

UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE HEADED?

The five hour Life Planning Workshop will give you an opportunity to look at who you are and to project yourself into the future. It will assist you in setting some short and long term goals so that you can make choices about your future rather than just letting things happen.

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Trend toward nursing colleges

By Mary Shackleton.

Closing hospital nursing schools and establishing nursing colleges at state universities is a nation-wide trend, according to Lois Merrill, associate dean of the associate degree program of the newly established College of Nursing at UNL.

The only source of income a hospital nursing school receives is from the tuition students pay and the hospital costs patients pay, Merrill said. Switching to university supported nursing programs moves the cost burden from "the sick population to the total population," she said.

Another reason university programs are growing is that "students like to go to college," Merrill said.

In the past, nursing students were "isolated," according to Merrill. "They ate, lived and breathed nursing. Now nursing is like any other class," she said.

The nursing college, in its first year at UNL, is located in Fairfield Hall in the Selleck complex. Two 40-seat classrooms and an independent learning center are located in the basement where students can view media films, hear audio tapes and practice techniques in a simulated setting, Merrill said.

Further renovation on Fairfield Hall and the addition of adjoining Benton Hall to the nursing college will be done as enrollment grows, she said. There are currently five faculty members in the nursing college.

Rapid growth in nursing enrollment is expected, she said. By 1980, an enrollment of 492 students is predicted. There are currently 33 students, all female, enrolled in the college.

At the University Medical Center in Omaha, 10 per cent of the nursing school enrollment is male, she said.

The UNL nursing program is identical to the medical center program, she said.

A four-year undergraduate program resulting in a B.S. nursing degree is offered as well as a two-year program which results in an associate science and nursing degree and a licenced R.N. degree, she said. 65 per cent of those enrolled are expected to complete the four year program, she said.

RNs from other schools also are expected to enroll in the program for advanced degrees, she said.

Before the nursing college was established this semester, UNL students took one year of pre-nursing here and then transferred to the medical center for the remaining three years.

An advantage of the two-year and four-year program is that students have "options all the way along" in their college careers. This way, a "16 or 17 year-old just out of high school doesn't have to decide what degree level he or she wants," she said.

Lower level science courses are already taught on campus, Merrill said. Junior and senior level advanced science courses are taught through a two-way t.v. hook-up with the college of medicine in Omaha, she said.

Students go to St. Elizabeth's Community Health Center, Veterans Administration Hospital and Lincoln Regional Center for hospital training, Merrill said.

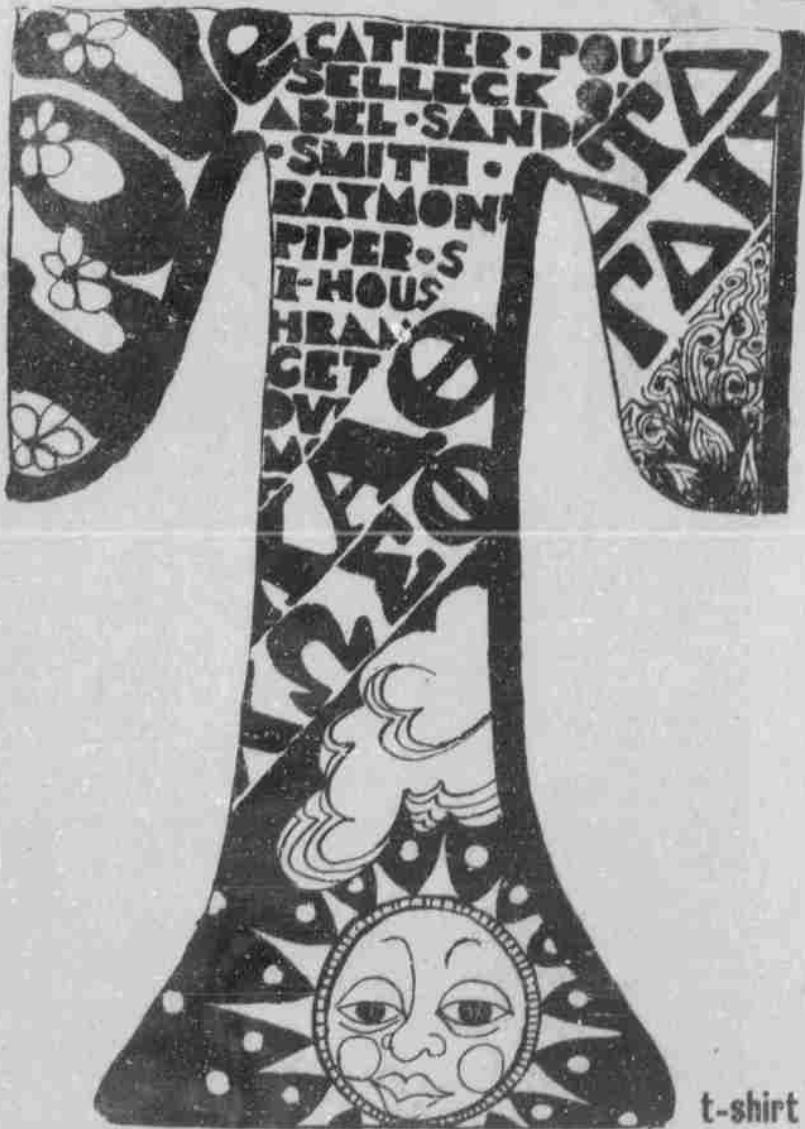
Students questioned about the nursing college responded favorably:

"I love it. I'm very pleased to have the program on this campus. It saves a lot of commuting," Darlene Kirschenmann, a freshman, said.

Mary Bolton, another freshman, agreed: "It's a good program. The teachers are qualified, and I'm learning a lot."

Establishing a nursing college at UNL helped Kay Daggett, a freshman, decide on her major. "If nursing hadn't been offered here, I'd have gone into something else," she said.

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