

editorial

The ice man leaveth for Texas sun

It won't take too long to comment on the resignation of James H. Zumberge as UNL chancellor.

Zumberge took office in 1972 with the comments that UNL's academic atmosphere was "not all that great," and universities should "get out of the business of playing mama and papa." Still outspoken almost four years later, he took

a parting shot at the Legislature for maintaining faculty salaries at a "demoralizing" level, and contrasted progressive Southern Methodist University with "other colleges and universities (that) are looking for ways to hold the line or even retrench."

The departure of this man—scholar, fighter, administrator, student advocate—brings to mind

the old lyric, "How're ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm/ After they've seen Patee?"

How are we going to keep quality educators and administrators at Nebraska while salaries are low, academic standards are mediocre, the governing body is medieval and prestige is found mainly on the football field? We're not.

Chancellor Zumberge's resignation is accompanied by a blaze of publicity, while another UNL administrator departed this summer with scarcely a murmur.

Hal R. Smith resigned as associate dean of student development early in July, to become associate director of the student union at the University of Oregon at Eugene.

At UNL, Smith directed the Development Center for Student Organizations and Activities, formerly—and more recognizably—the Student Activities Office.

He also administered university discipline and was adviser to various programs. All that many students knew of Hal Smith was that he signed those nasty letters saying they couldn't graduate/register until they paid their library/parking fines.

But we who work in the Nebraska Union knew Hal was a friendly and sympathetic man who took an active, personal interest in students. Dean of Student Development Ely Meyerson called Hal "a real student advocate"—amen to that. We'll miss him.

Tooting-Our-Own-Horn Dept.: Congratulations to staff artist Ron Wheeler, whose comic strip Ralph will be run this semester in the Kearney State College Antelope.

Note: Yes, we'll still have Ragtime, but that daily four inches of nostalgia won't be available until Sept. 15. It seems college students of yesteryear started their fall semesters in autumn instead of summer.

Rebecca Brite

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

cynic's corner



Course descriptions that are coarser and more descript

By Bruce Nelson

After listening to students complain about course description booklets, I've decided to try my hand at writing some course descriptions of my own. Hence, the following:

Introduction to Actuarial Science: Several informal meetings with Death and a final field trip through hell. Asbestos degree offered. Recommended for old people and necrophiliacs.

Agricultural Communication: Down-to-earth course about talking to bugs and plants. Interviews with wood ticks and plants on modern housing, DDT and transcendental meditation.

Anthropology: How to construct whole civilizations out of 32-bone fragments and a garbage dump. Advance work in creative sandbox available.

Architecture: Applied calculus and structural design. Senior students will be allowed to build birdhouses and play with Erector Sets. Field trip will include walk through downtown Lincoln.

Art I. All-the-tricks-of-Picasso-and-then-some. Also discussed is How-to-paint-with-numbers-and-get-away-with-it.

Art II: What is Art, or rather, who is Art and why is he living in Milford?

American Authors: In-depth studies of author's lives. Outside class time spent in ambulance driving, bullfights, drinking and chasing nymphets.

Botany: Dramatic autobiography of a vegetative seed plant from embryo to germination (for adults only) to mature vegetative plant. Special cameo appearance by mother and father plant followed by question and answer period.

Drama: How to write soap-operas for fun and profit.

Economics I: Considered are wages, profits, interest, monopolies, taxation, trade, money and how to get it. Final exam will cover "Balancing Your Checkbook."

Economics II: Study of comparative economic systems and their founders including Adam Smith, Ricardo, Malthus, Marx, Veblen and Keynes. Short discussions of why none of them work and whether economics should be considered a science.

Ethics: Kant's categorical imperative, John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism and Dale Carnegie's How to Meet Girls.

Geology: Minerals, rocks, ores and how to throw them.

Geography: Radiation, energy balances, temperature,

humidity, terrestrial land forms and how to read a Rand-McNally road map.

History I: Survey of everything from Adam and Eve to the Second Coming of Christ. Emphasis on the obvious hand of God directing mankind's rational and peaceful progress to Utopia.

History II: Special problems: Why the Renaissance was held in Italy instead of New Haven, Conn.; Why Europe fights its wars at home instead of in the Sahara, where there is more room; and Stonehenge: World's Biggest Outhouse.

Integrated Studies: In-depth analysis of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"

Journalism: How to writ.

Karate: Emphasis on fighting opponents with their own weapons. Topics include how to sting a bee, bite mosquitos and spread malaria.

Linguistics: Grammar made difficult by Noam Chomsky. Structural and historical aspects studied with emphasis on how to write to Mom.

Math: Introduction to diophantine approximations, congruences, reciprocity theorem and grocery slips.

Metaphysics I. What?

Metaphysics II: Why—Why not?

Military Science: A close examination of Napoleon's battles as preparation for nuclear war. Advice on how to spend your last 32 minutes after being exposed to nuclear radiation.

Philosophy of Religion: Investigation of such religious phenomena as omnipotence and how to use it to get out of checkmate. Personal interviews with Buddha, Allah, God and Jesus Christ and how it feels to be useless.

Psychology: B.F. Skinner tells you why you don't have free will and what to do about it.

Shakespeare: Did he exist or was he really Angelino the boilermaker from Genoa?

Sociology: A survey of social deviates or why sociologists think this is a science.

Speech: Topics considered include oratory, debate, heckling, butting-in and how to talk with your mouth full.

Theory of Knowledge: Examination of the impossibility of knowing anything and how to prove it.

Cynic's Quote of the Week: "Insanity is the exception in individuals. In groups, parties, peoples, and times, it is the rule."—Nietzsche

