume that everyone has to do things at the same rate at the same time."

"If there was some way you could test for a motivational factor, ours would probably be well ahead of the average high school student's," Muller said.

After graduation from the program, about 25 per cent of the HEP students try to get into college. Others receive vocational training, work, join the military or marry. In addition to the 10 professionals on the staff, the HEP program employs student counselors. Each HEP student is assigned to a UNL student.

"Our vision of counseling is quite a bit different," Muller said. "We try to set up a number of positive kinds of relationships. The more you build these relationships, the more your potential as a person begins to emerge. It's not problem-oriented counselling; instead, it's viewing people as friends."

One HEP student said, "It's like a family atmosphere and the personal counsellors are here to help you."

Because 70 percent of the HEP students are Chicano, three of the five teachers are bilingual. HEP's placement officer is also Chicano.

## Home ec features adult education

Students receiving their teaching certificates through the College of Home Economics now are being trained to teach adult education, according to Leora Horning, associate professor of education and family resources.

In addition to regular classwork focused on adult education, students spend time working with county extension agents while student teaching. Students help prepare training meetings, help develop materials for use in extension courses and sometimes teach in an extension class, she said.

Horning said students are encouraged to attend any adult education classes during the semester in addition to their extension work.

"This helps students to become familiar with the techniques and psychology of teaching adults."

Adult education is coming to the forefront in education, Horning said. "More adults are seeking formal education than ever before," she said.

National legislation is encouraging the development of more adult classes, she said. She added that the College of Home Economics has encouraged adult education since its beginning.

## short stuff

Students with winning numbers in the Nebraska-Colorado football lottery (1-606) can pick up tickets Thursday and Friday at the Coliseum. Tickets not claimed by 4 p.m. Friday will be cancelled. Ticket price is \$6.

The Arts and Sciences Advisory Board will hold interviews for associate members, Thursday, from 7-8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

UNL Gay Action Group will hold a Gay Open House every Thursday, from 8-10 p.m. at United Ministries in Higher Education at 333 North 14th.

## calendar

### Thursday

9:30 a.m.—Slavic Club tutoring—Nebraska Union  
 11:50 a.m.—Emeriti Association luncheon—Union  
 12:30 p.m.—Counseling Center career planning  
 12:30 p.m.—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship—Union  
 3:30 p.m.—Builders-Tours-Union  
 3:30 p.m.—Union Program Council Style Show Committee—Union  
 4 p.m.—Transcendental Meditation preparatory lecture—Union  
 4 p.m.—Student Affairs staff development—Union  
 5:30 p.m.—Council of American Indian Students—Union  
 5:30 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia—Union  
 6 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia pledges—Union  
 6:30 p.m.—RHA meeting—Piper Hall  
 7 p.m.—Council on Student Life—Union  
 7 p.m.—Hillel meeting—Sandoz lounge  
 7 p.m.—Parking Appeals Board—Union  
 7 p.m.—Free University "Occult Science"—Union  
 7 p.m.—Free University "Opera Appreciation"—Union  
 7 p.m.—Mexican American Student Association—Union  
 7:30 p.m.—Student Activities—Northwood Terrace Project—Union  
 7:30 p.m.—Institute of Latin American Studies film "Brazil"  
 7:30 p.m.—Math counselors—Union  
 8 p.m.—ASUN Library Committee—Union  
 8 p.m.—Transcendental Meditation Preparatory Lecture—Union

# Chubbyville's CHEESEBURGER

# 19¢

**Speedy Chubby Chef** says: Try a cheeseburger Chubbyville style. A broiled, pure, lean beef patty with melted cheese on a toasted bun. Just one of 14 delicious items on the menu. Quite a bargain at 19¢.

Coming Soon:  
 36th and Harrison  
 1309 Harlan Drive  
 (Bellevue)



"JUST MINUTES AWAY"

LINCOLN:  
 27th Street  
 Just North of Vine

OMAHA:  
 Farnam at 42nd  
 72nd at Lake  
 90th Just North of Maple