

Higher fees only way to recover from deficit?

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Increased student fee support is about the only way the Nebraska Union can recover from a \$32,115.99 deficit, according to Union director Al Bennett.

The \$32,115.99 is the amount Union expenses have exceeded sales and fee income from July until Dec. 31, 1976, said Union operations manager Larry Emmons. On Jan. 1, 1976 the Union was \$9,900 in the black, Emmons said.

The \$42,000 change in profit position has Bennett and his staff evaluating the Union budget for ways to slow the increasing rate of loss.

"It's not impossible, but momentarily improbable, that we'll (the Union staff) do any more than stop the rate of loss," Bennett said. He said if Union operations continued at their present rate, the change in profits could extend from \$60,000 to \$70,000 when the fiscal year ends June 30. Bennett said he hopes the staff can hold the loss to \$50,000 or less.

"The loss figure is no more or less than an underfunded base," Bennett said. Three sources—general income from retail sales, pre-paid university costs for utilities and student fees—comprise the base for the \$1,400,000 annual Union budget.

Student fees is the only money source which can be increased, Bennett said. General Union income is down \$53,000 from last fiscal year, while operating expenses are up \$25,000 and labor costs up \$26,000, he said. Pre-paid university costs are fixed to cover only utility bills.

The Union currently receives \$6.78 a student each semester in student fee support.

Bennett said he will ask the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) for increased student fee support of the Union. Since it is the student who is requesting the service in the first place, the cost increase of the service should be passed along to the student, he said.

In addition to increasing student fees, Bennett said other options for reducing Union losses are to cut back Union services or add new services to attract more business.

Bennett and Emmons also listed reducing inventories, cutting back employe hours, eliminating jobs, closing at earlier hours and limiting weekend services as other methods to reduce Union losses.

Any changes in Union operation will be studied by the Union Advisory Board and discussed with the community before being put into effect, Bennett said.

Bennett said he is not now in the proper position to introduce new Union services. Student protests against a \$40,000 Union advertising campaign and a proposed \$35,000 budget for replacing Union signs have temporarily blocked further action by Bennett's office, he said.

Bennett said he has examined several areas where cut-

backs could feasibly be made in Union operations.

Despite the \$42,000 decrease in union profits, the Union is not a dying organization looking for a place to roll over, Bennett said.

"We do not see ourselves in desperate financial situation," he said. There is no need for a panicky response, he said, adding that a "tight management process is in order" to help recover from the deficit.

Bennett said the deficit has to be cleared in a year, or that amount will be carried over into next year's books.

The Union closed its 1975-76 budget with no deficit because "we budgeted well and managed well," Bennett said.

Ron Gierhan, interim vice chancellor for student

Although the Nebraska Union is suffering a deficit, one other major student fee user just eliminated its deficit. For the first time in nine years the University Health Center is operating in the black. See page 6.

affairs, said representatives from ASUN, the Union Advisory Board, the Union staff and his office will meet to see what can be done to alleviate the deficit. He has set no date for the meeting.

Gierhan said he is surprised to see such a large deficit when there was none before since the same services were offered both years. The deficit could be caused by competition, insufficient operating funds, lack of marketing Union services, or a combination of all three, he said.

"We have to find some answers to that, and we need it quickly," Gierhan said.

Bennett further explained that the Union is operated from two main accounts.

The bond reserve account, from which the controversial proposed signs would be financed, must be used strictly for maintenance of Union facilities. This includes updating and replacing equipment.

The Union's operating account is drawn from student fee support, general income from retail sales and pre-paid university costs for utilities. The operating account is the one suffering the deficit, Bennett said.

Union to drop advertising campaign

The Nebraska Union's advertising campaign, which has cost \$40,298, is being discontinued because "it is not as effective as it would be liked," Union director Al Bennett said Monday.

Bennett told the ASUN Senate last week that no more money would be spent on the campaign this semester. Some ASUN senators had criticized the campaign and three resolutions were passed asking for more student input in Union decisions.

"We had planned to take in more money," Bennett said.

The advertising contract with Lincoln's J. Gregg Smith and Associates will not be renewed when it expires this month, Bennett said. Some advertising will continue to be

seen through March, however, because it was included in the February contract, he said.

Although the Harvest Room, Colonial Room and Bakery have responded profitably to the ad campaign, the Crib is suffering a dramatic drop in sales, he said. Union food service units have lost \$21,500, he said.

Bennett said dropping the Crib may be considered for next year after consulting the Union Advisory Board and university community.

Promotion of the catering service, the largest profit margin Union operation, was scheduled to begin this spring, Bennett said. That campaign has been blocked, however, because the ad campaign is now "shot full of holes," he said.

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Glassblower Lloyd Moore touches up one of his creations in his workshop in Hamilton Hall's basement.

UNL scientific glassblower makes art crystal clear

By Gail Stork

As his title implies, blowing glass is more than a hobby for Lloyd Moore, UNL scientific glassblower. While similar craftsmen are making glass swans in demonstrations, Moore may be in his Hamilton Hall workshop designing the fabrication glass research equipment for the entire state of Nebraska.

However, Moore does not always go by his UNL title, nor does he spend all of his time blowing scientific flasks and tubes. To students in the two glassblowing classes at the F street Recreation Center, Moore's title is teacher.

Moore teaches his beginners the basics of the skill: glass rotation, flame temperature and glass gathering before they even work with glass. He said the skills aren't difficult, but take the entire 10-week beginners session to develop.

The advanced classes branch into creative glassblowing with students turning out swans, birdbaths and cocktail glasses, Moore said. The advanced classes six person limit, enables Moore to give individual instruction.

Seven years at center

He has taught both beginning and advanced courses at the center for more than seven years, but said he really could not pinpoint how they started.

According to Joe Elsener, director of the center, the class was first offered on a trial basis, but the size of the response warranted adding glassblowing to the center's permanent program.

Elsener said he thought Lincoln had the only recreation center in the United States that offers glassblowing. Another advanced session is scheduled for Feb. 24, and a beginning class is in the planning stages.

"People like it because it's a skill," Elsener said, not just something to do. Moore said he expects a variety of people to enroll in the upcoming sessions.

Class is popular

The class's popularity speaks for

Moore's success as a teacher. He said he thinks he is responsible for creating enthusiasm in the students and is rewarded for his efforts.

Elsener cited examples of people enrolling over and over in Moore's advanced classes. He also said he had to turn people away from several of the sessions. He attributed this to the uniqueness of the class and Moore's ability.

Moore said the only other scientific glassblower in the state is one of his former students, who has a scientific glassblowing shop at Omaha's Creighton University.

When not teaching creative glassblowing or working on one of his original smoking pipes, which he sells right out of his mouth, Moore repairs enough tubes, flasks, and beakers to save the university thousands of dollars, he said.

For example, a thin, six-inch tube standing in his workshop was a part he completed for a \$400,000 massspectrometer. The part itself was valued from \$300 to \$400, but cost Moore about \$50 to make.

Moore described his job as exciting. "Each new day there are new challenges. There hasn't been a high point in my career yet. It just keeps going up and up."

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