

Tuition, state funds to determine development of SUN program

After July 1, the State University of Nebraska (SUN) program will depend on tuition and any state financing it receives for further development, according to Milton Hassel, development director.

SUN is an experimental project using various media, including television, to offer college study to people in their homes.

SUN has requested \$157,000 in state funds for the 1975-76 fiscal year, Hassel said. Since SUN started its pilot program seven months ago, it has been supported by the Edna McConnell Clark Corporation and other smaller foundations and tuitions, he said.

Presently there are 1,073 Nebraska residents registered in the SUN program. The sixteen nonstate residents enrolled live in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

700 registered

Hassel said 700 people were registered for the first SUN courses, accounting and psychology, which started in September and October 1974.

In March, the second session of SUN courses started. Only 357 people registered for the second session, which offered "Consumer Experience" and "Making It Count" in addition to accounting and psychology, Hassel said.

Hassel said he blamed the decline in enrollment on the dates of the second session. It

runs from March to July and would include the summer months, which, he said caused a number of people to wait until fall to take SUN classes.

He also said economic conditions may have hurt. He said 700 of the registration forms sent out were not returned.

Still registering

Hassel said because people can register for courses anytime from March to July, registration forms are still coming in. He said the income tax rebate may also affect the number of those registering for the courses. Some are waiting for the money to enroll, he said.

A Lincoln Journal article reported the program's growth was the result of nonresident participation. Hassel said that is incorrect and the article may have been referring to SUN's outgrowth, the University of Mid-America, whose members are Nebraska, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri.

"This would account for the number of nonresidents mentioned in the Journal article," he said.

Hassel said there will be more courses offered this fall. SUN officials now are evaluating proposed courses which could include American literature, composition and political science. The exact courses will be announced at the end of April, Hassel said.

Storm strands 4-H singing group during vacation tour

Despite a blizzard which stranded the 4-H Outreachers in Alliance, the singing group completed their Panhandle Spring Tour during Spring vacation.

The tour, scheduled for March 24 to 27, was extended through March 30 when the unexpected spring blizzard trapped members in Alliance homes.

The group's bus, with several members aboard, left Lincoln Monday morning and picked up additional members along Interstate 80, according to Outreachers' cochairman John McHargue.

Oshkosh first

The first performance of the tour was in Oshkosh Monday and the group stayed with host families in Sidney Monday night. Tuesday, they performed at all six Sidney public and parochial schools.

Tuesday evening the 40-member group traveled to Scottsbluff, where they sang at Nebraska Western College, performed from the Scottsbluff television station and taped a TV program to be broadcast later in the week.

Wednesday, the group sang at Gering Junior High and Morrill Junior High, then traveled to Alliance, where they sang at the junior high and at a Consumer Education meeting. Later that evening they gave a public performance in Alliance.

The tour was completed and members were planning to leave for Lincoln Thursday, but the "Blizzards of '75 Part II" delayed their plans.

Snowed in

According to Marcia Dientsfrey, 4-H student adviser and Outreachers member, city and farm families in Alliance hosted the singers Wednesday evening. Several members awoke Thursday to discover they were snowed in several miles from town, she said.

"Another girl and I were snowed in north of Alliance and snow plows couldn't get the road

cleared," Cheryl Hinze, Outreachers cochairwoman, related, "so we were rescued by a helicopter."

The singing group, a volunteer organization, draws its membership from the university 4-H club. The Outreachers perform about one or two times a week and practice about twice a week, McHargue said.

"Our music is varied to appeal to assorted groups, or we can plan a program to present to a specific interest group," McHargue said.

Album released

Pass It On, the groups' recently-released album, contains a variety of music, he said. The album, available from the 4-H office or any group member, was released in March and features group and solo cuts of assorted popular, traditional and patriotic songs, McHargue said.

"Being a volunteer organization, we depend a lot on student interest and enjoyment to keep people involved," Hinze said. "The most rewarding part is the response we get from audiences—they really participate in our performances."

According to university 4-H club and Outreachers sponsor Glen Krohn, the group charges only for transportation when they are asked to perform.

"On our tour we went to several places which wanted us to perform and they split the costs," Krohn said. "Members stayed with host families in each town, so costs were minimal."

The Outreachers have traveled to Washington D.C. and performed for 4-H gatherings and numerous conventions throughout the state in their seven years, according to Krohn.

The group's next performance will be at the Burr Hall RHA Week program Monday, Dientsfrey said. The Outreachers will also perform on the Morning Show Wednesday and will travel to Manhattan, Ks., for the National Convention of Collegiate 4-H Clubs April 19.



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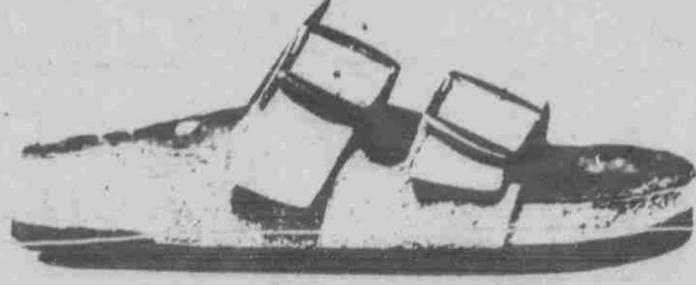
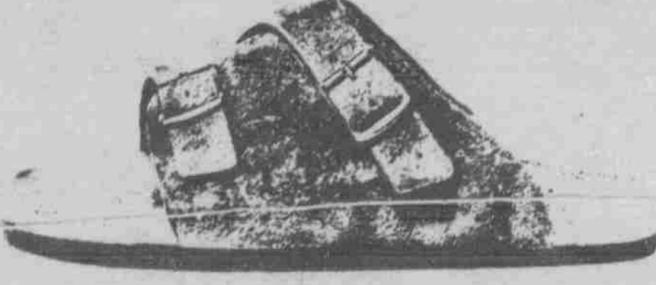
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