

# Everyone eligible for communiversality

Introduction to Beekeeping, Backyard Astronomy, Personal Defense for Women and a Stop Smoking Clinic are among courses offered this spring through Communiversality and Women's Programs, a project of the NU Extension Division.

Communiversality and Women's Programs is a series of about 50 non-credit special interest courses open to anyone, said Chuck Havlicek, program coordinator for the Extension Division's Conferences and Institutes Dept., which planned the programs.

The courses help fulfill the Extension Division's responsibility for extending university resources to the community; thus the name "Communiversality," Havlicek said.

Classes meet for varying lengths of time. For example, a Health Care for Horses class meets only once, Monday April 12, but a class called Life Insurance Purchasing-The Informed Consumers Approach meets five times, beginning Tuesday March 2. The series' earliest courses begin Feb. 23 and most are finished by the end of May.

### Special events

Communiversality also sponsors six "special events," Havlicek said. The first, Nebraska Vacation Primer, will be Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education (NCE), 33rd and Holdrege streets. The free program will provide information about Nebraska vacation areas and possibilities.

The other five events will be the Bicentennial Quilt Show April 10 through 26 at NCE, the Human Potential Conference April 9 through 11 at the Radisson Cornhusker Hotel, the Gestalt Workshop April 30 through May 2 at NCE, the Elementary Art Exhibit April 3 through 10 at Miller and Paine Dept. Store, and the Mr. Nebraska Physique Contest April 24 at NCE.

Havlicek said most classes are taught by UNL faculty members who were asked to participate in the project. Six classes are taught by non-faculty members who have experience in the specific subjects, he said.

The project receives no tax or university money, so teachers' salaries and operating costs are paid with registration fees, Havlicek said.

### Fees vary

Fees vary, depending on how many times the class

meets and cost of materials involved. The special events, except for the Gestalt workshop and the Human Potential Conference, are free or have a small charge. The Human Potential Conference, April 9 through 11, is the most expensive of the Communiversality or Women's Programs, said Dena Zimmer, who is helping Havlicek coordinate the programs. She said it will cost \$75 a person and \$50 for a full-time student.

The least expensive class is a single viewing of the Alistair Cooke "America" film series. The cost for a single

film is 75 cents for persons 60 years old or more and students, and \$1 for adults. A series ticket for all 13 films is \$7 for persons 60 or older and students and \$10 for adults.

Discount prices for persons 60 and older, couples and students also are available for some courses.

Complete schedules and course descriptions are available at NCE on UNL's East Campus. The Conferences and Institutes Dept. at NCE also will mail brochures upon request.

## NUPIRG — backed consumer center to give students buying information

By Betsie Ammons

Students desiring information on products they consider purchasing now have an on-campus location to check them out—the Consumer Information Center, sponsored by the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group (NUPIRG).

The purpose of the center is to provide buying information for UNL students, said senior Pam Cameron, center director. The center is in the NUPIRG office, Nebraska Union 336, and is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. It opened Feb. 18.

Pamphlets concerning different products and how to be an effective consumer are found in the center, Cameron said. If the needed data is not there, they can tell students where it can be found, she said.

Cameron, a consumer affairs major from Lincoln, said she is associated with the center as an individual study project.

The idea for the Consumer Information Center originated with Don Wesely, a junior university studies major from Lincoln. He said he thought of the center because "there was no place for students to go with their unique consumer problems."

He said student dollars are scarce, and the center is designed to help them stretch their budgets and use their

money with the most efficiency.

Public Interest Research Groups at other universities have consumer education programs, Wesely said, adding that experiences at those universities indicated there was room on this campus for student consumer education.

This is NUPIRG's first step in training students to be better consumers, he said. Future projects may include the compilation of a booklet on buying tips for students and formulation of study groups to examine prevalent consumer problems, he said.

Studies in the United States have shown that purchases researched most often are major ones, such as cars, Cameron said, adding that she thinks they will be the focus at UNL. She said information on food costs, investments, contracts, and mortgages also will be provided at the center.

Cameron said the center will be staffed by herself, Wesely and NUPIRG member Greg Heineman, a junior economics major from Omaha. Another person referred to NUPIRG by Student Volunteer Services also will help, she said.

Financing for the center comes from money allocated to NUPIRG from UNL student fees, said Wesely, who also is chairman of the Fees Allocation Board. NUPIRG received \$675 to operate this year, and about \$200 of that will go to the center, Wesely said.



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