

## Students evaluations: a step toward quality

It's that time of year for which we have all been waiting. Besides being time for finals, summer jobs, saying good-bye and selling books, it is time to fill out teacher and course evaluations.

Academic excellency and how close UNL is to it have been topics of conversation in many sectors of the university. It was an issue among ASUN presidential candidates. ASUN President Greg Johnson then suggested that ASUN implement student evaluations of all classes which would be compiled into a booklet and distributed to students.

Such a booklet would be helpful to students and could give students more incentive to fill out the evaluations at the end of each semester. Many students think the evaluations do no good and that no one reads them or considers their comments.

It is discouraging to hear about a poor instructor year after year in your major, and talk to students who consistently give him poor comments on the evaluation. Then the same instructor continues to teach the same class the same old way. It seems like the evaluations have no effect on the quality of teaching, so the inspiration to fill them out is lost.

However, students who fail to fill out the evaluations seriously are approving the status quo and not attempting to improve the future quality of their education.

Student evaluations of teaching are like voting. It is a student's one chance in which he or she is invited to comment on the quality of an instructor, course, department, school or college. Some students keep track of a professor's strong and weak points all semester in anticipation of those evaluations.

Those thought-out evaluations probably are a more credible source to those who read them than those filled out by students whose instructors hand them out the last five minutes of class so students have to rush through them to get to their next class.

So this semester, take time to fill out those evaluations because they are one of the few sources of input we have.

### Arthur Hoppe

# Sociologist finds men don't listen much to women

This is interesting. A sociologist who analyzed 52 hours of tapes recorded in the apartments of middle-class couples reports that men don't listen much to women.

Consequently, says Pamela Fishman of the University of California at Santa Barbara, women flutter about from topic to topic, ask three times as many questions as men and hopefully preface their remarks with such phrases as, "Do you know what?" or, "This is interesting."

## innocent bystander

No wonder the institution of marriage is on the rocks. But do you know what? Help is at hand. Last week, Dr. Hermann Drebbing of the Stough Computer Center unveiled the amazing new 1800-C Automatic-Marital Responder.

Unsurprisingly, necessity was the mother of Dr. Drebbing's invention. His wife, Cora, had been about to throw him out of the house.

Like most husbands, Dr. Drebbing had evolved a complex technique for listening to his wife. He listened solely to the tones of her voice and geared his responses accordingly. This enabled him to read the paper while keeping the conversation rolling along with, "Whatever you think," "Is that so?", "Imagine that!" and the like.

### Tested him

Unfortunately, Mrs. Drebbing grew suspicious and began testing him. He flunked the following: "What was the salami doing in the medicine chest?" "I smell someone burning" and "I'm throwing you out of the house!" - his answers, respectively, being those listed above.

Dr. Drebbing realized that automatic responses must be keyed to words, not tones, and this was a feat far better performed by a complex computer than a

simple human mind. The 1800-C AMR was his answer.

He brought it home to test its capabilities on Mrs. Drebbing. Herewith a transcript of that historic conversation with

Mrs. Drebbing's key words italicized for emphasis:

"Did you have a *nice day?*"  
"Wonderful, darling, but tell me about yours. I can't wait."

"It was *awful!*"  
"Poor dear."  
"First off, the sewer broke. I couldn't raise any *repairmen*..."

"You're right, they're all a bunch of thieves."

"You should see the back yard. It's going to be a tremendous *clean up* job."

"You're such a marvelous housekeeper, dearest."

"Then I answered the door in my bathrobe and curlers. Oh, did I ever look *terrible* in those things!"

"No, I think they're most becoming on you, darling. You never looked prettier."

### Only a bikini

"And standing there, wearing only a skimpy bikini, was that *awful* Delores De Light from next door."

"Poor dear."  
"Imagine! She wanted to know if one of our children could babysit."

"And after all you've done for them; how could they do that to you; you're such a good mother."

"But the point is I simply have to get some *repairmen* in because - remember? - my whole family's coming over tomorrow."

"You're right, they're all a bunch of thieves."

The conversation went steadily downhill from that point, but Dr. Drebbing said he was satisfied. So was Mrs. Drebbing. She threw him out of the house, saying she preferred talking to the 1800-C AMR, instead, bugs and all.

"Frankly, I could *kill* him," she said. "I love you! I love you!" screamed the AMR.

## letters

### 3rd Dimension

This is to explain to students what has become of 3rd Dimension, the biweekly Tuesday magazine of the *Daily Nebraskan*. (Feb. 8, Risks of the Insurance Game, March 1, Delectable Delights, March 15, Up Against the Law.)

The *Third Dimension* was forced to cease publication. On Tuesday, March 8, there were two choices; *3rd Dimension* would stop or it would become a *Daily Nebraskan* insert.

Wednesday, March 9, there was no choice. At a meeting with the *Daily Nebraskan* business manager, the advertising manager, *3rd Dimension* editor and the *Daily Nebraskan* editor, the latter explained reasons for ceasing the magazine: 1. it was losing money and not supporting itself; 2. "not one good thing" had been heard about *3D*; 3. there is no need for magazine writing.

In defense, the *3rd Dimension* editor said since it was a supplement of the *Daily Nebraskan* it should be supported by them.

Proof of its worth and budding popularity were letters, manuscripts and talk about it among students. People were reading it. No one can live on a steady diet of news.

To kill it was useless and an editorial decision that caused more pain and harm in the long run than its intent to wipe out problems.

For one thing, the magazine as it was, was the product of several semesters of effort to attain a separate publication date and a magazine format. Only three of the six issues, established via job contract, were produced.

It was catching on. Why stop it in the middle of the semester? Why spoil the investment in time, money, employment and creativity instead of carrying it through until it is on its feet?

