

# Tight student budgets put squeeze on Union

Are limited finances causing you to buy the small soft drink size instead of the large, or possibly no soft drink at all this year?

The Nebraska Union faces the same situation, and it is only a matter of time before UNL students will feel its effects also, according to Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett.

Inflation and reduced income from students this year has resulted in a "real and present budget crunch" for the Union, Bennett said.

Group budgets have also tightened, he said.

Organization meetings used to include coffee hours with refreshments served by the Union catering service. Now many groups exclude the coffee hours from their functions and the Union loses catering income, Bennett said.

According to UNL Business and Finance Director Miles Tommeraasen, Union income also has been hurt by a decline in UNL enrollment and the number of full-time students. Decreased student hours means decreased student fees, and the Union is financed by

student fees, Tommeraasen said.

**Bennett said efforts to end the budget crunch will come in three areas:**

First, evaluate Union services for more effective use of income, explore the possibility of increased Union income and the possibility of increased student fees.

Evaluation would include services ranging from check cashing to the hours the Union is open.

If any service isn't paying, the service might be restricted (fewer hours of operation) or be discontinued, Bennett said.

**Additional income could be generated by expanding the eligibility of groups allowed Union room use for meetings, parties and other functions, he said.**

Now only student and faculty organizations, administrative staff and events arising from these groups are allowed Union room use and services such as catering.

UNL might have to follow the example of other Big 8 schools who offer Union use and services to any group, outside, as well as inside, the university, Bennett said.

Increased student fees could be another source of increasing Union income, he said.

Union operation is financed by \$6 of the \$51.50 fee students pay each semester.

According to Bennett, the money goes to programming which brought Pete Seeger and Anthony Russo, and Union services like check cashing and financing Union staffing and utilities.

This is the fifth year without a student fee increase, while inflation keeps increasing the cost of labor and products he said.

He said budget planning committees will consider internal methods of meeting the financial situation before recommending student fee increases.

"It's just a matter of how long, and how much of an increase," he said about student fees.

## Crafts display opens International Week

Students from Colombia, Lebanon and India will be among foreign students participating in the annual International Week being held today, Friday and Saturday in the Nebraska Union.

According to Rodrigo Lopez, a Colombia native and coordinator for the event, an intercultural arts and crafts display is on exhibit today and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Union.

The display will include items from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North and South America.

International night will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Union Ballroom and will include three Lebanese and 10 Chicano dancers from UNO.

Lopez said there would also be African, Indian and Colombian students performing dances, with some participants in native dress.

The entertainment is free of charge and open to the public, Lopez said.

Some Americans from International House will perform a skit along with singers and a guitarist, Lopez said.

Sponsored by the International Student Office, the events were organized by the International Club Executive Committee, he said.

Lopez said he expects around 300 people to attend the International Night.

## POOL EXHIBITIONS

By the FAMOUS

# Jack White

NEBRASKA UNION GAMES AREA  
THURSDAY Oct. 25  
2:00 - 7:00 p.m.



### daily nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan is written, edited and managed by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is editorially independent of the University faculty, administration and student body.

The Daily Nebraskan is published by the Publications Committee on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the fall and spring semesters except holidays and vacations.

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