

Community education aims at citizen well-being

By Dick Hovorka

A process concerning itself with the well-being of all citizens at all life stages within a given community. That is what Community Education is.

The initial idea behind Community Education, started in the mid 1930s, was to "provide training skills which were not available then," said Loren R. Bonneau, coordinator for Community Education in Nebraska.

"It gave people a chance for education, recreation, and enrichment," he said. "It is designed to meet the desires and needs of any community."

Community Education first started in Nebraska in 1973. York and Alliance have started programs.

40 classes

In Alliance, about 40 classes have been set up. These classes range from book-keeping, to psychology, cake decorating, home maintenance, photography, cooking for the single man, coping with children,

oil painting and hunter safety. The number of sessions range from three or four to 15.

In York, the "traditional class is about one-fourth of our program, the rest is service oriented," said Community Education director Robin Anderson. "People are more informed about the business world, it should help with community interaction."

Anderson said the number of classes offered has peaked and will remain there. He said between 25-30 classes are offered at one time.

Social services

Some of the social services being set up include parents without partners, intramurals after school, safety patrol, little league basketball, pre-school education, and alternative high school, Anderson said.

"As our programs are incorporated into the school system or other community organizations, we can start new programs," Bonneau said. "People call in and offer new ideas."

"The reaction from the community has

been very good. The local businessmen have been very cooperative," he added.

To begin the programs, Bonneau said the superintendent of a school district is contacted and then the community is. If it is accepted, a citizens advisory council is organized to survey the people's needs.

Run by community

"The programs are run by the community and not the directors," Bonneau said. "My job as coordinator is to inform schools and communities about Community Education, help develop the programs, and provide trained instructors."

While other education programs, such as Community and adult education classes, are organized, programmed, and taught by university or high school faculty, Community Education is organized and

programmed by the community and their citizens advisory board, Bonneau said. Instructors come from the business world, teachers, students, and any one else who has a specialty and knows enough to help others, he said.

Initial funding of the project came from the Charles S. Mott Foundation.

Mott set up the foundation in 1926. Since then the foundation has been a prime force in the finance of the program nationwide, Bonneau said.

Nebraska's Community Education has a \$76,000 budget with \$15,000 from the Mott Foundation and the rest from the university budget. Bonneau is included on the university payroll.

After this year, the program will be financed through the Legislature, he said.

Grad assistant functions puzzling to many Greeks

By Paul Damke

In talking with various fraternity and sorority members in the last few weeks, Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council (IFC) graduate assistants have found that there is a lack of knowledge as to what function graduate assistants serve.

Pat McTee, one of three graduate assistants, said they are employed by the university on part-time basis to plan and implement Greek programs and services with Panhellenic and IFC coordinator Jane Anderson.

McTee said a goal of the assistants this year is to increase the Greek system's awareness of services offered by the staff, the IFC and Panhellenic.

To accomplish this, McTee and the two other graduate assistants, Loy Olson and Pete Whitted, are contacting two houses, one fraternity and one sorority, each week.

These contacts include speaking to pledge classes, meeting with house and executive boards, and eating lunch or dinner with the chapter, he said.

Each graduate assistant has a great deal of experience in working with fraternities and sororities, McTee said. Together with Panhellenic and IFC office files, assistants can provide chapter members with new ideas for rush and pledge programs and fraternity education, he said.

The assistants already have worked with several fraternities and sororities in developing rush, pledge education and scholarship programs. He said the graduate assistants want to work on these programs with more houses before the end of the year.

Graduate assistants are open to suggestions or questions anyone has concerning the Greek system, he said.

First for sororities

Model house seeks unity

This year, graduate assistants for Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council are each handling a specific area of the Model House Program, according to Jayne Anderson, coordinator for Panhellenic and IFC.

The model house program, designed to create unity within the Greek system, now is used in six trial houses. Anderson said this is the first year that sororities are being used as trial houses. Before, only fraternities were used.

One area in the model house program is the Faculty Involvement Program. It is designed to aid Greek chapter members in ideals of sound learning, increase contacts with faculty members and administrators and promote public relations, said Loy Olson, graduate assistant in charge of the program.

Olson said with what he called the continuous pressure of improving and upgrading the scholastic averages of Greek chapters, hosting faculty members and administrators as guest speakers could help increase the awareness of sound learning.

Also, since jobs are harder to find, a Greek student acquainted with faculty and

administrators probably can receive a worthwhile recommendation, Olson said.

Pete Whitted, graduate assistant, is in charge of another model house area, the Career Development and Planning Program. He said his area's purpose is to modify existing house programs and aid in the development of new ones.

Career possibilities

Whitted said investigating career possibilities is a prime college concern, but has been ignored by UNL fraternities. He said the goals of his area are to inform members of career opportunities, aid them in mapping a schedule to effectively pursue their career and assist fraternal members in making contacts that can help them fulfill career ambitions.

The Alumni Relations Program, another area, is designed to assist chapters in establishing an effective basis for chapter operations, said Pat McTee, graduate assistant in charge of this program. The alumni are concerned with a wide variety of activities, ranging from house ownership to making rush recommendations necessary for the continued existence of the chapter, he said.

CSL agenda

The Council on Student Life (CSL) will meet tonight at 7 in the Nebraska Union Pewter Room. The first 30 minutes of the meeting will be available for students or faculty to present items of concern to CSL. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., or earlier if no special items are presented.

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of Oct. 9, 1975
2. Discussion on the Athletic Dept.
3. Procedures for appeals

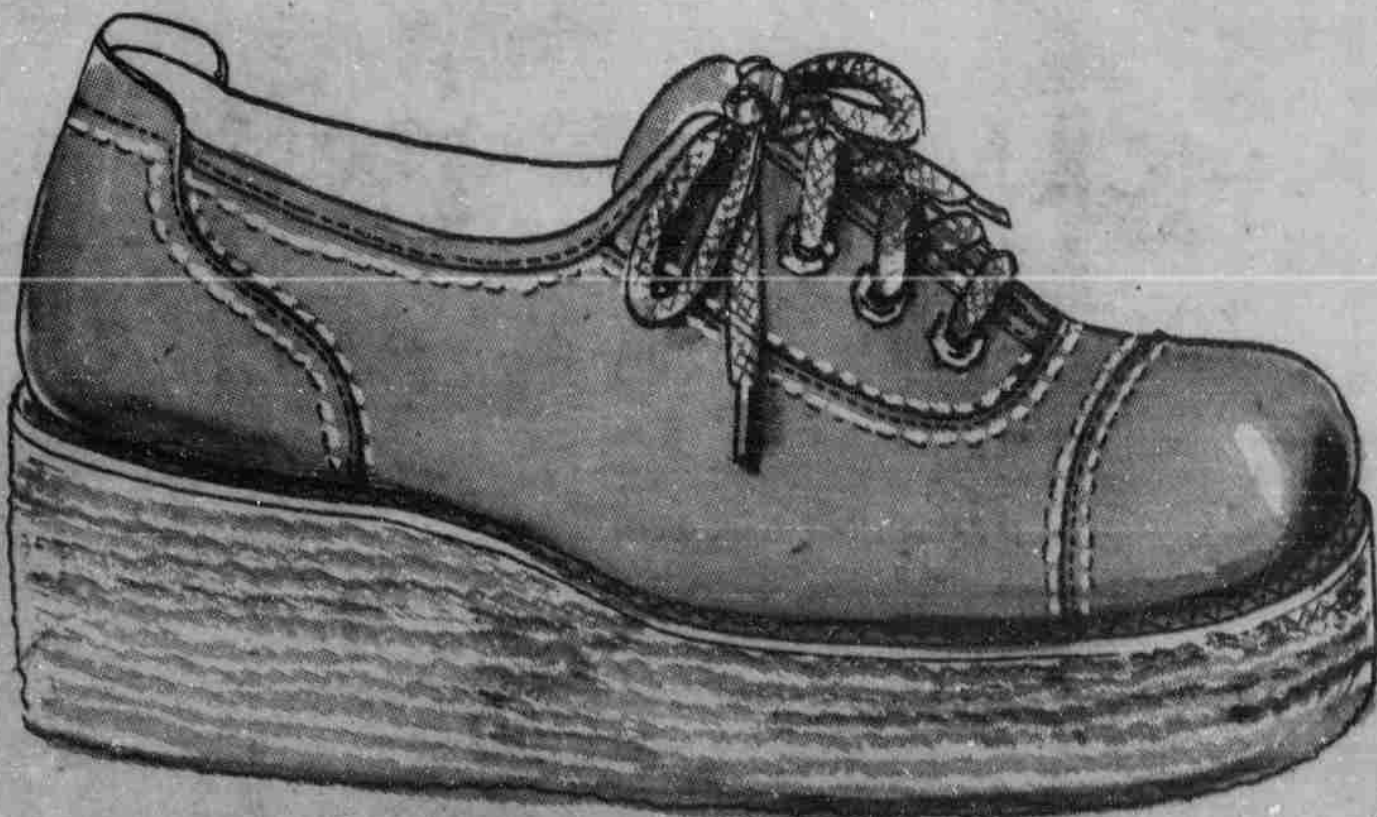
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