



Bank's charges eliminate free check cashing

by Steve Arvanette

It appears the 25-cent check cashing fee which the Nebraska Union Board has instituted effective July 1 is much higher than the fees charged at other universities in the Midwest. However, the possibility does exist that UNL has a problem not experienced by the five other institutions contacted.

Following the announcement that the Union would begin assessing a fee to cash checks, the *Daily Nebraskan* sought information about the check cashing policies at universities in bordering states.

Of these contacted, only two charged for check cashing.

Check cashing at the University of Missouri and the University of Colorado is done at a university-owned bookstore. Neither university charges for the service. CU limits the size of checks to \$25 and MU to \$50.

Kansas State University has a \$50 maximum on checks cashed at the student union and also charges no fee.

Ten cents is charged at the University of Kansas student union, which has a \$25 limit.

Iowa State University provides two locations for check cashing. Both charge five cents. Both dormitories and the student union limit checks to \$30.

What determined the 25 cent figure at UNL?

"It was the best guess possible," Mary Cannon, Nebraska Union Board president, said. She said there was no sure way to determine if the charge will raise the needed revenue to pay expenses.

Dennis Martin, Union Board vice president, agreed that 25 cents was chosen arbitrarily. It is "almost impossible" to arrive at a figure which will make the check cashing operation break even, he said.

The reason for instituting the fee came as a result of the First National Bank's decision to start charging a fee for cashing such a large volume of checks, Cannon said.

Figures show about \$20,000 in checks being cashed daily by the Union. If that amount is similar next fall, the bank would charge \$3,000 to \$5,000 annually to continue the service.

However, with the decision by the University Housing Office to discontinue cashing checks in dormitories, Cannon said, Union check cashing could double.

Martin was critical of the University's decision to discontinue that service to dormitory residents. He said he thinks it is the "responsibility of the administration as well as of the Union" to provide check cashing services for the University community.

"It's getting harder and harder to cash a check in Lincoln," Martin said.

Besides covering the bank costs for cashing checks, Cannon said the 25-cent fee will help pay the \$10,000 paid annually in wages for union employees who operate the service.

A portion of the revenue collected would be used to collect insufficient fund checks written, she said.

Martin said the board is considering a \$50,000 investment over the next year in the Union check cashing operation.

Besides increasing the cash on hand account used for check cashing purposes from \$7,000 to \$20,000 plus, he said the board has decided to relocate the check cashing booth to the Union's second floor.

Although the board is calling for a "terrible, initial expenditure," Martin said he hopes the 25-cent fee would decrease in future years and possibly be eliminated.

Cannon and Union Director Al Bennett have been requested to attend this week's GSL meeting to explain reasons for instituting the check cashing fee.

Longer life for Ko-op card

A new enticement to join the Associated Student Ko-op (ASK) is being offered UNL students, according to Mark Hoeger, ASUN first vice president and a member of the ASK Board of Directors. Expiration date for Ko-op cards purchased before Aug. 15 has been moved from Aug. 15, 1973 to Aug. 15, 1974. In effect, this means that cards already bought by students will be good for an additional year.

Students also can save money if they buy a Ko-op card before Aug. 15. At that time, the price of the card will increase from \$5 to \$7.50. These changes were made by the board at its meeting last week, Hoeger said.

The board is still looking for a new ASK manager. Former manager John Burg announced his resignation last week. Hoeger said that anyone interested in the position should go to the ASUN office. He added that

Burg would stay on for awhile as assistant manager.

Hoeger said that the goal is to sell 100 to 200 more cards this semester. In addition, there are plans to sell cards to freshmen who come to Lincoln for summer orientation, he said.

Board members will be going to stores in Lincoln in an attempt to get them to join the Ko-op, he said. If 1,000 memberships are sold, it should be easy to convince the stores, Hoeger said. He said 1,000 memberships is the Ko-op's "take-off point", while 500 memberships is the "break-even point".

The 500 mark would cover a loan made to the Ko-op by ASUN, Hoeger said.

Volunteers also will be going to living units in an attempt to sell more cards, he said. So far, only about 140 have been sold.

Discrimination charges surface against all-male Phi Delta Kappa

Sex discrimination charges have been filed against Phi Delta Kappa, an all-male education honorary, by the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL).

WEAL filed the complaint with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) against 25 colleges and universities, including UNL.

There are three women education honoraries on campus which do not admit men, according to Ed Kelley, secretary of the UNL Phi Delta Kappa chapter and assistant professor of secondary education. Kelley asked why WEAL didn't file complaints against them.

According to a WEAL press release, Phi Delta Kappa violates Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

There is a 50-50 chance that the Phi Delta Kappa national organization will adopt a

proposal which would allow local chapters to decide whether to admit women, according to Rex Reckewey, one of the 12 directors of Phi Delta Kappa International and a UNL associate professor of secondary education.

The proposal will be on the agenda of the semi-annual Phi Delta Kappa International meeting, Reckewey said.

Currently, if a Phi Delta Kappa chapter admits women, it is suspended by the national organization. This has happened to two chapters.

Phi Delta Kappa has about 80,000 paying members in 400 chapters. Kelley said UNL's chapter was cited in the complaint because of its size. The UNL chapter has about 900 paying members.

Phi Delta Kappa is devoted to research, service and leadership in the field of education, Kelley said.

Men with 15 credit hours in education past a bachelor's degree or with three years experience in the educational field are eligible for membership.

Honors assembly preempts classes

Classes will be dismissed Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on City Campus, and from 10 a.m. to noon on East Campus for UNL's 45th Annual Honors Convocation.

The convocation will begin at 10:30 in the Coliseum. Awards for scholarship will be presented to more than 2,000 UNL students. Six faculty members will be honored as outstanding teachers.