

Housing Office now hiring student assistants

The UNL Housing Office is concluding Student Assistant (SA) selection and has begun selection of residence hall directors (RDs) for 1975-76.

"A much higher percentage of our professional staff is returning compared to other years," said Marie Hansen, coordinator of residence hall programs. This year the housing office is trying to hire people earlier to acquire the best people, she said.

SA appointments will be made early next week, and orientation will begin after spring break. She said early appointments will allow students to file for Residence Hall Association (RHA) offices then.

RHA leadership

Working in RHA may provide the leadership experience and increased awareness of student government and residence hall activities needed to qualify applicants for an SA position next year, she said.

SAs are selected on the basis of their grade point average (GPAs), files and personal interviews. Originally 300 students applied, she said, but about 50 were declined because of low GPAs, and about 100 were declined after staff members read their files.

Each applicant's file includes his application with two essay questions and several reference forms. If the applicant lives off-campus he needs three references from anyone; if the applicant lives on-campus he needs references from his current SA, his RD or complex program director (CPD), a person of his choice and from five students living on his residence hall floor and randomly chosen by housing.

During the interviews, held in mid-February both on-campus and off-campus, applicants were judged by basic criteria, she said, but the two types were often finally selected by interviewers.

Many complexes hope to have SAs from both kinds of living on the staff because it adds a new

perspective and makes a more diverse staff, she said.

Nebraska desirable

RD selection began last week when Hansen and several other housing staff members attended a conference to interview prospective RDs from across the country. Nebraska is more nationally known and a more desirable place to applicants than it has been in the other three years she's attended, Hansen said.

For the first time, she said, students are the drawing card. People want to work with rational students committed to student government and to building a community, and Nebraska students seem to be more like that than other students. Although applicants may still show an interest in the "Big Red", the kind of student at UNL has become more important, she said.

To qualify for the RD position, applicants must have an M.S. in student personnel, counseling or a related field and previous residence hall experience.

Ministers giving counsel at UHC

Patients who are bedridden at the University Health Center (UHC) may have a new kind of visitor to see them.

A ministerial counseling service began operation at the health center on March 3. The service was cosponsored by the 12-member Campus Pastors Association and the UHC staff.

The ideal format for the ministerial counseling service was to have each campus minister serve in the UHC office on a rotation basis, according to Rev. Ray Waetjen, minister at the University Lutheran Chapel. The UHC minister's office is located on the second floor of the health center.

Many campus ministers are busy with special Lenten services which are taking place at most campus churches, Rev. Waetjen said. Each minister has his own parish to administer, he explained.

Want to spend time

"They (campus ministers) all have a desire to spend time at the health

center," Rev. Waetjen said, "but time is a factor now."

Although Rev. Waetjen and Sue Tidball, a counselor of the United Ministries in Higher Education, now serve at the minister's office, they said they have seen a total of six students since March 3.

Conceding that few students have seen the counselors, Tidball said more students will use the service once it receives publicity. She said that the Campus Pastors Association will seek student responses to determine if the service, which is on a temporary basis this semester, should be continued.

Dr. Kenneth O. Hubble, director of UHC, said campus ministers have visited students at the health center for years. He added that most hospitals, including all of Lincoln's hospitals, have fulltime chaplains who visit with patients.

Rev. Waetjen said the ministerial counseling service benefits both students

and campus ministers.

Someone to talk to

"Students will have someone to talk to out of the confines of a church building," Rev. Waetjen said. "The pastor on duty at the health center will serve as a friend to a student who must stay at the health center."

Campus ministers benefit by counseling patients at the UHC because they can learn to serve in a broader kind of ministry than what they encounter at campus churches, he said.

"We may have students walking in here (to the minister's UHC office) who wouldn't walk into a campus church," he said.

Rev. Waetjen said the service was primarily designed for students to come to the minister's UHC office to talk to the ministerial counselor on duty. He said, however, that he has visited two students who have stayed at the health center.

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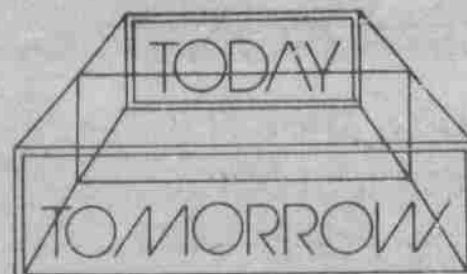
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