

opinion



Due to high cost the prof was lost

By Jim Williams

A New Approach to Educational Reform, or, The Cat in the Hat Goes to College.

Some proper professors had met in a room to make their complaints and pronouncements of doom. "It's clear," said a prof, "that things are quite bad. My students can't even read, write, spell or add." "They simply won't learn! They will not change their ways! And then they expect us to give them B.A.'s."

wrench in the works



"It's the high schools!" another said. "We do our best, but the scores have declined on each standardized test." "They can't fight the system, you know," said another, "if you flunk a kid out you get punched by his mother." "Oh, oh, who will save us? Oh, what can we do?" And the Masters and Doctors began to boo-hoo.

"I can! I will save you!" said one with a shout. "I'll solve all those problems you're worried about." He strode to the rostrum, and then they saw that it wasn't a prof, but The Cat in the Hat!

"I'm The Cat in the Hat! Everybody knows me! I'm bigger than even that Bird on T.V.! I taught reading to five-year-old kids of the nation; now I'll try my paw at Advanced Education! When I taught them, all of them learned, bit by bit—But now they're in college and aren't worth a . . . er, darn."



The Cat tapped a new Gucci shoe on the floor and said, "Basically, guys, what you teach is a bore. No one gives a hang about Latin today and more folks dig the Fonz than Jean Piaget. Your labs must be fun, your requirements fulfillable, your lectures taught mostly in words of one syllable."

"Ha!" cried a skeptic. "That's great! That's just fine! Do you want to take that from this mangy feline? Will you prostitute thought to this enamorata?" "We don't want to, but," said another, "we gotta."

With a sigh of regret, he then made his plea: "Mr. Cat, won't you join our esteemed faculty? I've checked with the budget, and now offer you A salary of sixty-five twenty-two."

The Cat eyed the spokesman incredulously and said, "That's just cat food to Hat Cats like me! I wouldn't consider it—No, by my granny! Unless I get more than you're paying Devaney."

The whole room was silent. The spokesman said, "Cat, this school won't pay anyone money like that." Then The Cat in the Hat, taking hat from the rack, said, "When Hell freezes over! That's when I'll come back!"

Good teachers won't punch clock

First, a bit of backtracking. It has been pointed out to us that the list of faculty salaries in the Oct. 28 Daily Nebraskan could be misleading. Readers should note that some of those whose salaries were listed are not on 12-month appointments. Some of those salaries are for 9 months work, or less. Also, in some cases the salary reflects payment for more than one job. (A chairman of a department who teaches a course, for example, is paid two salaries, one for each position, but the figure listed represents the total salary.)

The logistics of trying to record each faculty member's duties and length of appointment prevented printing of a more detailed list. For any misunderstanding this may have caused, we apologize. The information was provided to give readers an easily accessible list of UNL faculty salaries, a subject which crops up frequently at regents meetings, in the Legislature and in numerous less formal conversations. Salary levels are important to the extent that they play a part in recruiting and keeping good faculty members at UNL.

And while we're on the subject of faculty salaries and workload . . .

The Legislature received a few days ago a report which was designed to measure the number of hours faculty members devote to various duties

each week. The figures show that faculty members are putting in much more than 40 hours a week—which may be the reason so many of them resented taking the time to fill out the report. The report's redeeming value is that it shows most faculty members are giving students' their money's worth. But we should be leary of trying to draw too many conclusions from the various figures listed.

The teacher or researcher who enjoys his work would have a hard time distinguishing between work done for himself and that done for students or the university. We don't want professors to punch a time clock. The figures show it would be to the university's disadvantage if they did.

Legislators and other budget makers should realize attempts to measure faculty workload would be less than conclusive so it would be a mistake for them to attach absolute meanings to the figures.

You cannot measure those things (accessibility, flexibility, genuine concern, love of subject, etc.) which make good teachers, but cannot be guaranteed to come with the Ph.D.

It's those faculty members who don't keep track of the work hours whose hours mean the most.

letters

Label unfair

Doug Weil's column is aptly named. Misrepresenting Jimmy Carter's stand (the objection Carter has to Henry Kissinger is not his use of shuttle diplomacy but his complete control of foreign affairs) and his resurrection of Robert Dole's ridiculous notion of war being a Democratic institution represents the current stream of naive conservative criticism. His is the typical "slogan" method of labeling Carter's stand (i.e. "teefor tottering") without seeing the need to back up the claim. Little kids are preoccupied with labels because the notion of labeling something that's in their head is a new thing (call recognitory assimilation). Most, however, by college age see the need to elaborate in order to facilitate communication. Is Weil stuck in the labeling stage or does he have no evidence to back up his conservative gripes? Lets hear it.

Dave Hardy

Money music

A recent letter (Nov. 1) in the Daily Nebraskan came to the defense of KFMQ mainly on the grounds that a concept of progressive music is relative, personal, and that: "... to think that KFMQ or any radio station can program music to suit each individual's need is insane and foolish. The best they can do is to program a variety of music that appeals to the greatest number of people."

This strikes me as curious, and may I suggest that those who need the progressiveness of top 40 songs listen to all of the other top 40 format stations, thus permitting KFMQ to meet the "needs" of those people whose concept of progressive music is not equivalent to money music. The "variety of music that appeals to the greatest number of people" is, in practice, somewhat confusing, because the lack of variety is what has come with the greatest number of people. In fairness, KFMQ is not as bad as the untouchable AM.

The suggestion offered in the letter, that the dissatisfied satiate their musical wanderlust by buying their own records, is not too bad of an alternative. The primary obstruction to this situation is the regretful economic limitations that don't allow me to buy all the records I'd like to. Actually, KFMQ could help me remove this obstruction by sending me all the old records that aren't going to be played anymore, which I trust would give me quite a selection.

KFMQ is indeed music, McDonalds is indeed food. I eat at McDonalds sometimes, but I would not eat there

everyday (especially if I had a gourmet chef on my turntable.) The main point is not that Q's music meets the base minimum requirement of the word 'music', but that the repetition reduces the value of some songs, and excludes playing of other, equally good songs.

John P. Jonsson
Fresno
Philosophy

Individual choice

Re the letter from Paula Purviance, Nov. 8 Daily Nebraskan. I find some of her statements to be very interesting, particularly the next to last paragraph. (Injecting disease viruses into the bloodstream as a means of preventing (it is contrary to every law of nature.) If injecting attenuated virus into the bloodstream as a means of preventing disease is contrary to every law of nature why has polio and smallpox been virtually eliminated from this country by the means of vaccines, which have been administered in the form of inoculations? The principles of swine flu inoculations are basically the same as those employed for smallpox and polio inoculations. That is the exposure to an antigen, i.e., attenuated swine flu virus will stimulate the production of antibodies within the body against this antigen. This may be more contrary to people's beliefs than contrary to the laws of nature. I will agree that a proper diet plays a necessary role in maintaining a person's health, however food fetishes will not cure disease.

We must remember that the swine flu epidemic of 1918-1919 which killed approximately 500,000 people occurred before the availability of antibiotics. So this brings up the question of whether these people died from the swine flu or as a result of secondary bacterial infections caused by increased host susceptibility.

The idea for the mass immunization program came out of Atlanta, from the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.). At the suggestion of the life scientist at the C.D.C. the federal government initiated the program.

True the entire program is a gamble, but at the same time it is a gamble based on some very fascinating discoveries in life science. The choice to become inoculated is left up to the individual. There will be some people who refuse because they are afraid of shots, there will be people who are apathetic, but there should not be any people who refuse because of misrepresentation of the true laws of nature.

Michael Grooms

The RETURN of Orion

