

A new British open

(NEA) - Perhaps Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer couldn't care less, but a growing number of Americans are indicating deep interest in a new British Open—the British Open University, that is.

This unique, less than three-year-old institution whose students range from young adults to persons in their 80's, "probably the most important innovation in higher education in the past 20 years—has pioneered imaginative approaches to a lifelong learning continuum," said June and Harold Shane, two Indiana University professors.

They interviewed Walter James, dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, on the campus near Bletchley in Buckinghamshire.

The Open University was proposed by Harold Wilson, who later became British prime minister. Combining broadcast and correspondence instruction with some face-to-face instruction, it provides "open access" to its programs for persons more than 21 (more than 18, starting Jan. 1) regardless of applicants' formal schooling or grades.

The course begins "with a tremendous thud of a package coming to his mailbox," James told the Americans. It contains instructional notes to the students, broadcast schedules, and, likely, the first four units of the course.

"During his study time, he watches television and listens to radio programs, reads the correspondence text sent to him, and engages in additional reading and activities," James explained.

Religious survey

Crusade for Christ has been conducting a random three-part survey of freshmen students to determine their religious beliefs.

The survey will consist of a 20-minute interview with the student.

The third part of the survey will deal with this year's registration week. Results will be used by students' council in planning activities for next year's registration week.

If you wish to take part call Bob at 436-3763.

Standard sign for University

The Board of Governors has approved a standardized sign system like the one developed for the Humanities Centre for use in university buildings.

The system involves a map, with a color code to determine different usages of the building.

A board reviewed the entire system and found it satisfactory, for most buildings except older, classic buildings like Arts, where modifications will have to be made.

There are counselor contacts, self-help groups with other students, and about four to six hours of face-to-face instruction during a half-credit course of 170 hours. Finally, students get together for one week in the year during the summer schools on a traditional university campus.

"In October or November," James continued, "the student takes an examination at the end of the course. Grades, which determine whether or not students will be awarded credit, are based both on their continuous assignments during the course and on the final examination."

James doesn't believe students will be particularly handicapped by having "attended" British Open University instead of prestigious institutions such as Oxford. And he has lots of confidence in the BOU students, which have included students just embarking on careers and persons retired from careers—among them a former Lord Chancellor of

England.

"We are moving into a world where universities other than your Ivy League institutions provide the vast number of well-qualified persons," the English educator told the Shanes. "The stranglehold of the old systems is disappearing. Furthermore, our highly motivated, extremely dedicated part-time adult student, who has to organize his studies with his work life and with social and domestic responsibilities, will have little trouble in being seen as superior to the full-time 18 to 21 year old student at conventional universities."

At its main campus, the British Open University has about 200 academics who create courses and materials. Staff tutors in the 15 regions recruit, instruct, and supervise the "vast array" of part-time tutors who work directly with students. These part-time tutors come mainly from other universities, colleges of education, and polytechnic institutions. A few are secondary school teachers.

U prof honored in US

A professor at the University of Alberta has been honored Friday by the University of Minnesota.

Walter E. Harris, professor in the U of A's department of chemistry, received the Outstanding Achievement Award, presented by the University of Minnesota to honor alumni who have distinguished themselves in their field of study.

Harris began his university education here, graduating with bachelor and master of science degrees. He then continued study at the University of

Minnesota where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1944.

In 1946, Harris joined the staff at the U of A and since then has received wide recognition for accomplishments in both teaching and research.

His research interests are wide and diverse, including information retrieval, electrochemical analysis, synthetic rubber and hot atom chemistry.

In 1969 he received the Fisher Award in Analytical Chemistry from the Chemical Institute of Canada.



Following is a list of the Soviet-Ukrainian delegates who visited Edmonton, Oct. 24-26, on a cultural-friendship exchange as reported in the Nov. 1st Gateway.

Back L-R: A. Haviljuk, President, Parchomenko Collective Farm, Ternopol District; M. Panchuk, lecturer in the Society "Knowledge", University of Kiev; P. Scherban, Director of Education, Poltava Oblast; A. Hanchuk, history teacher, Kiev High School No. 97; Dr. H. Matyshyn, Head, Kiev Medical Institute, and senior surgeon, Ministry of Health, Ukrainian SSR; N. Kondratjuk, Director, Operatic Dept. Chaykowski Conservatory of Music, Kiev; I. Pobirchenko, Chairman, Dept. of Civil and State Law, University of Kiev; P. Biba, Editor-in-Chief of journal "Life and Culture"; M. Havriljuk, Rector, Polytechnical Institute, Lvov; I. Barenboym, Chief, Bridge Building Brigade, and Hero of Socialist Labour; A. Samoilenko, senior scientific worker, Mathematics Institute, Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian Republic; I. Kolko, Chairman, Zaporizhe Collective Farm, Uzhorod Region, Zakarpatska Oblast; A. Silkin, mining engineer, Novo Pavlivska Mine, Promin, Voroshilovgrad Oblast;

Front L-R: S. Zubkov, poet and Vice-Chairman, Literary Institute, Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR; N. Kondratjuk, Concert Master, Chaykowski Conservatory of Music, Kiev; T. Telishevski, Premier, Lvov Oblast Council; V. Shevchenko, Chairman, Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; F. Makiwchuk, Editor-in-Chief of satirical magazine "Peretz"; D. Petrunenko, People's Artist of the Ukrainian SSR, soloist, Kiev Philharmonic Orchestra, lecturer, Kiev Conservatory of Music; V. Prikhodjko, Head, State Planning Board, Ukrainian SSR.

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Student group adopts one member — one vote scheme

The new National Union of Students averted a constitutional crisis by adopting the one member, one vote principle at its fall meeting at the U of A.

The constitution, had stated that the number of votes for each institution would be determined by student populations.

In opposing the change, Gary Croxton, U of A delegate, said it was contrary to the democratic principle "that he who pays the piper plays the tune."

"If everyone has the same amount of say, then everyone should pay the same amount of money," said Croxton.

Several delegates from smaller colleges, however, pointed out that their membership participation in the union was based on the one vote per member rule.

Blair Mitchell, Kings College representative, said that it was a salient point in entering the NUS, adding that "a smaller college is making a larger financial sacrifice to be a member." Kings College has about 350 students.

University of Toronto, which has the largest student enrolment in Canada, (more than 29,000) supported the amendment.

It still must be ratified in a mall ballot by a two-thirds majority.

Simon Fraser will host the next general meeting of the National Union of Students in May. The decision was made at the NUS fall meeting at the U of A, Oct. 19-21.

University of Regina was the only other institution to bid for the conference.

The union consists of 27 post secondary institutions and represents about 135,000 students.

referendum called by SC

Students' Council decided Monday night to hold a referendum Nov. 23 to determine if students want to join the National Union of Students.



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