daily nebraskan

Colonial gets faster service, new atmosphere

By Anita Stork

Faster service, more menu variety and an upgraded, fresh appearance. That's how Nebraska Union Director Allen Bennett described the Colonial Room following its recent remodeling.

Changes include addition of a soup and salad bar and new decor plaques on repainted walls, he said.

Bennett said the soup and salad bar has decreased customer waiting time as much as 30 minutes.

"The Colonial Room was strictly a waiter-served restaurant before," Bennett said. "You were seated by a hostess, gave your order and waited till your food came."

Now patrons pressed for time can use the soup and salad bar, Bennett said. The kitchen is separated into buffet and regular service sections, he said, which also reduces waiting time.

Business-like atmosphere

The restaurant's atmosphere has changed since it reopened about a month ago, Bennett added.

"More students frequent the place, as well as more professors and local public," he said. The Colonial Room is an "ideal business lunch meeting place," he added.

Bob Richeson, Union food service manager, said it was "too soon to estimate the increase in business.

"No advertising has been done, and we've only been open for three weeks," Richeson said.

Bennett said the Colonial Room was "just breaking even" before the remodeling.

"We wanted to increase customer satisfaction and thereby increase business," Bennett said. "The Union feels there's a real need for a relatively quiet eating place with a more business-like atmosphere.

Alternatives considered

Richeson said several remodeling proposals were considered.

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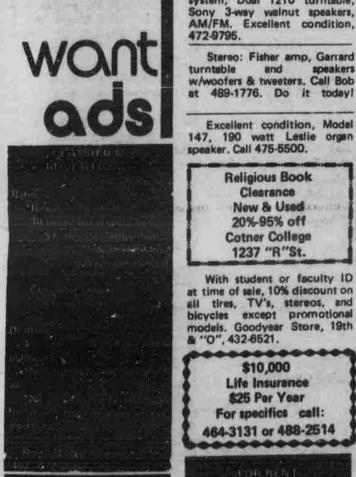
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left it as a waiter-only restaurant and changed the menu," Richeson said. "A delicatessen also was considered."

The combination waiter and buffet service plan was chosen to "offer guests a choice of the method of service," Bennett said.

Renovation cost \$11,400, according to Larry Emmons, business officer. He said the major expense was building a counter for the soup and salad bar, with other money going for light fixtures, a food warmer, repainting and refrigeration equipment.

The money for remodeling came from the Union's equipment reserve fund, which is included in the Union's operating budget, Emmons said.

Physical Plant approval Plans for remodeling were cleared through the Physical Plant, Bennett said.

"We can't modify the design of the Union without checking with Physical Plant," he said. "They're responsible to see that changes are structurally sound.'

If these renovations fail to increase business, Bennett said, the Union may be forced to close the Colonial Room.

"We'd like to keep it open," he said, "but if it all doesn't come together, we'll have to conclude a market for it (Colonial Room) doesn't exist.'

'Gay motherhood' slated as subject in year's first Women/Speak 'talk-in'

Women/Speak '76, a weekly talk-in series, begins its fourth semester Tuesday.

Sponsored by the Student Y, Women/Speak '76 covers timely subjects that are of concern to women and men, said Kathy Smith, director of the Student Y.

We've had a turn-out of 40 to 45 people each Tuesday," she added. Last semester's total attendance was approximately 600 people, she said.

Smith said she thought Women/Speak was fulfilling a need of the students and that its popularity was cause for continuing the series.

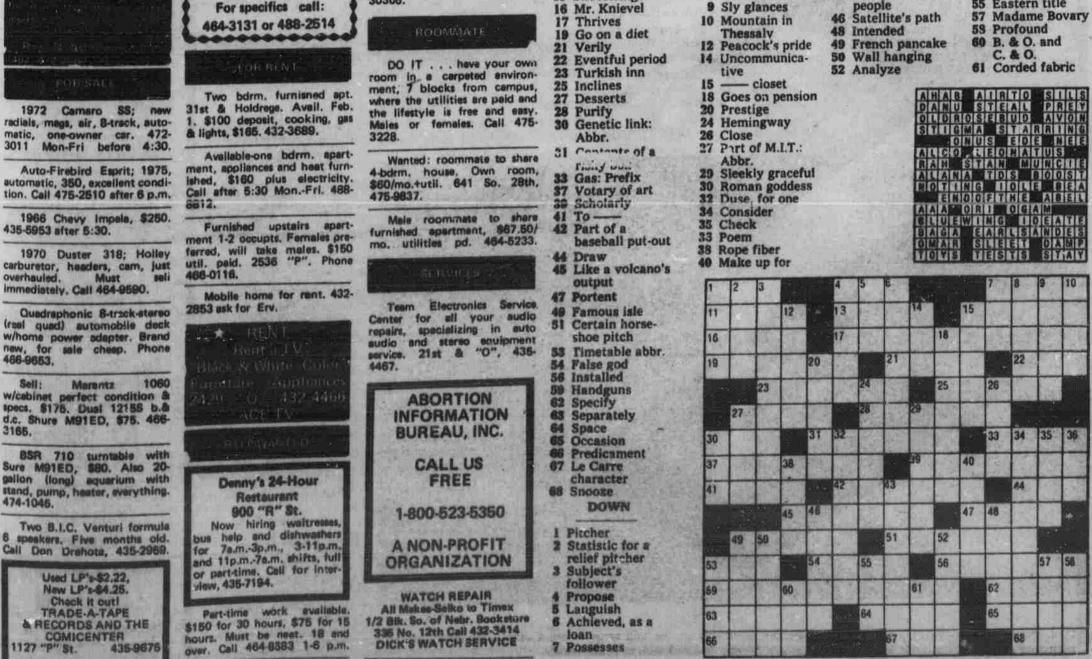
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Smith, but is financed by the general budget raised from Student Y projects. The series is free to the public, she said, and speakers are not paid.

Tuesday's topic, Gay Motherhood, will feature a panel discussing the gay woman as a mother, Smith said. Future programs will explore such areas as women and health care, law enforcement, the media, socialism and feminism and single fatherhood. Smith said all topics are chosen for what she called their timliness and importance.

Women/Speak '76 will be every Tuesday noon in the Nebraska Union. The meeting room will be posted weekly.

UNL Young Democrats will meet at 9 p.m. Wednesday 1/28 in the Union. Room to be announced.

Ragtime Plano is Coming!! Benefit concert Sunday Feb. 15, 3p.m. Tickets \$2,50. Wesley Chapel, 640 No. 16th, 432-0355.

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