

# Skits put pizzazz in sometimes dull summer tours

"Over that way is the 501 Bldg. They were going to name it after this one professor, but his name was Poole and they couldn't call it 'Poole Hall'."

On campus tours given as part of the summer orientation for new students, comments such as this were common. They came from the 14 summer orientation hosts who tried to brighten the sometimes-dull tours by cracking jokes.

Campus tours were only part of the day-long activities designed to orient freshmen and transfer students and to straighten out schedules before fall classes.

About 2,500 students, parents and guests attended the program between June 4 and July 2. Activities originated in the Nebraska Union, but included tours to Harper-Schramm-Smith Residence Halls for lunch and tours of East Campus for agriculture and home economics majors.

### Name tags

Each day began with registering, name-tagging and welcoming. Hosts mingled with the guests, serving coffee or tea and greeting familiar faces from home towns. Most of the staff was from Nebraska, although two hosts were from out of state, Earl Singh from Minnesota and Mae Cooper from the Bahamas.

Not all the orientation guests were from Nebraska either. The program drew new students from Iowa, Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Mexico and Germany.

The welcome sessions featured an "informative, entertaining, and humorous" skit, said Program Coordinator Mary Dean.

After Dean's introduction, audiences were given 15 minutes of information and one-liners by the orientation staff. The skit, built on a television show format, dealt with campus topics such as residence hall life, bookstores, Campus Police, and the costs of college.

### Brought smiles

One line in the skit cracked a smile even on the dreariest days. Chancellor James Zumbege, portrayed by host Greg Rudebusch, was asked "What does Big Red mean to you?"

His reply: "Oh, the university has been operating in the red for many years now and I hope we continue in that fine Big Red tradition for many years to come." The line even brought a smile from the chancellor when he visited.

Mini-sessions, 15 minute informational sessions given by orientation staff and other university personnel, sought to explain aspects of university life. Nine topics were offered and visitors were given a chance to select three.

Session topics included First Few Days at UNL, Housing Health Services, Cultural Affairs and Financial Aids.

Some mini-sessions were slide presentations and tapes, others were done without either. Those hosts who didn't have tapes repeated their speeches three times a day.. The program lasted 21 days.

### Retreat

The weekend before the program began, the staff attended a retreat at Camp Esther Newman near Louisville. The retreat was a chance to meet other guides and receive public relations training.

Orientation hosts from previous years also helped with training by giving hints on what to expect from visitors. The program has been offered for 10 years.

Former hosts said students follow like sheep and parents wander like cattle on campus tours.

"Students will follow you anywhere, even into revolving doors," the staff was warned. Last year a host allegedly led three students into the same section of a revolving door at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery unintentionally.

The record this year reportedly was two students and one host in the same section of a door at the Union.

At the retreat, the staff also practiced walking backwards and talking without hitting obstacles.

### Groups separated

After the mini-sessions in the morning, students and parents were separated. Groups then were divided according to colleges and were led by student hosts

from that college.

While students toured campus and ate lunch at Harper Hall, parents attended a presentation by the dean of their child's college.

After lunch, students returned to the Union where they met with faculty advisors from their college. Advisers discussed college requirements and answered questions. They also explained special programs, grading and alternative studies, such as Integrated Studies in Arts and Sciences.

Faculty members met individually with students to discuss schedules, make recommendations and answer questions.

The staff knew this was the most boring part of the day for students and turned the waiting room into a stage. Entertainment ranged from tapes and slide shows to occasional magic shows. Magic tricks were introduced by staff members and soon each host had a private repertoire of magic.

### Transitions

Parents also returned to the Union after lunch. They attended a session called "Making the Transition," in which they discussed changes in themselves and their

## Free University

# Course variety increases

How would you like to take a course in nature apathy? Or perhaps your interests lean more toward camping or hiking, chess or bridge, transcendental meditation or yoga? Or maybe you've always wanted to learn about photography or batik?

These courses are among the 40 to 50 being offered by UNL's Free University scheduled to begin in October, according to Jackie Learned, coordinator.

"Our goal for this year is to increase public awareness of what Free University is and what the program has to offer," she said.

Students must pay \$1 for each course they register for. Courses will be taught by students, faculty members and business people, she said.

families with a daughter or son leaving for college.

Student hosts were facilitators in small group discussions. The afternoon session was coordinated by Carol Carver, a graduate clinical psychology student, and John Breckenridge of the UNL Counseling Center.

The discussion was a chance for parents to ask hosts their opinions. Frequent questions such as "which dorm is best?" or "which is better—a dorm or a Greek house?" were answered by hosts with the statement "each student has to find out for himself." Sometimes a host offered opinions but cautioned they were "editorial opinion of the management" and not "the last word."

The group talks were a chance for student hosts to add bits of information which might have been neglected during campus tours, such as the location of the laundries and hints on preventing theft in residence halls.

About 3:30 p.m. parents and students were reunited, although a stray student or parent sometimes delayed the rendezvous.

Learned said she hopes greater variety in course offerings will bring increased enrollment this year. She added that the program may offer courses during the summer sessions next year.

Information on Free University will begin to come out next week, she said. Registration will begin the first week in October with booklets listing course offerings coming out one or two weeks before registration. Classes should begin the second week in October, depending upon the class and the instructor, she said.

Learned said Free University has an \$800 budget from ASUN. Additional funds will be made available as needed from the ASUN programming budget, she said.

## calendar

### Wednesday

Noon-4 p.m.—ASUN Book Exchange—Nebraska Union Conference Room.

1:30 p.m.—Volunteer Coordination Workshop—Nebraska Center for Continuing Education (NCCE)

2:30 p.m.—Financial Aids Workshop—Union Small Auditorium

3:45 p.m.—Accounting Club—Union Ballroom

4:30 p.m.—All University Fund—Union 337

6:30 p.m.—ASUN Senate Meeting—Union 202

7 p.m.—Recreation Dept.—Flag football officials—Union Auditorium

7 p.m.—Interfraternity Council—Union 343

7:30 p.m.—Bowling League Organizational Meeting—Union 222

7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors—Union 225 B-C

7:30 p.m.—Students International Meditation Society—Union 232

7:30 p.m.—Nebraska Public Interest Research Group—Union 337

7:30 p.m.—Union Program Council Concert—Memorial Plaza

### Work study utilized

# Student job market open

"Hey, Bunkie...feeling down cuz' you just got your tuition statement? Mad at the world cuz' you can't afford to eat? Sad cuz' you're broke and don't know what to do? Cheer up, you can always get a job!"

If the same feelings are facing UNL students today, they can cheer up. There are jobs available.

According to Jack Ritchie, director of scholarships and financial aids, there are many off-campus jobs listed in the aids office.

"The majority of the openings are custodian and waitress jobs," Ritchie said. "The salaries range from waitress pay to about \$3 an hour."

### Work study increase

Ritchie said he thinks more students are looking for jobs this fall than before, noting increased interest in work-study programs.

"This year is a reversal of past years," Ritchie said. "More people are accepting work-study positions. In the past, many opportunities were rejected."

Gene Landkamer, local manager of the Nebraska Job Service, said students quitting their jobs and going back to school will open many jobs to other students.

"Also at this time or year," Landkamer said, "employers assess their work programs and usually decide they need help because of the added student market."

### Schedule problems

One problem in finding students a job is trying to work around their schedules, he said.

"We try to find a job that agrees with their schedules," he said, "but so many have confused hours that sometimes it's impossible."

Landkamer complained that many students come to the agency and fill out cards seeking employment, but fail to show up when notified of an opening.

"I think they do it just to please Mom and Dad," he said.

### Manpower openings

According to Kay Bowers, Manpower customer service representative, usually there are many openings for part-time student workers on weekends and during vacations.

She estimated that more than half of Manpower employes are students, and said many students have worked for Manpower for two or three years. She said most jobs available at Manpower are unskilled labor positions.

"For the most part," she said, "student workers do an excellent job."

Dave Wolvin, research director for the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, said he believes the student job situation is good.

"Many employers look forward to hiring students," he said. "They (students) really fill the need that high school students make when summer is over."

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