

British Experiment With Open University

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," two Indiana University professors report.

Say June Grant Shane and Harold G. Shane, writing in the November-December issue of the National Education Association journal: "More than a correspondence school, more than an electronic wonder, it is a tribute to human ingenuity—an idea come of age with important portent for teaching and learning not only in the Old World and in the Third World but in our country as well."

The Today's Education article by the wife-husband team of education professors features an interview with Walter James, dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, on the campus near Blechley 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 over 21 (over 18, starting Jan. 1) regardless of applicants' formal schooling or grades.

Two points were recognized in setting up the university, James told the visiting American professors: "First a lot of people with the potential for higher education had not received it; second, because of changes caused by galloping technology, more people needed more opportunities for recurrent education at various stages of their careers than we had been providing."

To say the Open University has thrived would be a typically British understatement. Having opened in 1971 with 25,000 students, it now has nearly 40,000 in its undergraduate program, plus smaller numbers in its post experience courses for persons who wish to change occupations or update their knowledge and in its post-graduate program for people studying for a higher degree.

"Britain's bold new open access to a university education—like the brave new ideas in our country—has its problems and is flawed by certain defects" the Shanes comment. "But," they add glowingly, "for an infant delivered into a coldly skeptical world but three years age, it already is a huge, handsome, healthy, educational baby!"

Campus Briefs

Thanksgiving Observations

Thanksgiving religious services will be held Tuesday by the Student Y Association.

Everyone, but especially students, are invited, announced Mike Pennick, Y president.

David Norcom will be guest speaker for the 8 p.m. services at the All Faiths Chapel. A 1972 graduate, Norcom is preparing for the ministry at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary.

Celanese Grants

Tom Easter, personnel supervisor with Celanese Corporation, presented unrestricted grants totaling \$6,000 to TAMU Friday in behalf of his company.

The Departments of Chem-

try, Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering each received \$2,000 from Celanese for use on special projects not covered by state funds.

Transportation Evaluations

Transportation directors from five Texas metropolitan areas met Monday to discuss and evaluate alternatives for fuel conservation and possible consequences of conservation action.

Meeting with officials from the Texas Highway Department and

Texas Transportation Institute, directors of transportation from San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin and Houston discussed their own problems related to fuel and transportation and compared them with problems in other locations across the state.

Physics Colloquium

Prof. V. Szebehely of the University of Texas at Austin will speak at a physics colloquium Wednesday.

Szebehely's presentation, "The Instability of Triple Systems," is scheduled for 4 p.m. in Room 146 of the Physics Building.

Szebehely, of the UT Department of Aerospace Engineering

and Engineering Mechanics, will discuss the qualitative aspects of the gravitational problem of three bodies in view of recent numerical and analytical results.

All interested persons are invited to attend the program. Coffee will be served at 3:45 in Room 146 of the Physics Building.

New English Course

The Department of English is offering a new course in medieval English literature, announced Dr. Harrison E. Hierth, department head.

English 609, Middle English, will be available to students in the spring semester.

Works discussed will include

the writings of Chaucer, Wyclif, Gower, Barbour, selected mystery plays, short lyrics and many more.

The class will meet each Thursday evening, from 6:30 to 9:30, in Room 575 of the University Education Center.

Aircraft, Rocket Study

A research project here may result in improved aircraft and rocket fuel consumption and power development characteristics, believes principal investigator Dr. Minoru Tsutsui.

The chemistry professor said the project, now in its fourth year, will involve identification and characterization of catalysts and additives in aircraft and rocket fuel.

Mexico Industry Study

Efforts of industrial leaders of Mexico to develop better systems of industrial production, inventory control and planning within their country were recently observed by a TAMU industrial engineer.

Dr. Robert P. Beals, associate professor of industrial engineering, discussed the use of stimulation models in corporate planning before the annual conference on Industrial Engineering Applications in Monterrey, Mexico.

Publications Reader

Frank Peirce of the English faculty will serve as a reader for College English Association publications.

Peirce will help select poetry and articles on pedagogy, creative writing and Shakespeare for "The CEA Critic" and "The CEA Forum."

A 27-year member of the English Department faculty, he teaches creative writing (English 325). Peirce recently studied trends in contemporary fiction

through a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The professor has published articles and short stories in professional journals, magazines and commercial publications. His mystery stories are regular features of "Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine."

He read his story, "The Total Portrait," and talked about its conception and development before the English Society, hosted last week by the Peirces.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION will hear Dr. Clark Knowlton from Utah University speak on the raid of Tierra Amarilla and Reyes Tijerina of New Mexico at 7:30 in Room 231 of the Memorial Student Center.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY will hear James Adams give a presentation on the Oil Center Tool Company from Houston at 7:30 in Room 305 of Fermier Hall.

FREE U-HUMAN SEXUALITY COURSE will hear Roland Searcy speak on Sex and the Law at eight in Room 313 of Nagle Hall.

THURSDAY
CHINESE STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION will have Thanksgiving Chinese Dinner at 7 p. m. at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 500 University Drive. For ticket reservation contact: Liu at 845-3697. Tickets are \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. Limited tickets are available.

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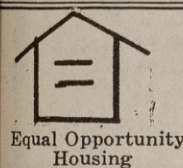
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DEC. 21 —Lv. Austin 10:00 A.M.
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JAN. 13* —Lv. Chicago 3:20 P.M.
—Arr. Austin 6:42 P.M.

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