Students Register
In Free University

By DONNA COPEN
10-10-66
Candem Staft Writer

About 325 people crowded into the Ohio Union Conference Theatre Thursday night at the Free University's registration meeting.

People lined the walls and sat in the aisles as 10 men explained their courses.

About half of the group was "campus liberals" and the other half "normals." Except for two faculty members and about 20 non-campus people, the rest of the audience was students.

The Free University, sponsored by the Free Student Federation until the F.U. can become independent, is a series of courses taught by 10 men. Teachers receive no salary. Students pay no fees nor get any credit.

Teachers are John R. Champlin, Department of Political Science; John Manning, English; Arnold E. Ross, math; Michael Murtha, graduate student in art; Patrick T. Cleaver, sociology; Douglas Gill, Mershon Social Science Program; Karl Jaeger, graduate student; Thandika Mkandawire, graduate student in economics; Donald R. Glancy, speech, and John H. Behling, social work.

Each of the 10 explained what he expects of his students. After explanations students registered for classes.

Four more instructors volunteered Wednesday and Thursday, bringing the total from six to ten.
The Free University should more than double in size next quarter, according to Mike Andes, Free University spokesman.

"We have been pleased with the response so far," Andes said. "It has been as good if not better than expected. Based on our present turnout and our planned increase in publicity, we are expecting to have about 400 students and 20 instructors next quarter."

The Free University was started at the beginning of this quarter. About 300 students attended the registration meeting and three-fourths of them signed up for classes. The Free University is "free" because teachers receive no salary and students do not pay fees or receive grades.

According to Roger Wilkens, one of the originators of the program, about 150 students are now actively participating in the Free University. No registration list was ever compiled, so an exact attendance count was not available.

Only one of the ten original classes is no longer meeting. Chandika Mkandawire, a graduate student in economics, was teaching a course on Black Power. After several class sessions the students felt that they had discussed all the pertinent points and agreed to cancel the class, Andes said.

"I think it's all been very exciting," said John Behling, associate professor in the School of Social Work who has been teaching a course on "Human Well-Being and the Cold Society."

"I have no regrets. If there were no Free University, I think I'd go on doing it anyway," he said.

Behling passes out articles each week and expects his students to read these and then discuss them with roommates and friends. The class then meets once a week in one of the students' apartments for two or three hours for group discussion.

"My main problem was breaking down the traditional student-teacher relationship," he said. "We had to develop new interpersonal relationships and work together on a common level."

Behling said he has learned things from his Free University course which he has been able to use in his graduate student seminars. He plans to start the course over next quarter and then continue it through Spring Quarter.

Michael Woldman, one of Behling's students, said he spends about three times as much time on this Free University course as he does on his regular University courses.

"I spend about eight hours a week reading and about 20 hours each week discussing what I have learned with friends," he said.

"The Free University should be supported financially and morally by the University," Woldman said.

He said he thinks instructors should be paid for their time and for the materials necessary for teaching the course.

John Champlin, political science instructor, has been teaching a course on the "New Left" in the Free University. The class meets in his home one night a week for about three or four hours.

"It is such a delight to have a group of students who can speak freely," Champlin said. "With 80 students in my Political Science 307 class, it is impossible to have an intellectual discussion."

Champlin said the Free University has been partially unsuccessful in that "sometimes too much freedom is a bad thing."

"I have no tests or grades to threaten my students with," he said. "When other academic pressures on the student become heavy, the Free University suffers."

Champlin has promised to work with Strollers next quarter and won't be teaching in the Free University. However, he said he would be back spring quarter with a new topic.

The Free University has been criticized for being "leftist" and for not presenting a balanced program of courses, according to Andes.

"We are trying to find a teacher for a course on conservative political philosophy for next quarter," he said.

Andes and the other originators of the program are planning to distribute questionnaires to the students and faculty for comments on the Free University and suggestions for winter quarter.

Plans already made for next quarter include a large publicity campaign, the invitation of administration officials to the registration meetings, the participation of people from outside the regular University in the Free University and more than one registration meeting.

Free Universities have been started at Ohio University, Berkeley, New York, the University of Chicago, and several other schools.

No information is available on their success.
Over 200 Register
For Free University

By ROCHELLE M. SCHEPS
Lantern Staff Writer

Courses on poetry writing and city planning were organized by students who registered for the Free University last night.

More than 200 students met with instructors in the Law Auditorium and signed up for these and the eight other courses already arranged.

Michael Herrick, a graduate assistant in English, will teach "The Writing of Poetry" covering the couplet, stanza, sonnet and free and blank verse.

"Man and His Urban Environment" will be taught by Ralph Liss, a fifth-year student in landscape architecture, other students, and guest speakers.

"We will discuss the physical planning of site and structures, urban renewal, factors in planning decisions and the future of cities," Liss said.

Michael Andes, chairman of the Free University, said he had hoped that six or seven courses would be organized by students.

"There wasn't enough time for students to plan ahead and get their friends interested in organizing courses," Andes said.

"I am pleased with the quality of teachers this quarter," Andes said. "They are the most concerned, alive and interesting teachers on campus."

He said he is encouraged by the number of students who have volunteered to help organize the Free University next quarter.
By DONNA COPEN

The Free University, born at Ohio State last quarter, will start its second quarter of operation this week with registration for Winter Quarter classes scheduled at 7 o’clock tonight in the Law School Auditorium.

Eight courses, taught by 10 instructors, have already been set up for this quarter but more courses may possibly be organized by the students themselves.

The first half of tonight’s registration will be for students who want to sign up for courses already organized. The second half of the program will give students a chance to organize their own courses.

Students receive no credit nor pay any fees for attending Free University classes. Instructors receive no pay for teaching.

Four of the 10 teachers this quarter also taught last quarter. Six of this quarter’s teachers are new, replacing six from last quarter.

The following are teachers for Winter Quarter and the topics of their courses:

- John H. Behling, school of social work, who will talk about “Social Structure and the Cold Society.”
- Karl Jaeger, graduate student, and his students who will make a film.
- Anderson Fanta, graduate student, who will use the works of theorists to discuss power problems, such as Black Power, World War III, media and American education.
- Reginald Dockens, who will speak on the psychology of black power.
- James Anderson, graduate student in journalism; James Lang, senior in English, and Charles Nelson, non-student, who will teach a collective course about creative photography. Although projects planned are for people with basic photography knowledge, Anderson said novices are welcome.
- Michael Turvey, instructor in psychology, who will teach “Psychology: Fact and Fiction.” His class will discuss problems such as sleep, dreams, memory and hypnosis.
- Douglas Gill, Mershon Social Science Program, and Thandika Mkandawire, graduate student in economics, who will hold a seminar on the labor theory of value. Students should have an extensive knowledge of the subject, they said.

- James Buckley, graduate student in political science, who will discuss moral decisions and their consequences, religious commitments and conscientious objectors.

Student Initiative

The Free University Planning Committee wants students to take the initiative and organize their own courses. This quarter, Chairman Michael Andes said:

The idea of a Free University is for students to play an active role in running it,” Andes said. “Last quarter, students played a small role in the Free U. I think it’s fair to ask students who are interested in this type of education to do their own organization.”

Andes gave an example of how this revised idea of a Free U. would work.

Registration would be like a market place,” Andes said.

A couple of students interested in Black Power would come to the registration meeting to “sell” their idea, he said. In turn, there would be students to “buy.”

A group of students with a particular interest would seek a person who would be willing to teach. Andes pointed out that students could also decide to hold discussions, obtain films or read specified books.

“The problem with this idea is that there is no leader like a teacher to get it all organized, but I’m confident that students can assume the leadership role and organize themselves,” Andes said.

He also recognized the possible failure of making the Free U. more student-oriented. Some students, he admitted, would be “too lazy” to organize their own courses and would prefer that instructors or the Free U. planning committee do it.

“I’m not certain the idea will succeed, but I’m hopeful there will be enough interest to get at least six or seven courses started,” he said.

Andes said another change this quarter will be the Free University’s complete disassociation with the Free Student Federation.

The Free University was first proposed at the FSF meeting. FSF never took any formal action on the proposal but several FSF members spent a summer organizing teachers for courses.

Last quarter FSF reserved facilities for the Free University but this quarter instructors will make the reservations, Andes said. Funds for the Free University, used for advertising and mimeographed information, come from contributions, he said.

Andes feels the Free University was successful last quarter. A total of 325 students attempted to enroll in October but many were turned away because classes were limited to 15 or 20 students, he said.

“When students are given the chance, they make use of it to speak their ideas,” Andes said. “There was more personal involvement between students and instructors than in usual courses. Teachers felt they taught more effectively and knew their students better. The whole idea is intimacy, rather than neutrality.”

Some of last quarter’s instructors in the Free University discussed the learning experiment.

John R. Champlin, instructor in political science, said he isn’t teaching this quarter because he has a part in a Strollers’ play.

Speaking about the course he taught last quarter, Champlin said: “It was nice to have students do a class prepared to give truths to faces who want to copy something in their notebooks and not to give tests and grades,” Champlin said.

He said several members dropped the class and thought it was because they realized they would have to work just as in any course.

Michael Murtha, graduate student in design, is writing a thesis this quarter and won’t be teaching.

He called the Free U. a “success” but predicted a drop in the number of students taking courses this quarter. He said those who were interested initially would return, but there would be fewer new students.

Donald B. Glancy, instructor in speech, said his production of “Oedipus Rex” this quarter would demand too much time.

“This is a sad point with me since I promised several students who couldn’t get into my class last quarter that they would be the first in the spring,” Glancy said.

Patrick T. Cleaver, department of sociology, said he had new courses to prepare and would be too busy to teach this quarter, but he plans to return in spring.
This teaching method was new to me, but it was very instructive and should help me the next time," Cleaver said.

John Manning, a graduate student in English, won't be teaching this quarter, but said he is "still enthusiastic about the Free University."
Policy Hinders Free University

Free University professors are finding it impossible to rent rooms in the Ohio Union this quarter, because the organization does not have official recognition.

The Assistant Dean of Men, Richard A. Weaver, explained, "Any student group not recognized by the University cannot rent meeting rooms in the Union.

The one class held in the Union last quarter was sponsored by the Free Student Federation. However, this quarter I received a letter from Mike Andes, a member of FSF's coordinating committee, disclaiming any connection with the Free University," Weaver said.

FSF is a recognized organization.

He did say however that because of a University policy allowing faculty members with tenure to use rooms in academic buildings, Free University professors will not have a problem finding space for their classes.

"If the Free University is willing to form a steering committee it may apply for University recognition. If recognition is granted, it may then request the use of Union meeting rooms," he said.

Free University Will Try To Keep Student Interest

By CHANDLEY MURPHY

The Lantern Staff Writer

The problem of student drop-out has plagued the Free University since its founding two quarters ago. Free University people met yesterday to discuss changing the program to keep student interest high throughout the quarter.

Former Free University instructor John Manning, teaching assistant in the English department, said many students drop Free University courses because of pressure from their regular courses at Ohio State.

"We should try to work the schedule of the Free University around that of the un-Free University," he said.

"We don't have to have a quarter system, Manning added. There is no reason why a course can't last as long as three weeks. That would allow a little leeway for the students."

He said although many students drop the Free University courses, "it's encouraging to see students come for no other reason than because they want to come," Manning said.

One instructor said that his enrollment had dropped from 30 to 16 by the end of the quarter, but several teachers said it was worth their time to teach the students who remained.

John Behling, an associate professor in social work, said his Free University courses the last two quarters have been valuable.

Free University spokesman Michael Andes, a senior in English, said some of the organizers of the Free University have decided not to try to get University recognition for the group.

"Recognition implies we are subject to rules and regulations of the University," he said. "We feel we are superior to the University in many ways."

He jokingly added, "Maybe Ohio State University could join us."

Another former Free University instructor offered suggestions for the new quarter. Donald R. Glancy, an assistant professor in the speech department, warned the instructors not to be disheartened if the enrollment falls off.

"It's very possible to oversell a course and not indicate that there are bound to be some moments less than electric," he said.

Andes said a Free University registration meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in room 200 of Campbell Hall. The public is invited. People are welcome to bring suggestions for new courses, he said.

Free University Operates Without OSU Recognition

3-31-47

The Free University, established Autumn Quarter, has no administrative affiliation with Ohio State, according to its spokesman Michael Andes.

Students pay no fees, nor do they receive credit for attending Free University classes. Instructors receive no pay for their services.

The Free University is not recognized by Ohio State, according to Andes.

The Free University has not sought recognition because it would be required to have officers with certain point-hour ratios, an established budget and would have to admit a certain percentage of non-university students.

"The Free University differs from Ohio State by seeking new approaches to learning," said Andes. "It is challenging Ohio State's bigness, impersonality and expensive-ness. In fact, it is an improvement of Ohio State."

"The Free University is against Ohio State's policy of 'assembly line' education," said Rodger Wilkens, one of the originators of the Free University.

Some of the courses taught Winter Quarter were: Psychology of Black Power, Social Structure in the Cold Society and Creative Photography. Other courses explore moral, economic and religious topics.

"Through my teaching experience with the Free University, I have discovered that students are human beings," said John Behling, associate professor of sociology who taught Human Well-Being in the Cold Society. "Students have again become a meaningful part of my own learning; they are stimulating my own intellectual growth."

William Schmidt, an Ohio State student in the Free University, said that it has pointed out the difference between learning for learning's sake and learning for grades.
Free University Opens; BSU Offers Courses

The Free University, at a registration meeting Monday, gave its full support to the Black Student Union and demanded the immediate reinstatement of Prof. David Green, according to spokesman George Pfaff, Arts 3.

Approximately 250 persons were present at the auditorium to register as the Free University began its ninth quarter.

One of the purposes of the Free University is, “to emphasize the free exchange of ideas,” Pfaff said. Students pay no fees to attend classes.

Among the courses offered Winter Quarter:
- Contours of American History - David Green
- Black and White Photography - Paul McDermott
- Potluck - Frank Longo
- The Diagnosis and Treatment of the Outsider - Jerome Miller
- Motion Pictures - James Gillie

"Island," by Aldous Huxley - Stanley Bobrof
- The Liberated Woman - Women’s Liberation
- The Community of Scholars - John Helm
- The Theory of Anarchy - William Forsch
- Yoga Society - Howard Wheeler
- Grape Boycott - Martin Knorre
- Getting There - Darryl

The Black Student Union is also offering five courses:
- Black Revolutionary Thought
- Black Arts
- Black History
- Celebration of the Assassination of Malcolm X, Feb. 21, at the Administration Building, (a one day class)
- Philosophical Concepts of Revolution

All interested students may consult the bulletin board in Stillman Hall for class meeting times or contact the Free University house at 1 E. 13th Ave.

Fall Classes Offered At Free University

By MARK WEAVER
10 – 10:45
Linden Staff Writer

The Free University lives again on N. College Avenue after its demise Winter Quarter.

A group of undergraduates in the School of Social Work has revived the non-institutional institution with the intention of "providing a more practical method of educating people to help people."

According to Mrs. John Helm, coordinator of the Free University, "Undergraduates have expressed a feeling of inadequate and incomplete preparation in their regular social work classes."

"We intend this to be a discussion among equals of current and relevant topics omitted or overlooked in the regular curriculum," she said. "This is our way of demonstrating the inadequate program of the School of Social Work and our attempt to present alternatives."

Richard R. Medhurst, director of the School of Social Work, claimed the Free University had nothing to do with Ohio State.

"It's alright," he said, "but so are the Sailing Club and Ski Club all right."

Medhurst said that "in some way, everything they mention is already covered somewhere in the Social Work Curriculum. This is a legitimate point of view, but purely in the area of extra experience that students get into."

Miss Katherine Groeber, Social Work-4, said that students just can't find courses on drug abuse, practical financing, or mental care condensed for practical use in university courses.

Mrs. Helm, Social Work-4, said classes will be small and informal with no grades, fees, or tests. Research or reports will be done on a voluntary basis and classes will probably be in private homes off campus.

A registration meeting will be held in Stillman Hall, Room 100, at 7:30 Tuesday. Additional courses and instructors will be accepted, she added.

At this point, eight courses are planned. They are: Psychology of Black Consciousness; Appalachian People, Here and There; Human Behavior; How We Got Where We're At; Social Work: Its Aura of Thought; Minute Media; The Politics of Insanity: An Institutional Approach to Mental Illness; and Medical Aid.

Persons presently scheduled to teach these courses include Dr. Thomas Weaver of the Psychology Department, John Evans, Phyllis Smith, Social Work-4, a former Vista worker, George Pfaff, Arts-4, organiser of the previous Free University, John Helm, activity therapist at Columbus State Hospital, Harry Marks, Ohio State graduate in mathematics, and Margaret Miller, graduate.

Mrs. Helm noted that the courses were open to persons not enrolled in the School of Social Work.

"We need people from all departments. They provide a large pool of knowledge to draw from during our discussions."

"We also hope that students in other colleges who feel a need for a better curriculum will be able to start Free Universities in their own area of study," Mrs. Helm said.
Free University Rejects Affiliation

3-5-70

Any affiliation of the Free University with Ohio State was rejected by about 50 people attending a recent organizational meeting of the Central Committee of the Free University for Spring Quarter.

"Acceptance of OSU recognition as an 'extra-curricular activity' is not only demeaning to the ideal of a Free University, but even antithetical to the concept of one," Ron Grischow, graduate member of the Central Committee, said.

"The Free University must be free to grow as an 'entity independent of the educational establishment. The Free University must also be free to formulate radical changes in that establishment,'" he added.

Plans for the Free University presently include about 20 courses, such as sensitivity, the current revolution in the life sciences, "The Socio-Economics of Mass Media," "Civil Disobediency," and "Jewelry and Related Crafts."

"A primary goal of the Free University is to foster a dialogue among the participants in a group," Tom Joseph, graduate and member of the Central Committee, said.

"The group leader is not seen as a giver of truth which the others absorb, but rather as one who guides the group as they explore new ideas together," he said.

The major problem with the Free University in past quarters was in organization, he said, but now there is a strong organization.

Free University Draws Hundreds

4-6-70

An unprecedented and unexpected turnout of more than 560 persons at the registration meeting of the Free University last Thursday presents new problems to the organization, according to Maurice O'Sullivan, a member of the executive committee.

"The 26 courses now being offered are not enough to accommodate those enrolled and unfortunately some of the students had to be closed out of desired courses," said O'Sullivan.

More Teachers Needed

We need more qualified teachers to alleviate the problem of closed courses, which is a contradiction of the theme of the Free University, O'Sullivan said.

"In the future," said O'Sullivan, "the executive committee plans to accommodate extra students by recruiting a greater number of teachers and back-up teachers to make the Free University available to everyone who is interested."

"The Free University rejects affiliation with Ohio State because such affiliation would limit the Free University by putting it under the values and the potential control by the administration, according to O'Sullivan.

Courses Offered

Some of the courses being offered this quarter are: "The Mid-East," which will feature speakers from Israel and European countries; "Survival in the Wilderness," which will be taught by a former G.I.; "Creative Photography," "Sociology of War," "Sensitivity Groups," and "Counter-Cultures," which is a study of various movements in the U.S. movements in the U.S.

O'Sullivan said courses dealing with the crafts, such as 'Pottery' and 'Jewelry,' drew the most students.

Anyone interested in teaching or participating in the Free University should write to 69 W. Norwich.
Free University fills ‘learning gap’

By MARY PEPPERNEY
Latern Staff Writer

"I don't think you'd meet one person on the campus that wouldn't say 'Something has to be done about my education,'" Tom Joseph, graduate student in psychology and one of the directors of the Free University, said at registration Thursday.

Joseph is worried about education, particularly Ohio State education. "He's not satisfied and doesn't think the students are either."

Joseph is convinced the Free University fills the gap "because it offers courses to 'anyone who wants to learn' from 'teachers who want to teach.'"

"People come here because they want to learn. Many people go to Ohio State because society gives them a reward for an artificial goal," Joseph said.

Maurice O'Sullivan, assistant professor in English and also one of the directors, said: "We're working for a better Ohio State. Courses and techniques that are successful can be adopted by the University. Right now, we are considering airing a series of courses that will be taught by teachers for teachers centering around discussions of effective methods of teaching."

Free University registration for Fall Quarter was considered "an intellectual and emotional celebration of life in contrast to the sullen atmosphere at Ohio State." Joseph said, as more than 500 people enrolled in 25 courses.

One of the more popular courses is "Females and Hierarchy," taught by William Kinney, graduate student from Baltimore.

Maintaining that he doesn't have a doctrine to teach, Kinney explains the purpose of his class is "the study of hierarchical relationships between men and women."

"Women's Liberation is raising a lot of questions and the answers aren’t in," Kinney said. "I'm dissatisfied with the relationships between men and women."

"In order to win in a sexual relationship, the man must win over the woman against her will. The woman must be dominated. I question this and interested in this. How much of this is due to conditioning and how much is innate?"

For the first time, "Ghetto Educa-

Free University ends possible next quarter

An organizer of the Free University has indicated that it may not continue next quarter.

At a meeting in the United Christian Center, 66 E. 15th Ave., O'Sullivan said that although interest in classes is high, no one is willing to help organize them.

O'Sullivan is the only member of a nine-man committee that organized the Free University last spring who is still interested in it.

He said that there are many jobs, such as contacting teachers, publicity, and evaluating courses which must be done to have a successful Free University.

The meeting was held to form an organizing committee, but no one who attended became involved.

O'Sullivan said teachers should become involved in the organization and evaluation of the courses. The only qualifications a teacher must have are enthusiasm and a background in his subject.

About 600 people enroll in the Free University each quarter and approximately 25 courses are taught, O'Sullivan said.

If classes are held, an enrollment fee may be charged next quarter. Amounts from 25 cents to $1 were discussed.
Genuine learning is goal of Free University profs

4-15-71
By WILLIAM A. PAYER

What do the theology of Paul Tillich, camping, Vietnamese culture, the Hare Krishna sect, and sailing have in common? They are among courses offered this quarter by the Free University.

"We offer an alternative education in two ways," Maurice O'Sullivan, assistant professor of English and an organizer of the current Free University program, said.

"Our subject matter is often different from that on campus, and the degree of personal involvement is much higher," O'Sullivan said.

Courses are as informal or as highly structured as the teacher and students desire, he said. Class size has ranged from five students to about 60.

The only time the Free University functions as a whole is during each quarter's registration, O'Sullivan said. Classes are held in campus area churches and in private homes.

Undermines distinctions

Kenneth Zak, currently teaching a course on Marxism, said, "The Free University tends to undermine the very artificial distinctions between students and faculty. It proves to students that they are perfectly capable of learning and disseminating knowledge."

"The highly structured formal education at Ohio State can actually get in the way of the learning process," Zak said. "People are so busy trying to get through required courses, little time is left for learning."

David Guelette is working on his doctorate in education and has taken several Free University courses.

Involvement needed

"More genuine learning occurs in Free University courses than on campus," Guelette said.

"Ohio State is intellectually bankrupt. It is a factory for the assembly line molding of vocational skills, not a center of learning."

The level of student involvement draws many to the Free University, Timothy Holder, a senior from Munson said.

"There was a genuine sense of community and intense interest in the courses I have taken, an atmosphere found very rarely at Ohio State," he said.

O'Sullivan said the Free University, by its nature, must be constantly changing.

"Our ideas aren't as fresh anymore. Our experimentation has become rigid. There is a need for new people to become involved," he said.

Hillel to sponsor free university

10-1-71

Classes in a 13-course free university will begin Oct. 19 at the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

Registration will continue until Oct. 8.

All courses except the three Hebrew courses and Israeli dance will meet in once-a-week, 90-minute sessions for six weeks. The Hebrew courses and an Israeli dance group will continue until the end of the quarter.

On Oct. 7, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., instructors will be at Hillel to meet with students.

"It gives a person an opportunity to find out exactly what his course is about and what materials are necessary prior to the course," Aaron Leventhal, associate director of Hillel, said.

Leventhal said the objectives of the free university are:
• to deepen one's knowledge and understanding of Jewish history and culture;
• for a better understanding of one's self and contemporary issues;

• an involvement in the creative arts through photography, folk dance and a theater workshop.

Size limitations have been placed on each class. Class registration is free for those holding a Hillel activity card and $3 for all others. The $3 fee is for administrative costs, according to Leventhal.

Among the courses offerings are "Human Sexuality and Other Concerns", "Basic Judaism" and "Sensitivity -- an Approach to Drama".

Some of the volunteer faculty members of the free university are Yehiel Hayon, assistant professor of Hebrew at Ohio State; Alex Katz, director of the Open Door Clinic; and Dr. Malcolm Robbins, clinical associate professor of pediatrics at University Hospital.
Free University: Not a new idea

By Barbara Tapoeci

The free university concept is not as new as one might think. The Division of Continuing Education has been offering non-credit college level courses for several years now.

The program began in 1964 with funds given by the Alumnae Association for continuing education courses for women. The next year the program was expanded with enrollment in the courses open to the public.

This quarter 250 to 300 Columbus area adults are involved in 12 courses ranging from Beginning Piano to Photography to Introduction to Yoga Principles.

"We try to keep away from hobby courses which people can get elsewhere," said Alan Hackel, assistant director of the Division of Continuing Education. "Our program is unique because we offer courses at a level and of a kind not offered anywhere else in the community."

The courses are designed to meet occupational, professional and personal needs of adults in the Columbus area. The types of courses offered are based on needs or wants expressed for them in the community.

The community has been very receptive to the non-credit courses.

"Our courses are successful because people are there because they want to be," he said. "People take these courses because of a personal interest in the subject and because it might help them in their line of work."

Although no credit is given for these courses, certificates of attendance are given if the student wants one. These can be used to get reimbursement from an employer for the course fee.

Hackel views the Division of Continuing Education as a catalyst in community service.

"The division is a place where people with community problems can call and get help. The programs we offer bring together people with different kinds of information to offer. They have a place where they can get together and work on these community problems."

The non-credit course program is still expanding.

"Hopefully in the future we can offer more types of courses as the need for and interest in such courses are shown," said Hackel. "We also hope to offer students certificates of completion for courses they have taken, but we must first establish values for these certificates with various organizations."

Classes are taught Winter, Spring, Autumn and sometimes Summer Quarters. The classes are informal in that there is no exams or grading. The size and format of the classes vary with the instructor and the subject taught.
The only prerequisite for being a Free University teacher is a strong interest in the planned course content, he added.

"The Free University used to be pretty stringent about who could teach," Joseph said. "They always wanted qualified teachers, but then we found a qualified teacher meant somebody with a strong interest in a course, not a formal degree."

**Course offerings**

Courses already planned for the quarter include Group Meditation: An Introduction to Meditation, Breath Control, and Yoga; Bureaucratic Survival; Typing; Natural Childbirth; Arabic Language; Philosophy of Karl Marx; Sensitivity Group; Women’s Group Awareness; Experiences in Group Art; and Guerilla Theatre.

The Free University was formed by the Free Speech Federation (FSF) in 1966 as an alternative to structured, formal education at Ohio State, Joseph said.

"In 1962 the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) people all over the country started asking for learning situations that would change society," Joseph said. "Then came Mississippi summer and the Vietnam teach-ins, and by 1965 Berkeley and New York University set up free universities. A year later the FSF did the same at Ohio State."

**Learn what you want**

The Free University of Columbus serves two functions, according to Joseph. It gives students a chance to learn what they want to learn in their own way, and it hopefully changes society’s ideas about education by providing an example of “free learning.”

Joseph feels Ohio State and similar “mega-universities” discourage learning.

“Classrooms at Ohio State are structured so as to limit a person searching for truth, knowledge, and growth as a human being,” Joseph said. "They put a wall between the teacher and the student and then base learning on an artificial goal: grades and the diploma," he added.

"True learning, must be a two-way street with both teachers and students teaching and learning, Joseph said.

"Ohio State tries to make learning a one-way street, from the teacher to the student," Joseph said. "Learning doesn’t work that way. In the Free University, teachers learn just as much as students, and students teach just as much as the teachers.”

“It's a hard concept to get across, but we're an experience, not an institution,” Joseph said. "I don't call myself the president of the Free University or the director. We don't really have teachers, we just have people who get it together with other people. We're just a... well... we're just free flowing," he explained.
Free U. to be open summer

By Audrey Shires

Ruth: "The history of scrimshaw is truly fascinating."

Uninformed bystander: "Yes, I've always been interested in ancient forms of self-defense."

If you really want to find out what scrimshaw (one of about 18 spellings) is, try out the Free University this summer. Registration for the Free University will take place Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Foundation auditorium.

The philosophy of the Free University is that education and life are one. According to Thomas Joseph, a former Ohio State student and one of the co-ordinators of the Free University, learning is a process not unrelated to living. "People are naturally curious and they don't have to be coerced into learning. If stimulated, they will stretch for learning," he said.

Courses offered
Other courses more familiar than the History of Scrimsaw will also be offered.

The "Sociology of Science fiction" will be taught by Richard Sandler of Columbus. Sandler says science fiction is a test bed for new ideas. His course goals are to "increase awareness of where the world may be headed sociologically." He plans to use newspapers and "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" as course aids.

Robert Collins, a graduate student from Columbus, will teach a course called "Creative Writing: Poetry." Collins says his course will give creative people the opportunity to have their work read by peers.

Batik course offered
Get out your old sheets; batik is coming. Batik is an art form of progressive dyeing using wax resistance. Gail Splaver, a graduate of Ohio State from Columbus, says it will be a "how-to" course. She says she expects to learn from her students' styles.

Bryan Rowe, a former student from Columbus, wants to have fun with his photography course. He plans to teach the basics, darkroom procedures, and a little color photography. Technical aspects will be taught for those interested.

Joseph will teach the course, entitled "Humanistic Psychology," which involves sensitivity, intellectual understanding of things and honest expression. Joseph said, "You learn by doing, also by thinking."

Other courses to be offered are Conversational Russian, four aspects of "What Do all these Women Want?" and the Psychological Theory of Motivation. Other possible courses include Arabic and sensitivity groups.

First summer session
Although the Free University has been available to the Columbus community since 1966, this is the first summer session.

Anyone interested in taking or teaching a course should attend the registration, where more information will be available.

A group effort, the Community Dinner, will be organized again this quarter. The dinner was first attempted Spring Quarter. The menu will be mainly vegetarian. Lawrence Reyka, a freshman from Columbus and community dinner organizer, says he would like to have two sections on Wednesdays. He says he needs volunteers because the Spring Quarter people have scattered for the summer.

Reyka also wishes to organize a course in community service called the Universal Life Church. Its goals are to be active in the community.
Free university registration begins

The Free University will begin registration from 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday at the United Christian Center, 66 E. 15th Ave.

Students have over 30 classes to choose from this quarter, including water skiing, sailing, survival in the wilderness, food growing, filmmaking, penology, and the irrational in politics.

The Free University has no tuition fee nor does it give credit towards graduation at Ohio State. It is a university run by area residents. Enrollment is not limited to Ohio State students.

Seven years ago, in the fall of 1966 the Free University got its start with 300 people and 10 courses. Last spring, they broke all previous records. Over 1,000 students registered and 53 courses were taught. This is the second time the Free University has offered a program during the summer.

"There seems to be a desire by a lot of people to teach in an atmosphere of complete freedom without the red tape you get in a university setting," says Tom Joseph, one of the coordinators.

"It's surprising to me that a lot of professionals, as well as people who are not professionals but know a lot about their area, give of their time and are willing to teach for free," says Joseph.

He expressed a concern for students who don't keep up with their work. "Freedom does not mean you don't have a commitment," he said. Although Joseph has seen an increase in the number of students who are willing to keep up, he would like to see a greater increase.