

Teachers colleges-do they teach how to teach?

By Joe Hudson

Nearly one-third of all teachers college graduates say they think they have not been professionally trained and are not ready to become teachers, according to the director of a recently-completed \$1.2 million study on teacher education.

Lack of financing and attention has led to inadequate teacher education quality, said Paul Olson, UNL English professor and director of the Federal Study Commission on Undergraduate Education and Education of Teachers.

Olson was chosen committee director by the Office of Education four years ago "because they thought I was either good or an easy tool," he said. He had "run \$5 million in federal projects before that," he said, mostly concerning education of teachers. Olson said he received no salary for his work and taught a full course load during most of the research.

The commission's 300-page final report points to a gap in responsibility for improving teacher education nationwide, he said.

"Everyone claims to be interested in teacher education," Olson said, "but nobody is doing much about it."

"Serious responsibility" lacking

Neither federal nor state governments have taken "serious responsibility" to improve teacher education quality, he said, adding that "teacher education tends to be left to the most underfunded institutions in the United States."

The report, financed by the federal Office of Education and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), suggests several solutions. They include public interest representation in the accreditation process, better data-gathering to pinpoint problem areas in education, public involvement in teacher recruitment and more consistent federal action.

Olson said the report can be used as a guide for legislation, legal action and "to motivate people."

"I hope people will read it and act on it," Olson said. Copies of the report, entitled Teacher Education in the

United States: The Responsibility Gap, are available at \$2.50 from the University of Nebraska Press.

One of the more controversial points of the study, Olson said, is its criticism of national standardization of education.

Local communities not served

Although school boards have local control, education is standardized through the system of testing, texts, norms and accreditation, Olson said.

This generates a system which "really doesn't serve the local community very well," he said, adding that education needs to vary with differing environments.

Dance marathon could net \$12,000

By Dick Hovorka

'And a one and a two and a . . .'

'Daisey would waltz while the band played on and on and on and on . . .'

And on they played, for 30 hours to be exact.

A muscular dystrophy dance marathon sponsored by KLMS radio and Chi Phi fraternity will be this Friday and Saturday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. The marathon starts at 6 p.m. Friday and concludes at midnight Saturday.

Dave Voelte, a sophomore chemistry major from Omaha, said Wednesday that 59 couples were signed up for the dance, three times last year's number.

Couples from Lincoln Southeast High School and Pawnee City also are signed up, said Voelte, a Sigma Chi member and marathon chairman.

Thirty-five couples will represent 21 Greek Houses, Voelte said.

Last year, he said, the marathon raised more than \$5,000. With more than 10,000 pledge cards out this year, he said he thinks \$12,000 can be raised.

Nebraska's needs for knowledge of plants and ecosystems, for example, are not fulfilled by using standardized texts, Olson said.

Virginia Trotter, HEW assistant secretary for education, said standardization is not a result of federal action. The only federal role, she said, is to "reinforce programs where the state is incapable."

Trotter, former UNL vice-chancellor for academic affairs, praised the study and urged that faculty, administrators, government and the community "work together to develop the kind of responses from students we need to develop."

"Being very idealistic, we may reach \$25,000," he said. Trophies will be awarded to the three living units and the three couples raising the most money.

Voelte said seven bands are scheduled to play. The Muscular Dystrophy Foundation will pay the bands who are in turn donating the money to that foundation.

For every \$1,000 raised, goldfish will be swallowed, Voelte said. However, he said he is not sure who will swallow them.

"Last year someone did (swallow a goldfish)," Voelte said. "So I think we can find someone to do it this year."

Last year, 80 per cent of the contestants finished the 30 hour marathon, he said. Marathon registration will continue until the dance begins.

If more than \$10,000 is raised, the winning couple will win an expense paid trip to Las Vegas to present the money to Jerry Lewis on the muscular dystrophy telethon.

For those non-contestants interested in watching or dancing, there will be a \$1 admission charge.

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