

Masters praise, belittle UNL of old

by Mary Voboril

Racial and sexual discrimination and the rights of children were discussed Tuesday at a news conference for 16 UNL alumni on campus for Masters Week.

At least one master indicated his memories of undergraduate days at UNL were less than happy.

"When I left here, I swore I would never set foot on this campus again," said Charles F. McAfee, Class of '58.

McAfee, who is black, owns an architectural firm in Wichita, Kan.

"I was told here I should learn to speak Spanish and practice architecture in Puerto Rico," he said.

He said some questions asked by students amused him. One student, he said, asked if black students had tutorial help when McAfee attended UNL.

"When I was here, there were only five black people on campus," he said. "I was the first black to play basketball in the Big Eight."

He returned to Nebraska once before "because students asked me, and I felt a responsibility." He said he returned for Masters Week because he felt a similar responsibility.

Many masters offered their views on discrimination.

Lucigrace Switzer, '57, editor-in-chief of a McGraw-Hill publication, said she "does not personally feel I have been discriminated against" in her profession as a woman. However, she noted McGraw-Hill employs 47 editors-in-chief and she is the first woman.

She said she favors human, rather than women's rights.

"All people should be given the opportunity to be whatever they wish," she said.

William A. McConnell, '39, Ford Motor Co. director of product test operation, said his company does not discriminate.

"If we have few women it is because we have so few that apply. There no quota or restriction" on how many women a company can hire," he said. "Women are measured on merit."

McAfee said so many generations of blacks have been controlled by the black woman that "we have been trying to establish the supremacy of the man." He said a factor contributing to the domination of women was that not enough black men are being educated at universities. Lois Broady, '24, an author and former faculty member at two black colleges, said the ratio of women to men at her schools was three to one.

McAfee said women's rights did not directly apply to blacks because "women's rights in black society have far outstripped men's for generations."

Richard R. Short, '50, a superintendent of schools in Chicago, brought up the right of children "to have parents and attention."

"Dad has a career to support, so at least mom should be (at home)," Short said. "Taking care of children is mom's role."

In other areas, Byron S. Miller, '39, a General Mills executive, said he noticed an uncertainty on the part of students concerning whether they were in the right program. As a solution to this, Miller suggested effecting a work-study program, with work done in the field that the student may wish to enter.

Another master, Daniel G. McPherson, '49, another General Mills executive, said he had talked with students who wanted to eliminate the language requirement. He said he told the students it was good for them to take a language.

"When I was in school, I was forced to take a very broad program. As I look back, I wish I had been forced to take a little broader curriculum. The job here is to educate the whole man. I would not like to see the administration yield under pressures of what is convenient," McPherson said.

Several masters attributed their success to their "excellent training at NU." Broady said that to be a success "you have to want to be something and be willing to put into it whatever it takes without having any regrets."

Some masters expressed wonder at changes that have evolved at UNL over the years.

"Who would have thought that at Nebraska you would get credit for building a harpsichord," said Milton Wittman, '37, a social worker. He was speaking of a Centennial Education Program project.

As a group, the masters generally praised present UNL students for their sincerity, sophistication, astuteness and the intelligence of questions asked during classroom and living unit visits.



Many women are not developing necessary skills for administrative positions . . . according to Janet Macy, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota.

Panel discusses working women

by Dennis Onnen

"Women who are not qualified are now being given positions simply because they are women," according to Janet Macy, a panel member discussing professional women Monday afternoon in the Nebraska Union.

Other panel members were Lois Broady, Marjorie Knoll and Lucigrace Switzer. They were at UNL as participants in Masters Week.

Macy, an assistant professor from the University of Minnesota, said that more job opportunities are available for women. She added, however, that not enough women are rejecting their old roles and developing the skills necessary for administrative opportunities.

Knoll, who, as a faculty member at Penn State University, reviews job applications, said: "The difficulty is in locating the very few women who are qualified."

She said she believes women retain their roles as

homemakers because they "don't feel comfortable doing something their husbands don't feel they should be doing."

Many men are wrong in their attitude toward a professional woman, according to Broady, a Lincoln educator. She said that a professional wife is "great" for a man since it takes the pressure off him as the breadwinner.

The panel also pointed to the difficulties for a professional wife. Macy said that jobs for both husband and wife are hard to find in the same town. According to Broady, loneliness is one factor while Switzer, a journalist stressed that extensive travel may cause problems.

Some difficulties also arise when men try to perform certain household duties, the panel said. Switzer said her husband was uneasy about washing her lingerie at a laundromat.

"But thousands of women wash men's underwear and nobody things anything of it," she said.

Insurers to cover cost for abortions

If abortions may be performed legally in Nebraska, will insurance companies cover the cost of abortions?

For most Lincoln insurance companies, the Supreme Court ruling permitting abortions has been too recent to allow time for policy changes.

According to the decision made by the Supreme Court on Jan. 22, no state can deny a woman the right to an abortion within the first three months of pregnancy. During the next three months, the operation must be performed in a licensed hospital or clinic.

The court also ruled that during the last three months of pregnancy, an abortion may be performed only if the mother's life or health is endangered.

Two Lincoln hospitals, Lincoln General and Bryan Memorial, already have decided to perform abortions, according to hospital spokesmen. However, most local insurance companies are leery about the amount that a woman may claim benefits for an abortion.

For example, the American Fidelity Assurance Co. has a coverage plan for pregnancies. According to old rulings, a woman has to be married and under the family plan to receive coverage for an abortion. What the company will do now is uncertain, but one representative said that the cost of the surgery may be considered as another hospital bill.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield officials, which offer the University of Nebraska Student Health coverage plan, said their policies would probably cover a certain portion of abortion costs. But it would depend of course, on the type of coverage one has under the company, they added.

Most companies speculated that changes would be made in their policies to deal with the changing abortion laws, but how near or far in the future these changes will be made remains unknown.

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