

Free U is for fun, not grades

By Gail Stork

Picture a class without hour exams, grading scale, textbook, lectures and is open to anyone for \$1 and you've got an idea of the Nebraska Free University educational program.

The Free University is a collection of classes offered to anyone in the Lincoln area for a \$1 registration fee.

According to chairperson Jane Todd, the purpose of the program is to bring different educational opportunities to people in the Lincoln area. She said it gives both students and the community a chance to learn about things that interest them for fun instead of for a grade or college credit.

Almost anything people are interested in—Yoga, crafts, Lamaze childbirth, backgammon and others—are available through Free University, according to assistant chairperson Karen Gratton.

The 30 classes scheduled to begin March 13 are listed in the Nebraska Free University catalog available in the Nebraska Union, residence halls and fraternities and sororities.

Registration for the spring session will be March 9 through 11 in the Union.

The class topics are determined by the instructors themselves, since teaching is done on a volunteer basis, Todd said. She said anyone with a skill or knowledge to share is qualified to teach a Free University class.

Lincoln business people, UNL professors, students and organization representatives are among the Free University "faculty," Todd said.

Some of the instructors also volunteer their homes and businesses for classrooms, she said although most classes are in the Union or residence halls.

The volunteer teaching idea is a major part of Free University, according to Denny Leak, a UNL graduate

student. Instructor of a Free University class for two sessions, he described it as "people doing things for people for free." He also said the program has great potential for community growth.

Although no salaries are involved, the cost of the program is \$700 because of printing costs for posters and class catalogs, Todd said. The program, sponsored by ASUN, is funded by student fees and the \$1 registration charge, according to Todd.

"People should take advantage of it (the Free University) since they pay for it anyway, even if it is just a small amount," she said. Todd said if more students would register the number and variety of classes offered could be increased without added cost.

Student response is growing Todd said, and both program chairpersons predict an increase in total registration over last session's 200. Todd said some students like the classes so much that they sign up for the same ones year after year.

The student's enthusiasm and needs determine how often the class meets and how long it will continue, Todd said. She added that some classes are afternoon workshops, while others continue into the summer.

Todd predicted Yoga, bicycling and backgammon to be the popular classes this session, but she added that there are several new ones that might prove to be in big demand during this week's registration.

"Any opportunity to expand the mind is good, even if it doesn't count towards your major," Todd said, evaluating the program. She said people get excited about the Free University when they find out what it's all about.

Attention All Students!

The Fees Allocation Board will hold hearings on the following University Department budgets for fiscal year 1977 - 78:

East Union
Student Development-Recreation:
March 10th, 6:00 p.m.

City Union
Nebraska Unions:
March 17th, 6:00 p.m.

East Union
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March 31st, 6:00 p.m.



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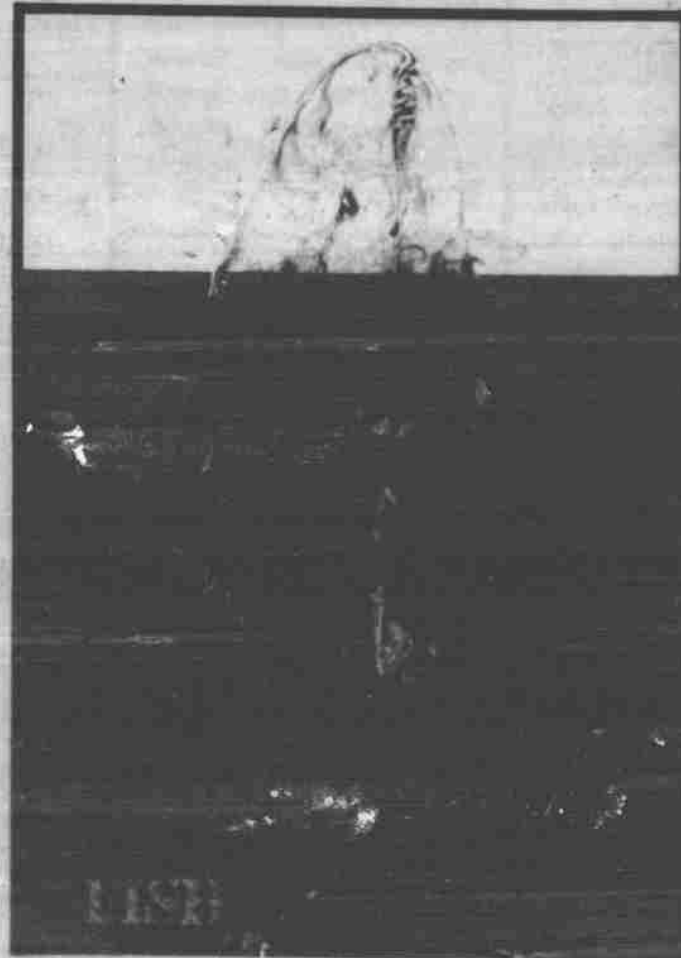
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