

# Business booming at Student Legal Services

By Mary Beth Grange

After five months of operation, it is difficult to get an appointment with the Student Legal Services Center.

According to ASUN president Ron Clingenpeel, "students are booked up four or five days in advance."

Clingenpeel estimates that lawyers H. Bruce Hamilton and Douglas German have been contacted by about 100 students a month since the center opened in mid-November.

Free legal service is available to all UNL students at the center. Its establishment was a major ASUN project of Ann Henry's administration.

After the idea was approved by the ASUN Senate, a committee researched the proposal, established administration procedures and interviewed lawyers. The Board of Regents approved the plan, but restricted the lawyers from making court appearances for their student clients.

This restriction has not been as limiting as he first anticipated, German said.

"Students realized the limits were imposed by the regents," he explained. "They genuinely felt the service they were getting was valuable."

German estimated that students are referred to other lawyers about three times a week for legal assistance the student lawyers can't provide.

"The majority of questions are very simple but very unnerving to individuals if they don't have the answer," German said. "They would be reluctant to go to a downtown law firm."

Typical cases fall in two categories: landlord-tenant problems and students who have been arrested for driving while intoxicated, German said.

He said in each case he assesses whether it would be profitable for the client to hire an attorney. He informs students of their rights and responsibilities.

"The layman, even in major cases, doesn't know the first two or three steps to take," he said.

In addition to a half-hour interview, German said he works about a half an hour on each case.

He estimates 85% of the students who consult the lawyers live off campus. He said male clients outnumber females 4 to 1.

Although most of the first month's clients had some connection with ASUN, German said now they're "getting a pretty good range of students."

students."

The legal service is financed by ASUN.

"It is the largest ASUN budget item this year," Clingenpeel said. The lawyers work a combined 20 hours a week at \$12.50 an hour, about half the average fee at a downtown law firm.

Student clients who responded to a questionnaire said they were willing to contribute from \$1.25 to \$10 of their student fees for the program.

Sue Overing, former ASUN second vice president, said she questioned the procedure for paying the lawyers.

"There needs to be closer control on funding," she said. A provision in the lawyers'

contracts provides for overtime pay, she said, but there is no provision if the lawyers work less than 20 hours per week.

Next year's budget request is the same as this year, Clingenpeel said. \$7,500 has been requested for the lawyers' salaries, \$1,620 for secretarial work and \$250 for office supplies.

German suggested the office be moved from ASUN offices on the Nebraska Union third floor.

He said the ASUN office had "quite a bit of activity." A separate office also would insure students of confidentiality, he said.

Overing said she would like the office to be more visible to the students.

Both Overing and Henry said the idea of merging the legal center with the University ombudsman's office had possibilities.

Henry said German is writing a booklet giving renters advice about leases. It is scheduled for distribution before school is out.

The two lawyers also helped with a seminar this semester on how to use the small claims court.

German said at this time he and Hamilton do not intend to reapply for the positions. He said he wants to spend time on problems more interesting and concentrate on the growth of his own law firm downtown.

Clingenpeel said interviews for next year's lawyers will be this summer.

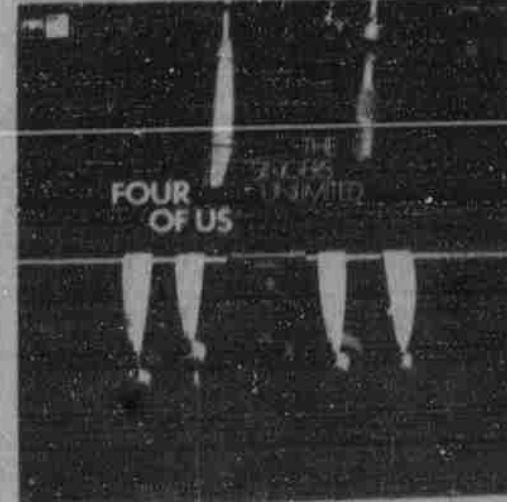
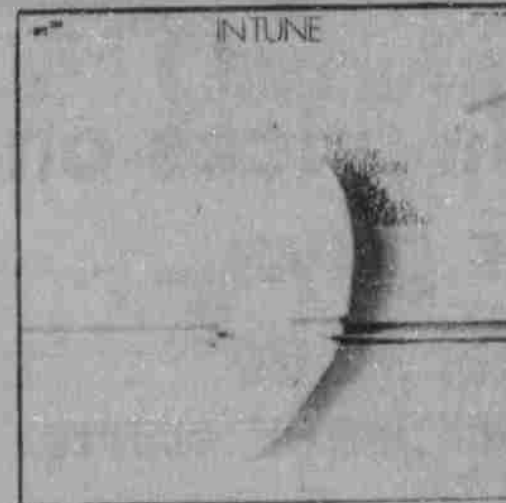
## FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

THE ENTIRE **BASF** CATALOGUE REDUCED 35% OFF LIST

FEATURING, FROM THE RAINBOW OF BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS FROM **BASF:**



EUROPEAN CLASSICAL RECORDINGS



SELECTIONS PERFORMED ON ORIGINAL INSTRUMENTS



**Schwinn**  
...for the young in heart

**SCHWINN VARSITY SPORT**

- 10-speed derailleur gears
- sports style handlebars
- Dual-Position caliper brake levers
- Twin-Stik™ gearshift controls

**\$108.95**

At home on the campus, in town, or on a country lane, Schwinn's outstanding lightweight bike with features and equipment usually found on bikes costing much more. Twin-Stik™ gear shift controls, dual position caliper brake levers. Diamond style carbon steel frame. Gumwall tires. Come in today for a test ride — you'll be glad you did.

**LINCOLN SCHWINN CYCLERY**

3321 PIONEER 488-2101

Weekdays: 8-5:30  
Thursday: 8-8  
Saturday: 8-4

HOURS MON-FRI 10-9  
SAT 9-6

244 N. 12th  
475-6296

Every LP & tape guaranteed new  
Expert salespeople to help you  
BankAmericard & MasterCharge

Largest selection  
Convenient hours

THE MUSIC PEOPLE  
**discount records**