

Calls effects 'decidedly harmful'

Prof hits education myth

By DIANE NOTTLE
Collegian Ass't. City Editor

Educators must re-evaluate their conception of the relationship between teaching and learning, according to Henry C. Johnson, associate professor of education.

Speaking on "No Learning, No Teaching? The Natural History of a Pedagogical Myth," Johnson said Wednesday teachers are blamed for all the problems within a culture.

"A nation or a culture in trouble blames everything on teachers' failing to teach," he said. "If a student hasn't learned, then someone hasn't taught him."

This myth, Johnson said, is not a falsehood but "a guiding truth that has not been substantiated." He called its effects on teacher education "decidedly harmful."

"The pressure has brought us to the condition of defining learning and teaching without knowing what learning is," he said. "And if we don't know what teaching is, we can't evaluate."

Johnson, who specializes in the history and philosophy of education, said present attitudes toward education developed over several historical periods.

For centuries, he said, teachers were thought to function only because of the existence of another object — usually a body of knowledge. Because the teacher had this knowledge, others were presumed to want to learn.

"Those who wanted to know came to the teacher," Johnson said. "He did not go to the unwilling. The eager and ready came to him."

During the 18th and 19th centuries, he said, this concept of the teacher was changed through a new idea of the state. Since government incorporated a larger segment of the population into state decision-making, the information required by citizens increased.

"Given this new relationship, the school became a matter of national and class policy," he said. "Teachers had to promise they would produce participants to continue the enterprise. They had to promise their students would participate and succeed."

Johnson said a turning point in education occurred in 1859, when Charles Darwin published "The Origin of Species." Darwin's theories of random selection and the cause-effect relationship between the environment

and an individual were applied to education.

Finally, educators adopted the idea that teaching and learning are related causally. But Johnson said this concept of education has proven ineffective during the past few years.

"The promise that children will learn has never been realized," he said. "The student is thought of as an object. He is taught that no matter what happens, the environment causes it. So he comes into the classroom and says, 'Okay, teach me.'"

Johnson recommended that educators abandon the cause-and-effect model because it was applied to individual behavior although meant for entire populations.

The lecture series will close today with Stanley O. Ikenberry, professor of education, speaking on "The Confidence Crisis" 12:30 p.m. today in Kern Auditorium.

Yesterday's planned lecture on "Private People and Public Pushers: Students and Teachers" by David Gottlieb, professor of human development, was cancelled because of illness in Gottlieb's family.



AP NewScope

Scientists report on Skylab 1

CAPE KENNEDY, FLA. — As the Skylab 2 astronauts prepared for 59 days in space, scientists said yesterday the Skylab 1 crew's 28-day mission showed the human body apparently adapts to weightlessness by shedding unneeded muscle tissue, calcium and red blood cells.

At a news conference, medical scientists said the decrease in muscle tissue and calcium shown by the three Skylab 1 astronauts was similar to losses exhibited by people confined to bed for long periods.

The Skylab 2 crewmen — Alan L. Bean, Dr. Owen K. Garriott and Jack R. Lousma — flew to Cape Kennedy from Houston, Tex., yesterday to begin final preparations for tomorrow's 7:11 a.m. EDT blastoff to the orbiting scientific laboratory that will be their home for two months.

The medical researchers said data from the Skylab 1 mission, which ended last month, showed that a 59-day stay should cause no serious medical problems. But the data raised some questions about the debilitating effects of the months-long flights necessary to reach Mars and the other planets.

House delays abortion bill

HARRISBURG — The House voted 101-89 yesterday to send back to committee legislation that would have prohibited use of state money for abortions.

The vote followed floor objections from Rep. Martin Mullen, D-Philadelphia, the chief abortion foe in the legislature. The resolution to recommit the bill was introduced by Rep. Charles Mebus, R-Montgomery.

In view of the legislature's upcoming summer recess, the vote at the very least delays any action on the bill until fall.

The Welfare Department finances abortions under the medical assistance program.

The anti-abortion bill would allow one exception — when the life of the mother is in danger.

Shapp signs mortgage law

HARRISBURG — With "great reluctance," Gov Shapp signed into law yesterday legislation reinstating an eight per cent ceiling on home mortgages through 1975.

"It is bad legislation," Shapp said at a news conference. But, he said, the interest situation reached "crisis proportions" when the rate dropped from eight per cent to six Tuesday because of legislative inaction.

Shapp said he favored lifting the ceiling entirely or, at the very least, increasing it to eight and one half per cent, because of the tight money market of recent months.

Shapp said he will appoint a seven-member commission next week to develop a "long-range" solution to mortgage interest rates to report back in three months. He said he hopes the committee will look into a system where the ceiling would vary according to certain nationwide interest indicators.

Committee okays deposit bill

HARRISBURG — The House Consumer Protection Committee yesterday approved legislation requiring landlords to pay interest on all security deposits, regardless of the length of the lease.

The provision was an amendment to a bill requiring interest to be paid on some security deposits but exempting those made on leases of less than two years.

Rep. Eugene Gelfand, D-Philadelphia, proposed the amendment. The committee also made these changes in reporting out the security deposit bill:

If the lease is for a year or less, the deposit cannot exceed the equivalent of two months rent. Only the equivalent of a month's rent could be held if the lease is for more than a year.

The landlord would pay six per cent interest in the security deposit.

The landlord would have the option of posting bond in lieu of placing the security deposit in interest-bearing account.

House approves foreign aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting an effort to cut off all U.S. military assistance for Cambodia, the House approved a \$2.8-billion foreign aid bill last night focusing \$650 million on the needs of poor countries.

The House approved the bill by only five votes, 188 to 183 its narrowest approval of foreign aid ever.

Overhaul of the U.S. aid program to focus \$718 million on such needs as food production, nutrition and birth control was approved early in the day but the House chopped it down to \$650 million just before final passage.

A second major reform — creation of a \$1 billion-a-year credit fund to boost U.S. exports to poor countries — was rejected.

An amendment by Rep. Bella A. Abzug, D-N.Y., to cut off an estimated \$150-million military aid in the bill for Cambodia was rejected 105 to 26.

Collegian notes

Students participating in the High School Music Clinic will present a concert 8 p.m. Friday in Schwab.

Mechanical Engineering 470, "Introduction to Air Pollution Control", will be offered first period Monday, Wednesday and Friday Fall Term instead of fourth period as scheduled. The course will be limited to 35 students, will be held in 145 Fenske. It is intended primarily for graduate students.

Penn State Amateur Radio Club Station K3CR is open and operating all summer. For more information call 865-7231 or 865-9031.

Faculty members are reminded that reserve reading lists should be submitted before July 30. Forms are available at the Undergraduate Library, W106 West Pattee.

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