

Higher education cheaper in some foreign countries

About 900 foreign students chose to attend UNL this semester. About half of them attended a university or other post-secondary institution in their home country before choosing to come here. What did they leave behind in favor of UNL?

According to three grad students and three undergrads, foreign universities resemble American ones in some aspects but are fundamentally different in others.

The greatest difference is in the amount of government funding. All six of the countries represented—Brazil, India, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and West Germany—have universities established and run by the national government. Private universities, colleges and institutes are also found in each country, except Nigeria, where all post-secondary education is government-run.

andré everett

Direct government funding has cut tuition rates in all six countries. For example, in West Germany "we don't pay any tuition. All kinds of university are free. There are fees, about \$15 each semester, for the student government and activities," said Maria Nussbaum.

Jose Da Costa said that federal universities in Brazil also do not charge tuition. Students in Pakistan, however, have to pay—about \$2 a month, according to Naem Adamjee. "But that's really negligible, just a nominal fee," he added.

Dorm rates at government-sponsored universities are also a fraction of what they are here. Kahoru Tanaka said that it costs about \$5 a month to live at the University of Hokkaido, Japan dorm.

Da Costa's university, at Vicosa, Brazil, "provides dorms for most of the undergrad students, but the grads should find an apartment. The dorm is very cheap—just a

symbolic payment, I'd say. The government pays the rest.

"The dorms are very much like they are here—nice and modern—except that three or four students share one room. Because of this, most students go to the library to study. Also, there are no restrictions such as visiting hours," he said.

At the University of Ife, Nigeria, a \$1,000 fee covers tuition, room, and board for the year, according to Tony Ofili.

"About 70 percent of the students live in dorms, the rest mostly have apartments. Dorm life at Ife was more exciting than here. The town isn't very big, so everything happens on the campus. Weekends were especially nice, with parties, movies, and dances.

"We also have bars on campus, and the biggest one is run by the student government. There's no drinking age, but it's considered disgraceful to get drunk. Everybody finds out," Ofili said.

Although alcohol is accepted on almost every overseas campus, calling professors by their first name is not.

"We should respect the professor. We can't call him by his name only—we must say 'professor.' Never would I use his first name. If I did, he would think I'm crazy," said Tanaka. Japan's formality was echoed by all the other students for their country, except Brazil.

Japan proved more formal than the other countries: "We can't eat or smoke in class, because the professors think this behavior interrupts the class. I have seen a few students thrown out of class for smoking," said Tanaka.

"We're allowed to sleep in class, though, because that doesn't interrupt. If the professor and topic are really boring, maybe 90 percent of the students are napping," she added. "Most of the teachers only grade the exams, not students' attitudes in class."

Note: This column will be continued next Wednesday.

Benefits of unlimited visitation questioned

By Kathy Sjulín

Twenty-four hour visitation in UNL dormitories is not likely in the near future, according to two officials.

Richard Armstrong, vice-chancellor for student affairs, said he questions the educational benefits of 24-hour visitation.

Armstrong said he doesn't believe the increased guest hours would provide any educational benefits compared to the current visitation hour system, which allows floors to choose a 14-hour maximum visitation.

"The benefits aren't worth the problems it might cause," he said. "Interest in this across the country has disappeared."

The last major decision concerning visitation hours was made in 1974 when the NU Board of Regents set a 14-hour limit, according to Douglas Zatechka, UNL director of housing.

Last year the UNL Residents Hall Association proposed that two floors in Selleck Quadrangle experiment with open visitation for one year, Zatechka said. This proposal was vetoed by Armstrong and UNL Chancellor Roy Young.

Open visitation is a new phenomenon on most university campuses, he said. The movement toward open visitation began about 20 years ago, he said.

Few effects studies

Because of its newness, few studies have been done on the effects of unrestricted visitation, he said. There aren't many statistics on the amount of noise and damage done in 24 hour rooms as compared to those with limited visitation, he added.

Zatechka said he hasn't found any research that says 24-hour visitation is "inherently great or severely detrimental."

Although 24-hour visitation isn't a likely possibility at the present time, Zatechka said he worries about visitation rules because "almost everyone has an opinion on them."

The number of students against 24-hour visitation is higher at UNL than it was at Michigan University, where Zatechka was employed before coming to Nebraska two years ago, he said.

The reasons for this lower rate of approval are uncertain, he said, but added it could be the result of the state's conservative nature.

Greater religious emphasis through-

out the state as compared to the rest of the nation could also be a significant factor, he said. "In Lincoln alone, there is one church for every 1,600 people," he said.

Since 95 percent of all UNL undergraduates are native Nebraskans, Zatechka said they tend to be more homogenous, which could be a contributing factor.

Similar religious upbringing

"Nebraskans tend to have similar religious upbringing, background and more homogeneity of values," he said.

Zatechka was quick to point out that just because something works at Harvard University doesn't mean it will work at UNL. The success of 24-hour visitation at Harvard may be explained by its diverse population, he added.

Floors with no visitation hours haven't been present on the UNL campus for two years, he said. Most dormitory floors now have hours ranging from 8 to 14. Few complaints about violations of these hours are received in the housing office, he said.

For some UNL students, however, the visitation hour restriction is a problem because of the inconveniences it creates.

One UNL sophomore, who lives on a coeducational floor, related an incident involving two girls and their male health aide.

"Last week two girls on my floor got sick and they couldn't even go down the hall to the health aide's room to have their temperature taken," Mark Duerfeldt, 20, said. "They had to meet the health aide half-way in the TV lounge because it was after visitation hours."

Unaware of problems

Duerfeldt, an education major, transferred to UNL this fall from Iowa State University where 24-hour visitation is allowed on every floor. He said he was unaware of any problems caused by that school's open visitation policy.

Restricted visitation hours sometimes become ridiculous, he said. For instance, last semester a coeducational floor had to hold a meeting to vote on whether or not someone with a broken leg could violate the visitation hours to use the elevator to go to class in the morning.

Latest records show that five schools in the Big Eight have 24-hour visitation, according to Zatechka. They are: Iowa State, Oklahoma University, University of Kansas, Colorado and Kansas State.



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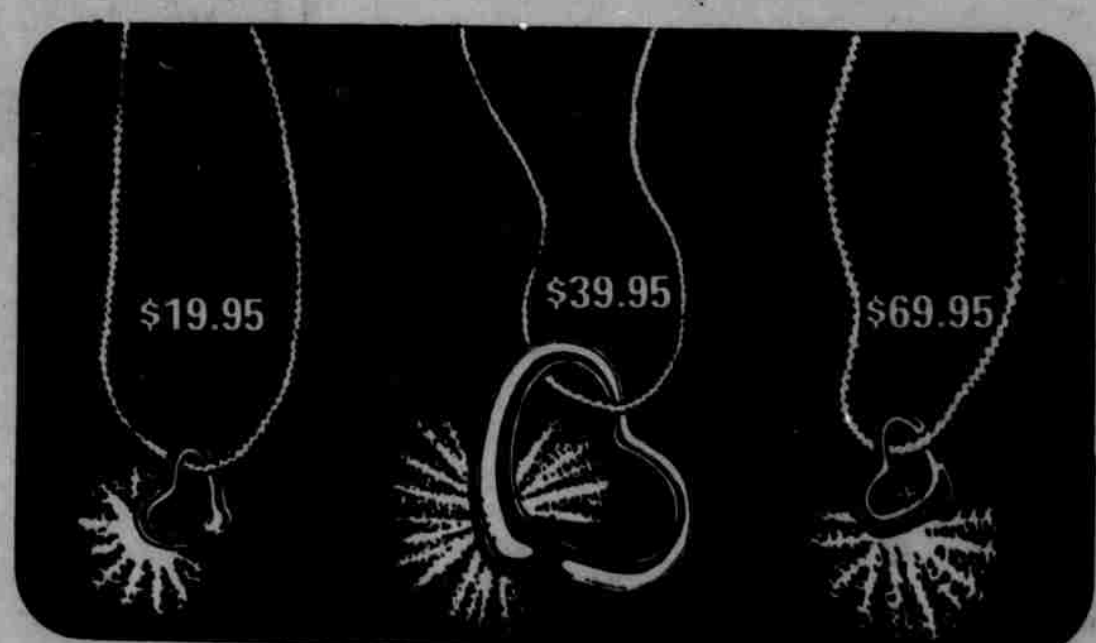
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