

Students still bugged about beefy issue

By Joe Starita

A mid-December incident at the Cather-Pound cafeteria has continued to bug three UNL students, two environmental health officials and the assistant director of campus housing.

Jeff Brester, an 18-year-old freshman from Grand Island, said he and several friends were eating lunch during finals week last semester when "we all noticed a maggot and three small bugs on one of the food trays."

Brester said the maggot came from a beef salad sandwich and the three bugs from a package of crackers dumped into a soup bowl.

He said he got up and took the tray to the kitchen to show the cook before registering a complaint with the University Health Center environmental health director.

Dave Hauss and Eric Hadenfeldt, two students who were eating with Brester, said they had more than the soup and sandwich to beef about.

Hauss, a sophomore history major from Omaha, said he has been sick "about a half dozen times" after eating at Cather-Pound.

"I've got to say I think the food here is pretty low quality," he said.

Hadenfeldt, 19, of Grand Island, said he also has become sick because "the food is too greasy and they keep leftovers too long."

"I've thrown up four or five times and I'm positive it's the food," Hadenfeldt

said. "They have this thing called 'The Big Red Special.' It's a hamburger with a lot of grease that you can eat on Monday and then they'll serve it again on Friday."

"I don't think you should get sick just eating lunch. I have too much studying to do to be sick from food."

Brester said it wasn't the food that made him sick ("the food is edible—it ain't great but it ain't bad") but the fact that environmental health did not return his call.

Ed Simpson, director of environmental health and safety at the University Health Center, said there had been a "communication gap" and he "would apologize to the student."

Simpson said the noon-hour call never reached him and he had no way of getting back to Brester.

"We encourage students to call or stop in with their complaints," Simpson said, "But they should ask for me or Del Weed (an environmentalist at the health center). We will get-right on it and call back the results of our action."

Weed, said action was taken immediately after Brester's call came in.

"The information we got was sketchy," Weed said, "but we got in touch with the food manager there (Cather-Pound) and the food was taken off right away."

"It was just poor timing, but we pulled the food and stopped serving all of it. We have professional people with degrees

working in the food area, and they are very capable."

Douglas Rix, assistant director of housing responsible for food service, said his job was complicated "by having to deal only with secondhand information."

Rix said his staff has been deluged with rumors that the bugs were in everything—in soup, salad, sandwiches, jello and desserts.

"The problem here," Rix said, "is that we have never had any specific names to go on."

"It's like dealing with a fog. I called environmental health back after I got the call, but the note with the name on it had been destroyed."

"We have double-checked everything and have found zero to base the complaint on. With all the talk going around, the staff has been alerted to look for problems in all flour products."

Rix said Cather-Pound is responsible for serving 1,200 students daily and occasionally bug problems occur.

"If I could have gotten a specific student who was there to complain to me we could have checked the crackers, checked the date of purchase, checked everything."

"But it is very difficult to try and pin it down when all you have is secondhand information to work with."

"Like I said, I'm in a fog trying to pin this whole thing down."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Walk to protest abortion ruling

Lincoln Right to Life is planning a "Walk for Life" to the state capitol Saturday to protest the Jan. 21, 1973, Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion.

The organization's goal is to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit abortions, according to Pat Sumner, co-vice president of Lincoln Right to Life.

Pro-life individuals and organizations from all over Nebraska will participate in the walk, she said.

The walk will begin at the old post office, 10th and P streets, at 10:30 a.m.

Students say 'charge it!'

"Charge it!" These two words are becoming increasingly familiar to the average American and the average college student.

The growing popularity of credit cards brings with it implications of over-charging and under-budgeting.

Charles Decker, marketing manager at First National Bank of Lincoln, said college students and credit cards are good business.

UNL Comptroller J.W. Knisely said his office encourages students to use credit cards when making payments to the university.

The credit card boom at UNL is reflected by the more than \$9,000 in campus traffic and parking tickets that were charged on VISA cards last year.

UNL's Bursar's office reports that from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1977, 5,200 payments were made with credit cards, a 21 percent increase over 1976 figures. Decker said that every September First National solicits college students to apply for credit cards. Students do

not abuse their credit cards, according to Decker.

"In fact, after a year-and-a-half we discovered that the student delinquency level was in many cases lower than mom and dad's," Decker said.

But his is only a recent trend, according to Decker. In the early 70s, credit cards and students presented many problems. Decker said students would charge large amounts and then, for reasons such as draft dodging, would run off without making their payments.

Part of the changing trend is due to the new Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act laws, which set standard rules for applicants.

Decker said before approving an application, banks look for the length of time spent on a job or the number of years spent in school, as this indicates "stability."

One out of three card applicants are rejected, "but has nothing to do with age, race or gender," Decker said. "It just means your credit rating or checking balance isn't creditable enough."

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UNO's football lives on

By Todd Hegert

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) football program stands on solid ground in spite of a recent proposal to eliminate football there and replace it with soccer according to UNO officials.

The proposal, made by Scottsbluff Regent Robert Simmons at the NU Board of Regents meeting in January, was killed by the regents but not without making its impression at UNO.

Simmons told the regents that the UNO football program is not and never will be a program that the state of Nebraska can be proud of.

But UNO athletic department officials and players are quick to point out last year's record breaking attendance figures and financial success in defense of the football program.

Don Leahy, UNO athletic director, said the Simmons' proposal has actually solidified and strengthened support of the UNO football program.

"I don't think Simmons' proposal has hurt us with bad publicity," Leahy said. "We have been receiving calls of support and the football program is coming out of it even stronger than before."

There were 10,000 people at the first two games last season which left 2,000 of them to stand up to watch the game. Our attendance has consistently exceeded stadium seating capacity (8,200) and I think this indicates support in ever increasing numbers," Leahy said.

Sandy Buda, head coach at UNO, said there was no basis for the Simmons' proposal.

The only reasons for eliminating the football program would be lack of support or loss of money, Buda said. But last season's average attendance of 8,300 indicates strong support, and the UNO

football program is making money, he said.

Buda said the UNO athletic program has progressed, in part, because academic progress has "skyrocketed" in recent years.

"UNO has grown up and is no longer considered West Dodge High. It is the image and idea of the administration at UNO that athletic programs here should grow and improve along with academic programs," Buda said.

Buda said the team has just bought new weightlifting equipment and started a weight-training program for the 1978 football season.

"The players are enthused about the weight program and looking forward to next season," Buda said.

Junior tailback Bobby Bass and junior guard Bill Auxier both said they did not think the proposal presented a serious threat to the football team but it was resented.

"Everyone took it as a joke at first," Auxier said, "and it didn't bother me much until I heard him (Simmons) call us a second-rate football team. Then I thought 'that guy's a jerk.'"

Auxier said most of his teammates are more satisfied with the football program this year than ever before.

"As a freshman I was dissatisfied and I quit the team that year. But I'm staisfied, excited and proud to play at UNO now," Auxier said.

Bass and Auxier said last year's attendance figures show the UNO student body is excited about the team.

"I never did believe they would drop the football program here. I just thought it was a bunch of talk from some smart politician," Bass said.

The players are optimistic about next season, Bass said, and are working hard on the weight program to prepare for it.

