

'Life safety' rule compliance requires \$1.5 million

About \$1.5 million is needed to bring UNL into compliance with a "life safety" code adopted by the Nebraska Legislature in 1969, according to Ray Coffey, UNL assistant business manager.

In the proposed \$108 million 1977-1978 budget request, \$700,000 is earmarked for the fire safety improvements. The budget request was approved last Wednesday by the NU Board of Regents, but still faces legislative approval.

Of the \$700,000 requested in the 1977-1978 year budget, \$500,000 is for UNL and \$200,000 is for the four NU agricultural experimental laboratories and the School for Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

Some buildings on the UNL campus were built as early as 1894. So while newer buildings comply with state fire codes, some of the older buildings do not, Coffey said. Among those are Bessey Hall, Architectural Hall, Former Law Bldg. and the Temple Bldg.

The money, if approved, would be used to add sprinkler systems, magnetically-released fire doors, gyp-

sum board fire resistant walls, smoke detectors, manual fire alarms and other fire safety equipment.

About \$500,000 has been spent on the fire safety improvements in the last two years, Coffey said.

Teachers College improvements

Fire code improvements were made on the Teachers College Bldg. last year. For instance, combustible wooden lockers were removed from the corridors and study carrels and display cases were built in their place.

The inside stairway was converted into a fire tower, in which magnetically closed doors and gypsum board walls would provide protection from smoke and fire for almost an hour. This would allow people to leave the building.

An alarm system and smoke detectors were added to the building. The alarm systems are connected with the university exchange system in Nebraska Hall. If the alarms sound, Lincoln Police, the Lincoln Fire Dept. and Campus Police would be notified.

Other additions included exit signs, fire escape stairs

and fire extinguishers. Glass transoms were removed, and replaced by metal ventilation panels, which can be closed in the event of a fire.

Plant Industry Bldg.

Another building that has received fire safety improvements is the Plant Industry Bldg. on East Campus. A fire there last year caused nearly \$750,000 in damages, as well as destroying research materials.

Before the fire, a smoke detector system was being installed. It was to be tested the week after the fire, Coffey said. Fire safety improvements were added when the building was rebuilt.

Harley Schrader, UNL Physical Plant director, said the first three priorities are:

- Adequate exits from buildings.
- Fire alarm systems.
- Creating fire towers.

Many of the buildings needing additional fire exits are on East Campus, Schrader said. The Agricultural Hall, Agricultural Engineering Bldg. and the Poultry Science Bldg. are listed for receiving fire exits this year.

Disturbed students find help in Outreach

For students troubled by emotional and medical worries Outreach offers solutions.

"Our thrust has always been toward emotional, personal and medically-related problems," Dr. Carmen Grant, staff coordinator for the program, said. Outreach operates as a walk-in and phone-in counseling service for students.

Headquartered at the University Health Center (UHC), Outreach is staffed by 17 students trained for para-professional counseling.

"We serve multiple purposes," Grant said. "Outreach offers short-term peer-counseling, access to broader health care, and consultation and referral services."

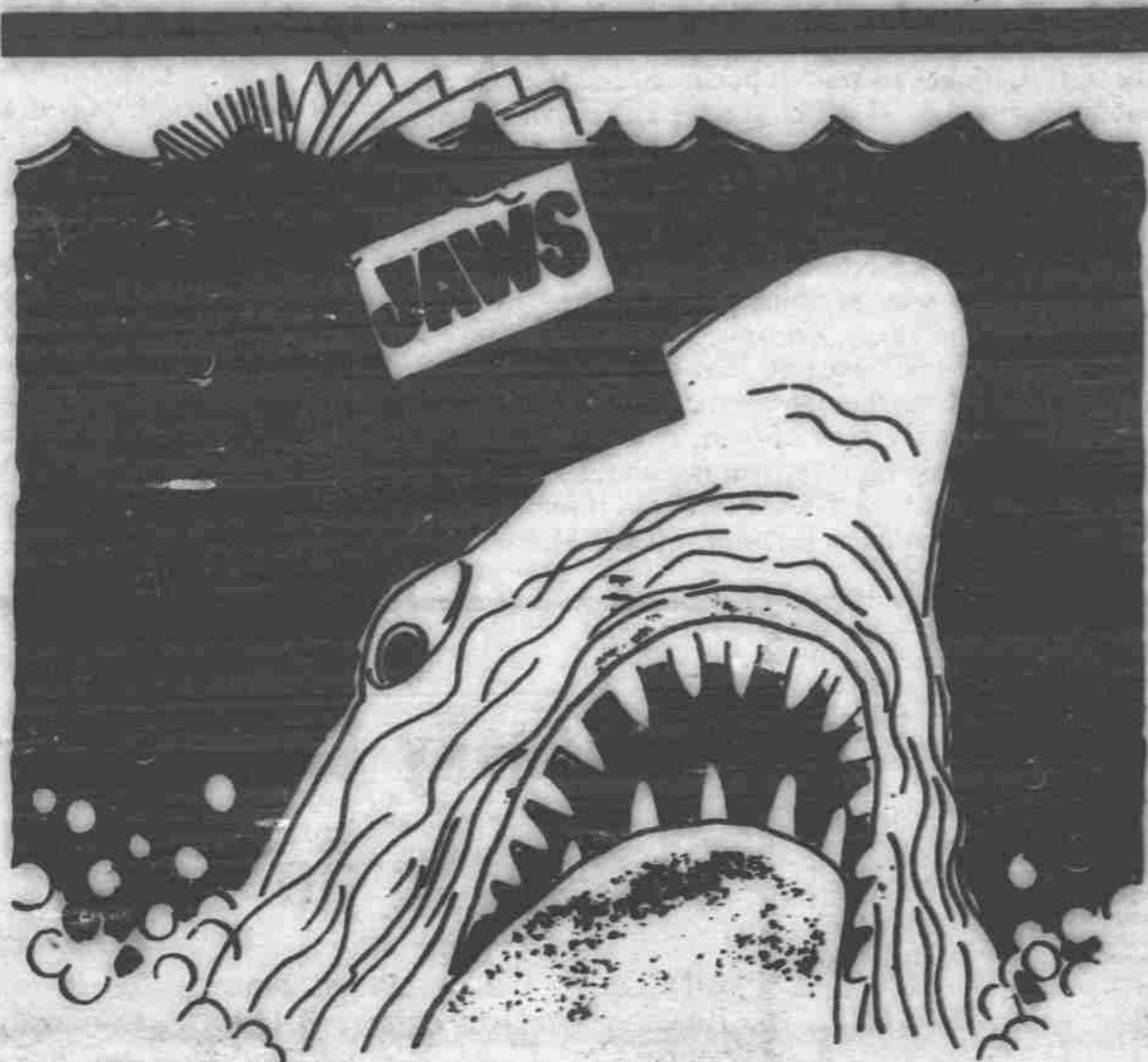
"We try to give students several options in counseling," Grant said. Callers may be referred to community or other university sources by the Outreach counselors to solve their problems, according to Grant.

The Outreach line, 472-2200, operates from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. Calls received from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. are handled by the mental health department at UHC.

The largest percentage of calls Outreach receives involves situational stress problems, according to Jeff Coffman, coordinator of training and statistics for the program. "Another big category is interpersonal problems," he said. Outreach averages 250 to 300 calls per semester, Grant said, and more than 90 percent of Outreach service is handled by phone.

Applications for Outreach counselors will be accepted in Room 104 at UHC until October 1. Upperclassmen and seniors who will be at UNL for the full academic year are qualified to apply. Trainees receive 18 to 20 hours of preliminary training and apprenticeship.

Help Line, a phone service offering miscellaneous information and guidance to callers, was discontinued this year because of budget cuts. While Outreach provides counseling and referral services to students, Help Line only furnished short-term consultation, according to Grant. Except for consultation, Outreach will not assume any of the services of Help Line.



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