

Evaluators praise dentistry program

Four months ago, NU's College of Dentistry opened the doors of a new clinic designed to meet the needs of the mentally and physically handicapped.

Financed by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the clinic was to provide training for dental students in the treatment of handicapped patients.

A recent evaluation of the program brought praise for faculty members and students who have been involved in the preliminary stages of the clinic. According to Dr. Richard Bradley, Dean of the College of Dentistry, the evaluation team "was very pleased with the attitudes of faculty and students. It's been a well-received program."

Evaluation team

The evaluation team consisted of four members, including two dentists, a behavioral psychologist and a representative of the American Fund for Dental Health. The team visited the site to "give consultation and inform us of what other schools are doing," said Bradley.

The UNL College of Dentistry was awarded the grant after competing with fifty-six other schools. Eleven schools received grants. Because of such stiff competition the UNL program will receive a lot of attention, Bradley said.

According to Ken Keith, a behavioral psychologist who teaches preventive dentistry and community health, the theory of the program is to treat handicapped patients as regular patients. Helping students accomplish this are a series of courses which look at "general notions about human behavior."

These courses study "human behavior, not handicapped behavior," Keith said, adding, "we avoid pointing out the differences (between the handicapped and regular patient)."

Volunteer students

The students involved in this first phase of the clinic have been "primarily volunteers," said Bradley. In the future, all junior and senior dental students will be assigned two or three patients for the semester to treat, Bradley said. Workshops will be held at the University of Nebraska Medical Center clinic which specializes in treating multiply-handicapped children and is also funded by the Johnson Foundation.

The clinic serves handicapped members of the community in the same way the dental college's regular clinic serves the Lincoln area. When asked where the handicapped person went for dental treatment before the clinic opened, Bradley said that while "some went to private dentists, many were not cared for at all."

No new equipment

Dr. Myron Pudwill, Chairman of Restorative Dentistry, said the program's goal is to train students so that they will realize they don't have to buy new equipment to treat the handicapped. The program's goal is to prepare students to treat such patients in private practice, he said.

The clinic presently treats about four patients each afternoon.

The program also involves making a series of tapes and workshops for the continuing education of dentists already in practice.

The project is directed by Dr. John Simon, and is scheduled to continue for four years, with annual evaluations.

Housing office selects fall student assistants

After a two and one-half month selection process, the UNL Office of University Housing has rehired 45 residence hall student assistants (SAs) and hired 61 new ones.

Marie Hansen, coordinator for residence hall programs, said they may hire several more over the summer if occupancy increases or SAs resign.

Three hall residence director (RD) positions are open and probably will be filled in June, she said. Two applicants from other campuses and several people from the current housing staff are being considered, she said.

The two out-of-town applicants visited UNL, stayed in the residence halls and met with students and staff members, who evaluated them. One sat in on a Residence Hall Association (RHA) meeting, which she said was very well organized, Hansen said.

The SAs will attend several sessions within their complexes this spring to meet with the staff and become acquainted with their responsibilities, she said. This summer they may have some material to read, but will not have to be in Lincoln until Aug. 12, a week before the residence halls open to students.

This week the SAs in each hall will work with other SAs to learn initial administrative processes, Hansen said. In some halls, they may make goals for next year.

In further orientation meetings, the SAs will discuss problems affecting students and how to help with them.

Student room assignments in residence halls were made this week by the RDs. Students wanting to change should talk to their RDs this week before final rosters of returning students are made.

The SAs' floor assignments will be made late in the summer, Hansen said, after the staff knows the SAs better. In some cases it isn't quite so important, she said, but when a floor has a large number of students returning, it's important to have an SA who fits into their community and can work well with them.

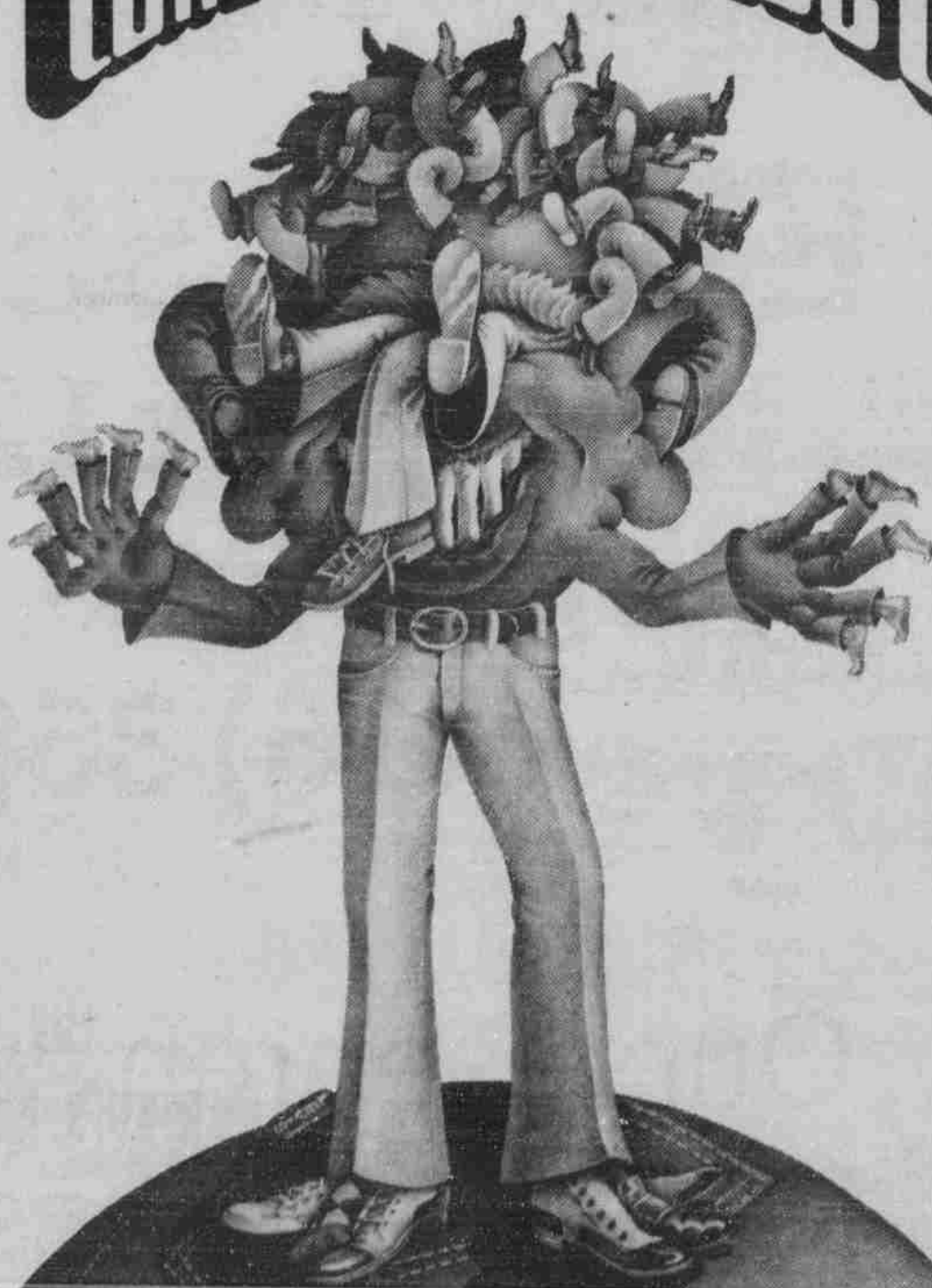
For their services, which include being the first to return and the last to leave the halls for each vacation, the SAs receive one year's single room and board free.

APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 9TH FOR UNION OFFICE SPACE

The Nebraska Union is now accepting applications for student organizational space assignments for the 1975-76 school year. If your organization desires to obtain or renew office space, you must send your application form to the Nebraska Union, Suite 220, no later than 5:00 pm, Friday May 9th. If you haven't received your application go to Suite 220 and pick one up.

Remember, only applications received by May 9th will be considered for assignment.

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