

NU students get new view of public administration

A student's view of public administration changes when he looks out the statehouse windows rather than in through a textbook, according to a University undergraduate trainee.

Textbooks don't include the personality and knowledge of personnel in state offices, Dennis Ahlers, a student intern in the State Budget Dept., said. "People in the Budget Dept. can tell almost immediately whether a budget submitted by an agency will have to be cut because of past experience with the people of that agency," he said.

Ahlers and David Cook, both senior political science majors, are interns in a new Political Science Dept. program. Cook is working in the Economic Opportunity Commission.

Carroll R. McKibbin, acting chairman of the department and the program's originator, said that the students are receiving a \$600 stipend from the state. He added that the students work 20 hours a week and read books on public administration for three hours of University credit.

He explained that the purpose of the program is to combine practical experience with an academic program.

"I realized before I started working that a lot goes on in a

state agency you can't set down in words," Cook said. "That's been affirmed by my experiences so far."

Cook said that he dislikes not having enough work to keep busy, but admitted that it would be difficult to find an agency which could offer more concrete work.

"I'm just not going to be here very long," he noted. "But I am in favor of more projects like this internship where the student has a chance to apply himself to what he wants to do."

Ahlers' situation in the

Budget Dept. differs. "I suppose this is the best time to observe how the budget department works. There are a lot of people running through the office," Ahlers noted.

But he added, "It's not the best time for me to actually get a chance to do work. The personnel just don't have the time to work with an intern."

Ahlers said that he was surprised to learn that Nebraska was advanced in centralizing state budget information. He explained that all agency budgets are under one office.

"Many states don't even know how many agencies they have," he continued. "I always figured that Nebraska was behind in everything, but the budget department really knows what's going on."

So far in the program, Ahlers has read background material about the Budget Dept.'s work, corrected computer errors on payrolls and done research concerning state spending for a quarter year. He also attended a budget meeting with an agency director to observe the procedure of hammering out an agency's planned finances.

His counterpart in the Economic Opportunity Commission has also read material pertinent to the agency's work.

Pulsar discoverer talks Thursday

W. John Cocke, the discoverer of optical pulsar, will speak Thursday, Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. in Brace Hall 211.

In 1967 Cambridge University astronomers announced the discovery of a pulsating radio source from outer space with periods of a fraction of a second-pulsars. A year later Cooke noted a similar pulsating optical source in the Crab Nebulae.

Cocke, from the University of Arizona, is being sponsored by the Physics Dept.

In addition Cook is compiling an affirmative action program booklet which will explain equal opportunity laws to employers.

"Many employers practice discrimination without intending to do so because they don't understand the implications of their practices," he said.

Cook is also working on a list of referral agencies for employers. This list names agencies like community action

programs where an employer who realizes he doesn't have a fair proportion of minority workers can go to seek potential employees.

The commission also handles individual complaints against companies. Cook said that he has attended his first meeting where filings against employers are discussed.

"All I expected when I started the internship was that it would be exciting," said Cook. "And it has been."

Tiemann-Exon debate

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responsible student leadership."

Tiemann said the Spelts Commission report on last spring's disturbances on the campus treated the symptoms of the problem, but "we need to understand the causes."

Exon stressed the need for law and order on the campus and in the rest of the state. "Any violation of law on this campus should be treated like a violation anywhere in the state," added the Democratic candidate.

He reminded the audience that "attendance at the University is a privilege, not a right."

Asked about the University's new class in homophile studies, Tiemann said, "I will not impose on the University and the Regents what they should teach." Exon replied, "The homophile course on the campus is not necessary."

Tiemann refused to take a stand on abortion Wednesday night. But Exon said he was not in favor of any major changes in the Nebraska abortion law.

Lending library needs workers

The Music Lending Library is presently unable to function because of lack of student interest, according to Gretchen Davis. The library checks out records for two weeks to students.

Anyone interested in working in the library should contact Davis (432-3286) or leave their name and telephone number in the Union Program Office, Room 128.

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