

NOVA continues despite problems

by Steve Strasser

Despite a financing problem and a "serious personal disagreement" with new federal guidelines, the director of a UNL student community service program said recently the program will likely continue in the same form next semester.

In fact, program director Gene Harding said he's negotiating with several UNL colleges to try to make the Nebraska Opportunity for Volunteers in Action (NOVA) program more convenient for its students next semester.

The NOVA, a pilot project of ACTION, the federal volunteer service agency, started its second semester Monday when 11 new participants joined 29 other students already on the job in Lincoln and outstate Nebraska.

To simplify registration for next year's volunteers, Harding said he is trying to identify University departments which offer course work outside the classroom.

NOVA students working in courses designed for field work wouldn't be "exceptions wherever they go," Harding explained. Now NOVA students usually have to make special arrangements to earn credit in classroom courses.

NOVA students spend a whole year in the field, earning as many as 30 credit hours doing community service projects such as probation counseling and alcoholic rehabilitation in communities which request their service.

But it won't be that simple next semester, Harding said, thanks to new rules from Washington.

For example, eight is to be the smallest number of students sent to a community from now on, Harding said. And the NOVA volunteers may only work on projects which will demonstrate "measurable impact" on the community.

Evidence of progress in each project must be sent quarterly to ACTION.

The tighter rules are designed to help persuade Congress to refinance the NOVA

program, Harding said. "ACTION has to show the kinds of statistics legislators will respond to," he explained.

But "three or four students coming into a small Nebraska town are very visible," Harding continued. "I don't know how eight would be received."

And he said some projects he is "very impressed" with, such as work being done with the mentally retarded, can't be sized up statistically.

"How do you measure what goes on in the mind of a mentally retarded client?" he asked. "I don't know."

Continued financing of NOVA is pending, Harding said. The measure to refinance the project was included in the controversial Day Care Center Bill vetoed last year by President Richard M. Nixon.

Mick Zangari, UNL's NOVA field supervisor, said he is satisfied with several student projects operating under the old guidelines.

Harding said one measure of the program's success is that only three students have resigned since it started in September. Two resigned to go professional as probation and alcoholism counselors. One decided to return to campus study.

One NOVA student changed his major from political science to biology after his on-the-job experience, Harding said, because biology doesn't have "all that hassle" involved.

But Harding said NOVA volunteers more typically change their courses to social sciences from other disciplines.

NOVA students, most of them juniors, are paid \$190 per month while on the job. They are in day-to-day contact with community supervisors, and meet weekly or bi-weekly with faculty members involved in the program. There are eight part-time faculty members at UNL.

Besides the UNL volunteers, there are over 40 NOVA students from UNO and the NU Medical Center.

short stuff

Earl Wilson will speak on "Is Personal Freedom a Live Option These Days?" at the intersarsity Christian Fellowship meeting at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Nebraska Union.

Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, will be broadcast by KRNU (90.3) at 1 p.m. Saturday.

A 4-H leader orientation meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the Union.

Having Waited For Logos, an original play written and directed by William J.

Szymanski, will be presented Saturday through Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union Centennial Room.

The UNL Film Cooperative will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Union. Any student may bring films to be shown. A tape recorder and 16 mm and super-8mm projectors will be provided.

Supporters of Presidential candidate Sen. George McGovern will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Union. State-wide Students for McGovern co-ordinator Steve Tiwald will speak.

Women student volunteers to handle the Women's Information Line Monday through Saturday nights, 7 to 11 p.m., may sign up in the student YWCA Office, 345 Union.

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