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SUBJECT UNIVERSITY STUDIES HP 9 86 UFG 5 92
TECHNICAL DATA

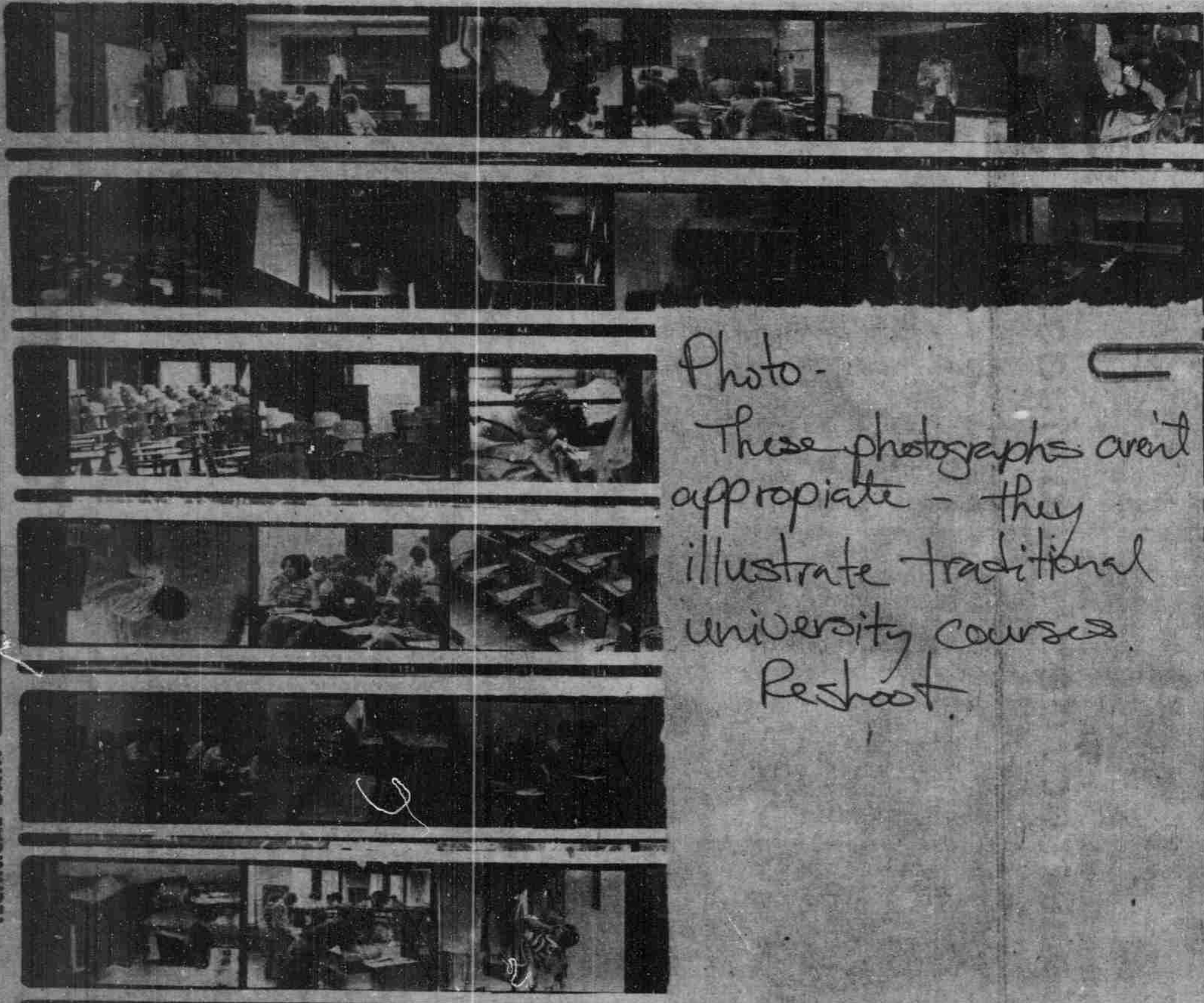


Photo -
These photographs aren't appropriate - they illustrate traditional university courses.
Reshoot.

Concept by Ted Kirk. Photo by Ely Marsh

third dimension

University Studies — outlet for self-directed education

Students plan courses of study, select advisers and receive credit for a range of projects in and out of the university classroom

By Ron Ruggless and Terri Willson

Satisfying the trend towards a nontraditional curriculum for the highly motivated student is the main inspiration behind University Studies.

The program, in its third year at UNL, allows 60 students, including 40 to 50 University Studies majors and other taking special courses in the College of Arts and Sciences, to acquire academic credit by working outside of the classroom, according to University Studies graduate student advisers.

Senior Sue Smiley, a personal communications and psychology major in University Studies, works at the Child Guidance Service in Lincoln for six hours of credit. She carries an additional academic load of nine hours, with six hours of independent study.

Smiley said she thinks University Studies is an excellent program because it allows for a flexible schedule.

As an example, Smiley said she has all her classes scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. She works with children all day Wednesday and on Friday mornings.

Rewarding work

A rewarding factor to her, she said, is working closely with her advising professors.

She cited Martin Peterson from the Anthropology Dept. as her main adviser since she entered the program in the fall of her junior year.

Planning to graduate in December 1976, Smiley said the small number of students and high quality courses in University Studies provide her with the personal attention she needs.

The only drawback she foresees is trying to explain her University Studies degree to a potential employer.

Her Child Guidance employers have dispelled this fear by encouraging her in her chosen study, she said.

Positive responses seen

John Scholz, former director of the University Studies program, said he has seen positive responses by employers toward University Studies graduates.

Scholz has been involved in the program since its beginning.

Many students, when visiting a potential employer, are given the chance to explain their non-traditional curriculum, he said.

Students with traditional college majors do

not get this chance to explain their course selections and are at a disadvantage from the beginning, Scholz said.

Scholz, vice chairman of the Chemistry Dept., helped originate the program after a \$250,000 Ford Foundation Venture Fund Grant was awarded to UNL for the development of experimental educational programs.

Program evolved

He said the program further evolved through the cooperation of the College of Arts and Sciences and the UNL Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee.

The Curriculum Committee on University Studies recommended last spring that University Studies remain a university program indefinitely, Scholz said.

Since the Ford Foundation grant runs out at the end of the 1975-76 school year, Scholz said the program will have to seek financial help from the University and teaching time from the faculty from Arts and Sciences departments.

Scholz works along with professors from the English, Geography and History Depts. under the Director of University Studies Joan Wadlow, College of Arts and Sciences dean and political science professor.

Brian Blouet, associate professor of geography, works part-time specializing in Third World politics; Leslie Duly, history professor, specializes in British Commonwealth studies, and Robert Haller, professor of English, specializes in medieval literature and creative writing.

Applicants screened

Those professors screen applicants by evaluating the motivation and academic goals of the prospective University Studies students.

The student, once accepted, forms a proposed curriculum of Arts and Sciences and field study courses. This mixture of academic work becomes the platform on which the student builds his or her University Studies program.

Don Winslow, graduate student adviser, graduated with a University Studies degree. Originally interested in journalism, Winslow studied African History, writing and theater and spent the summer of 1974 in South Africa.

Winslow's co-worker, graduate student adviser Mark Hoeger stressed the fact that University Studies is not an "anything goes" program. He said students within the system in-

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