

Food coop improves financial affairs

Lincoln's first food cooperative is straightening out its financial affairs and plans to expand, according to coop member Dave Wilamowski.

"Problems with just not getting enough money back to cover what we paid out" has forced the coop to change its bookkeeping system, Wilamowski said.

The coop has been unable to account for certain amounts of money.

"I don't think it was all mistakes," Wilamowski said. "No one in the coop is a bookkeeper and it's been kind of hard to figure out what went on by looking at the records."

"There definitely have been some problems; it's never been a real smooth operation," he added. "It's not like walking into a grocery store and walking out with your food. But it's getting better."

Financial difficulties have prompted a

switch to two bookkeepers.

The coop, known as "Our Stores," has been around more than three years, although Wilamowski has been active for a year and one-half, he said.

Money problems

The money problems have not stopped efforts to establish a staples store to handle orders for such items as dried fruits, teas and cereals.

"We handle a complete line of dairy products, fruits and vegetables," Wilamowski said. Distribution of nonstaple items takes place on Saturday mornings at Trinity Methodist Church. The Northside branch members distribute their goods from the Epworth Methodist Church.

Staples orders are placed "once every three or four months" while members must order other products one week in advance when they pick up and pay for their previous order, Wilamowski said.

According to Wilamowski, the coop maintains its lower-than-retail-outlet prices by obtaining products wholesale and having members pick up and distribute the goods.

"We operate on a team basis. There are four teams and each member works for a month on his team then has three months off," he said.

Jobs including the pick up and distribution chores as well as the "big jobs" like bookkeeping and compiling the week's orders.

New members "usually look around a few times" before asking to join, Wilamowski said. A \$5 membership fee is refunded if members leave.

"We want to do a lot more than we are now, like buying some of our stuff direct from local farmers instead of from someplace else. (The coop obtains beans from Texas)," Wilamowski said.

UNL revises library lending policies for fall

An overdue book will cost 40 cents less next fall, according to Charles Chamberlain, circulation services librarian at Love Library.

Although lending time of bound periodicals is being cut from one week to three days, the volumes now will be renewable, he said.

The changes result from committee recommendations to revise the UNL library lending code.

According to Dean A. Waddel, UNL assistant dean of university libraries, the new policy will "improve the flexibility of the library system." By shortening lending time and adding a renewal policy, Waddel said, material will be made available to more students.

Revision

The revision process of the lending code started with the committee headed by Chamberlain and made up of representatives from each university library unit.

Chamberlain said he collected student opinions from the suggestion box at the undergraduate library and through his work at Love's circulation desk.

Reducing the size of the 11-page UNL Library Lending Code booklet was necessary, said Chamberlain, "so the university community can use and refer to it." Calling the old booklet "cumbersome" and "unimportant to most people," he said the new book will help answer questions he has been asked at the circulation desk.

Both Waddel and Chamberlain reviewed the committee's work and passed the proposal to Gerald Rudolph, dean of libraries.

The revised code was then presented to the Faculty Senate Library Committee. Faculty and ASUN-selected undergraduate and graduate students on the committee made the final revisions.

Services outline

He emphasized that the completed booklet, to be available at the circulation desk at university libraries next fall, is "an outline of some important services" offered to students.

The intercampus renewal request form, he said, will allow students on one campus to renew books checked out from a library on another campus. A reciprocal borrowing agreement allows students to check out material from any college library, such as Nebraska Wesleyan's.

Even though Love looks like "a typical bureaucratic office and the stacks have retained the feel of old army barracks," said Waddel and Chamberlain, the personnel's concern is on student convenience.

Long range revisions such as a computerized lending system and triplicate library cards for easier renewing, have already been planned.

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