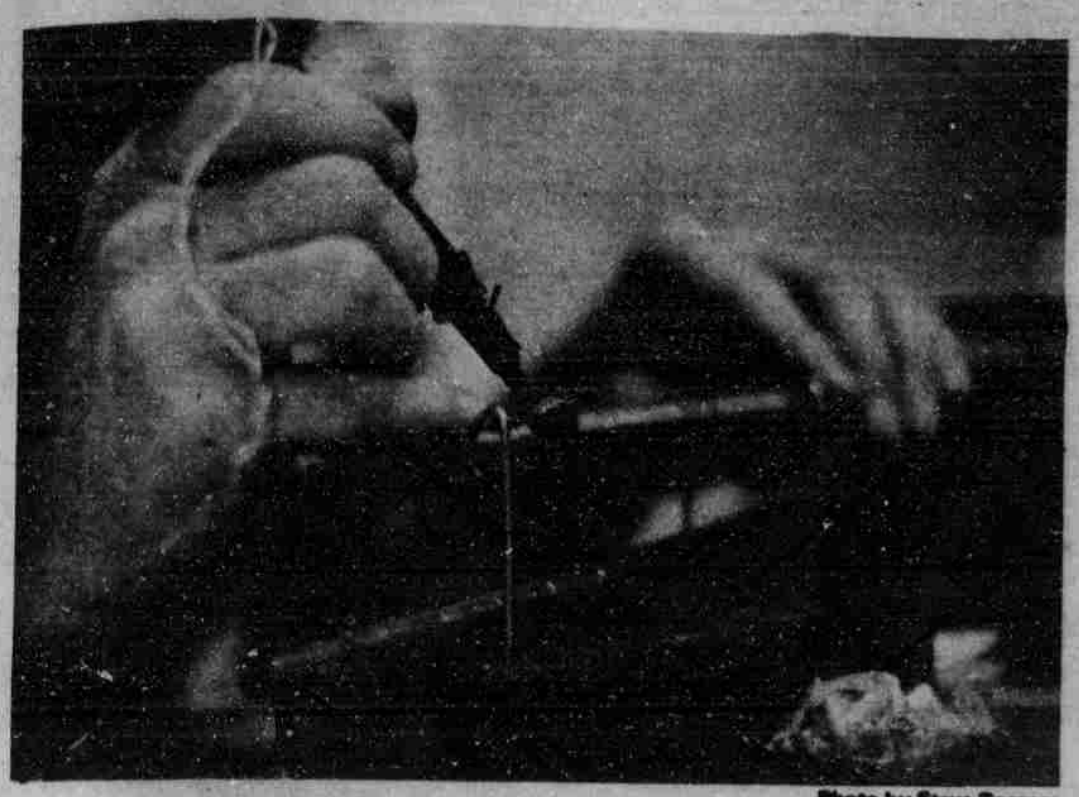

Photo by Steve Boerner

Jim Cotter, a professional silversmith from Vail, Colo., works on a wax cast for a ring, Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.

Jeweler's craft displayed

What does a home vacuum cleaner have to do with setting up a casting system to make jewelry? According to the "Silversmith of Vail" the vacuum cleaner plays an important part in making such a system inexpensive.

Jim Cotter, a professional silversmith from Vail, Colo. will conduct a workshop today from noon to 4 p.m. in room 105 at Richards Hall. At the workshop he will demonstrate how to set up the casting system for about $25 using a vacuum cleaner.

The workshop is part of a two-day demonstration by Cotter sponsored by the Nebraska Union Programming Council's Visual Arts Committee. Cotter demonstrated various techniques of making molds for rings Wednesday in the Union.

Cotter operates a retail silver shop in Vail and teaches at Colorado Mountain College during the summer. He said most of his demonstrations are done on college campuses because that is where most of the interest is.

Cotter said he became interested in silversmithing while attending Wayne State College. He said Wayne had no silversmith program and everything he knows he had to teach himself. He said his work consists of taking metal and changing it into art objects.

Specializing in custom designed jewelry, Cotter said he works a lot with diamonds and rubys. He said the jewelry in his shop ranges in price from $15 to $1,000 depending on the stones and amount of work put into the piece.

Cotter, who does not wear jewelry himself, says right now he is really into "Farm art" which he described as jewelry that deals with some aspect of farm life.

The university does not have a program in jewelry making and Cotter, along with several observers, think that there is enough interest here to warrant one.

There is no charge for today's workshop and it is open to all interested.

Bi-weekly editions

Minority paper planned

UNL Minority students will begin publishing a bi-weekly newsletter Friday.

The newsletter, called "Huh?", will carry news items, announcements and editorials relating to the minority community at UNL.

Jimmi Smith, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, said the newsletter has been under discussion for quite some time and students now are ready to begin work on it.

Six students on the work-study program, assisted by a volunteer editor and a volunteer coordinator will assemble the newsletter.

Leanette Logan, coordinator, said she hopes the newsletter will provide some formal means of communication among minority students.

"Minority students at UNL have not received the proper type of coverage from the university's majority student newspaper," she said. "Many things minority students need to know will be included in the Huh?."

Logan, a black senior, recalled that several years ago black students started a newspaper called the "Congo Call" that folded because of financial difficulties. She said she hopes the newsletter eventually will develop into another newspaper.

Smith said his office will provide the necessary office space and machinery to operate the newsletter. He said the various minority student organizations will be responsible for providing paper, stencils and ink, as well as news items.

Logan said the only problem they have encountered is that some minority students are not registered with the Office of Minority Affiars and may not receive the newsletter. She urged all minority students who do not receive the first edition of "Huh?" to drop by the office and leave their name and address.

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