

Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Weather: Warm and windy again today with a chance of thunderstorms, high 85 (29C). The risk of severe weather will increase tonight and Saturday. Tonight's low 63 (17C). Partly cloudy over the weekend with highs in the low 80s (28C).

Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

Hall and Oates reel off the hits...Page 8

Softballers are on a winning streak...Page 9

Student finds new life in UNL classes

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Reporter

Fifty-four-year-old Helen Crosswait said she never thought about graduating when she enrolled at UNL 2½ years ago. She just wanted to change her life.

Helen's story is about her return to college, the frustration and the triumph, and why she came back.

'I needed a way out. It was a last-ditch effort to change my life ...I didn't know what I wanted until school.'

Helen said she wanted to change her life because she was living the life of a "superintendent's wife," and not enjoying it. She had two children — Connie, 28, and Mark, 24 — a 'huge house on the hill,' in Rapid City, S.D., horses, time to travel and a husband of 28 years. But she wasn't happy.

"Half of my married life I was frustrated as a person," she said. "I did enjoy being a mother, but my marriage was not personally fulfilling."

Helen said her unfulfillment goes back to her childhood, when her father's strict Victorian disciplinary values and her mother's passiveness combined for a "very protected life."

"My mother overprotected me unbelievably," she said. "She lost 10 family members to tuberculosis. The protection over being sick and Dad's concern about my boyfriends made my life a lot worse than other women. Not to blame anyone, but my parents always said, 'don't ask questions,' and 'don't be so curious,' so I didn't."

When Helen married at 24, the "overprotection" continued.

"I replaced my parents with a husband who was controlling me like my parents," she said.

For the first few years of her married life, Helen said, she enjoyed herself. But the joy slowly died.

"I asked my husband to counsel with me for years and he was so extremely busy that when he didn't, I went ahead by myself," Helen said. "My pastor and feminist counselor decided school would be the best way to start."

During her marriage, Helen attended classes



Crosswait

David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

at South Dakota State University and Black Hills State College. But it wasn't until she visited her daughter Connie at UNL three years ago that "it happened."

"I was taking a walk one day on campus while Connie was in class," she said. "I went into administration and registered for fall classes. I just did it. It just happened. I got free advice from inside."

Helen is single now, divorced from her husband of 31 years last year.

"My daughter was very supportive — she loves her dad, but had a sense of what I was feeling somehow," she said.

Helen said she is happy with her decision.

"I needed a way out," she said. "It was a last-ditch effort to change my life. I didn't know what else to do. I didn't know what I wanted to do until school."

The Women's Resource Center and the Non-Traditional Students Association have helped her adjust as a non-traditional student.

"They set down my roots as far as feeling at home," she said. "WRC has helped me by having a place where I can go and sit down, talk and visit with women that understand each other's problems. My real close friends have been through non-traditional students (NTSA) and Unitarian Singles."

Helen is president of Unitarian Singles Club, which sponsors social events for single Lincoln residents.

With her ex-husbands' alimony payments, Helen has been able to support herself through school.

In class, Helen said, she finds herself actively participating in discussion.

"I find myself bursting with things that should be said," Helen said. "In women's studies, I tell them I've been there. Many times they've wanted me to talk. I felt I was kind of looked at as a role model."

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Evaluation important

Professor 'X' ideal teacher

By Jim Rasmussen
Staff Reporter

Professor "X" gives interesting lectures, shows concern for his students, answers questions during lectures, listens to student complaints and runs a well-organized class.

"X" makes sure his students understand the goals of the course, always comes to class well prepared and keeps his office open at all times in case a student wants to talk.

To top it off, "X" makes significant contributions in his professional field, outside of his teaching duties.

If any UNL professors fit the description of the fictional professor "X", they undoubtedly command respect from students and colleagues. In interviews on campus, students and department chairmen named the attributes of professor "X" as important qualities in a good professor.

Jim Garrett, a junior economics major, said he likes professors who

make sure students know the goals of a course.

"He monitors the student to see whether he or she is achieving that goal, rather than just handing out lecture notes and putting the material on the blackboard," Garrett said. "Some take the attitude that 'well, if they don't understand it, big deal, let somebody else handle 'em.'"

Jeanette Pestal, a sophomore accounting major, also said professors should take an active interest in their students' progress.

"You need a professor that's interested in teaching students and making sure they understand the material," Pestal said. "A professor should make sure students don't just take it in and regurgitate it on tests."

Pestal said she appreciates a professor who welcomes questions during lectures, and who won't make students feel stupid for asking.

John Hill, a senior engineering major, also puts a premium on professors who answer questions.

"It's important that they're knowledgeable," he said. "If you ask a question, some professors will stum-

ble around and really not answer the question. What they're mostly saying is go find out for yourself."

Answering questions helps, but students say professors must be interesting as well.

"He should be interesting, not a drag," said a UNL junior who identified himself only as Dave. "Ninety-nine percent of them are boring. It's not their fault, though. The weather is shitty here, and they aren't paid enough. The good ones aren't going to come here."

Not all students take such a dim view of their professors. Ernest Moore, chairman of UNL's architecture department, reads many teacher evaluation forms each semester. Moore said most students in his department say they would recommend their professors to future students.

Students comment most often on whether the professor's lecturing style is interesting, he said.

"I think a professor has to be sort of animated in his lectures, or students will say he's boring," he said.

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Equality group's plan considered by ASUN

By Jonathan Taylor
Staff Reporter

ASUN is considering a resolution from the Equal Opportunity Coalition that would help the senate follow up on statements made during its campaign in March, the coalition chairwoman said.

At Wednesday's ASUN meeting, Mary Marcy and other EOC representatives outlined the goals of the newly formed group.

During the campaign, all of the parties that ran emphasized a "more representative voice for students on campus," Marcy said. As evidenced by a 600-percent increase in black voter turnout at this year's ASUN election, those claims sensitized students to the possibility of a louder voice and more participation in university activities and groups, she said.

The goals of EOC's proposal include:

- Extending the appointment and recruitment policy of university groups.

- Passing an equal opportunity bill in ASUN to preclude any campus group from discrimination.

- Setting up a Student Equity Officer position, to be appointed by the dean of students and a committee of three students.

Overall, the proposal is meant to give all people an "equitable chance" to know of positions open to them and get involved, Marcy said.

Reshell Moore, president of the Africa People's Union, said that if it's passed, the proposal will let all students have a chance to share in the decisions that affect them.

Adrian Casillas, the president of the Tri-Culture committee of the University Program Council, said the decision to approve the proposal "calls for a sensitivity to the needs of the minority students on this campus."

Gerard Keating, ASUN president, said the EOC proposal won't benefit only minority students, but also students in all living units.

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