



New ombudsman to use KRNU spots

Allan Dittmer, new UNL ombudsman, former teacher, funeral director and ambulance driver will try his hand at broadcasting commercial spots in September on KRNU FM, the UNL-based radio station.

Dittmer, whose job as ombudsman is to solve problems and answer questions for students, staff and faculty members, said his commercial spots will extend the services of his office by "educating UNL faculty and students on how to take care of problems."

Situational problems with step-by-step procedures to possible solutions will be presented on KRNU three times daily for 90 seconds each, he said.

Financial aid

"An example," Dittmer said, "would be if a student were to lose financial aid and

would not be able to continue school."

The first step would be to find out why support was discontinued and then inform the correct people of the student's position, he said.

If aid was still denied, Dittmer said, the next step would be to explore alternative sources for support.

"In many situations people are unaware that help is available," he said.

According to Dittmer, publicizing a problem is used as a last resort, but if necessary, is used to make known a clearly unfair situation.

He said his office has received many valid and significant complaints. Although 80 per cent of his visits are from students, he stressed that his office is open to UNL faculty members and alumni as well.

UNL has had three ombudsmen since

1972 when the program started, Dittmer said, and the program has been different each time because the office takes on the personality of the ombudsman.

The only real power the ombudsman has, Dittmer said, is the power of persuasion. The ombudsman cannot make decisions or change policies, but can make recommendations to the chancellor if he thinks change is necessary to achieve equity, he said.

No legal advice

The major difference between the Wayne State and UNL ombudsmen, Dittmer said, is that in addition to routine problems, the Detroit program also dealt with legal matters.

"The UNL ombudsman won't necessitate this kind of background," he said. "I've had eight calls today and none of them have required legal advice. If I receive a call where legal service is needed, I refer the call to Dave Rasmussen," student legal adviser.

Although the major part of the ombudsman's \$32,000 budget will pay the salaries of Dittmer and his two staff members, the largest remaining portion will go for advertising, he said.

Ad sequence helps

The ombudsman will also receive some free publicity. Albert Book, professor of journalism, will have his students design advertising campaigns to promote the ombudsman, an idea Dittmer said will benefit his program.

Dittmer said he plans to have informal seminars and rap sessions with interested students in residence halls, fraternities, and sororities.

An evaluation of the ombudsman's work by Dittmer and the UNL chancellor next August will determine if Dittmer will opt to continue as ombudsman for two more years.

Correction

The president of Gateway Bank of Lincoln is Karl E. Dickinson, not Roger Dickeson as reported in the Aug. 28 Daily Nebraskan.

Nostalgic market achieves success

By Margy Meister

Nestled in the heart of downtown Lincoln lies a relic of years gone by—the old open-air market. Battered pickups are parked alongside shiny new station wagons. Card tables placed in front of them bear fresh produce, honey, pinecone wreaths, herbs and magnetic sponge flowers.

The farmer's market has been open every Saturday since June 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. This Saturday it will close for the year.

A block of 12th St. between N and O Sts. is rented from the city and closed for the market. Merchants then are rented stalls for \$2 per day or \$15 per season.

Staff member Jorgensen cited three main reasons for opening the market: first, to provide a fun activity in the downtown area; second, to encourage renewed growth of the truck farming industry; and finally, to make the image of the downtown area more attractive to rural residents.

First year

Because this is the first year for the farmer's market, Jorgensen said the staff was "very pleased" with its outcome. He said that the market would be in operation

again next year, but that the location has not yet been decided. He added that he expects other organizations to sponsor markets next year.

There are 48 stalls for rent in the market area. Jorgensen estimated that 300-500 people strolled through the displays each Saturday. There were fewer stalls filled Saturday than were filled earlier in the summer because fresh produce is no longer as available, he said.

Letha Lengel of Lincoln sold her painted sponge and magnet creations at the market all summer. Prices range from 25 cents to \$2, and Lengel estimates that she sells between \$15 and \$35 in merchandise each week.

Herb stall

Herb plants are the main feature of the booth run by Gene and Muriel Stark, who live just outside Lincoln. The Starks come to the market most Saturdays, and estimate that they have an average of 30 customers per day.

Charles Hedges of Pleasant Dale is retired and does rock-grinding and silversmithing as a hobby. Hedges has displayed and sold jewelry he has made, as

well as many colorful rocks he has cut and polished, every Saturday for the last month. He also sold a few melons and tomatoes. Prices on jewelry and produce ranged from 10 cents to \$5, and Hedges estimated that he has 20 to 25 customers per week.

On their "first and only" visit to the market last Saturday, Linda Hemsath, Pat Jorn and Bob Bussmann, all of Lincoln, had an eye-catching display. A large table was spread with home-grown honey, nail pictures, crocheted coasters, pinecone wreaths and magnetic flowers made from chenille bumps decorated with pipe cleaners, felt and sequins. Prices ranged from 75 cents to \$15, and the three guessed they had about 30 customers that day.

The farmers market is sponsored by the Downtown Lincoln Promotion Council in cooperation with the Lancaster County Extension Service. The Extension Service has its own stall which it donates for use to 4-H clubs and other youth organizations.

Jorgensen said the staff has been working on organizing and planning the project since November 1974.

the Daisy... Gateway

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