

Library computer: tale of planning, cooperation

A computer which will allow librarians in Love Library, UNO library and the University Medical Center library to know exactly what books and periodicals the others have will be installed as a result of approval by the Board of Regents, May 20.

There is little doubt that the addition of the University of Nebraska Library Retrieval System is a good one.

By knowing what the other libraries have, each can share specialized items that otherwise would be purchased for use by only a few persons. That results in monetary savings for the libraries. It also gives students access to a wider range of materials.

There are other benefits as well. When the system is installed students will be able to check out books automatically. A special device will record the material withdrawn and the identification number of the student.

Elimination of the handwritten charge cards means less hassle for students and less bookkeeping for librarians. It also means that there will be a current and accurate record of withdrawals. Librarians should be able to tell students within minutes which library owns the material and if it is available to be checked out.

The computer will also "remember" students who have not returned library materials and will not allow them further withdrawals. That should result in less stealing.

Scheduled to begin in early 1979 it is hoped that the system, within several years, can be expanded to the thirteen branch libraries on the UN-L campus, to the agricultural experiment stations and to other outstate locations as well.

News of the system was a pleasant surprise for us—who like many students—were

beginning to wonder if anyone realized, or cared, what a mess the library system seems to be in.

But even more surprising than its existence is the story behind its creation. The computer system is the culmination of planning begun two and a half years ago and carried out with extensive cooperation between library personnel, University administrators, the Legislature and the University Foundation.

Brice Hobrock, assistant dean of libraries and the technical leader of the project, said there has been extensive cooperation between the library directors of the three campuses to plan, gain approval and implement the system.

The project also had "unusually strong backing from the administration," he said. He specified Steven Sample, executive vice president of academic affairs as an especially strong supporter—even in initial planning stages.

The mini-computer plans then were given a boost last year when the Legislature approved an amendment of to the University Appropriations bill. The bill allowed the University to designate unexpended utility funds for library improvement.

The libraries chose to spend the \$200,000 retained for the mini-computer. An additional \$150,000 will be given to the libraries by the University Foundation to implement the project.

This cooperation has yielded good results—a system that benefits the students, the library system, the university as a whole and the state as well.

Its too bad we don't see more of this.

Students need child care assistance

The cost and availability of adequate day care for the children of students is now becoming a critical factor in determining whether some of us will be able to remain in school. Since the Board of Regents withdrew monetary help from the University Day Care project, the rate for two children is being

care centers in Lincoln are just as expensive and do not accept children under the age of 24 months.

Complicating matters even more, federal help for day care costs for low income graduate students is now being cut off.

For those of us with middle-class incomes or lower, and those of us with children younger than 24 months, there is no help for this situation.

In the past this university has been most eager to encourage younger students in various ways: establishing residence halls, recreational facilities, work study programs, and the like. But isn't it time to aid the increasing number of non-traditional students with such a basic problem as child care? Perhaps the only way to demonstrate the relevance of our problem to University concerns is to form our own pressure group. If action is not taken, we must join together to solve our problem in any way possible.

Dona Moody
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Wahoo, Neb.

Summer Publication

The Summer Nebraskan is a weekly summer sessions newspaper. The first issue appears Tuesday and seven subsequent editions will be published on Thursday. The next Summer Nebraska will be June 22.

This first edition has a special pull-out entertainment section with a schedule of UN-L summer events.

letter

raised to \$260 per month. The only other child care associated with the University—Ruth Staples Developmental Center—has an extremely limited enrollment and makes no provision for children under the age of three. In addition, most private day

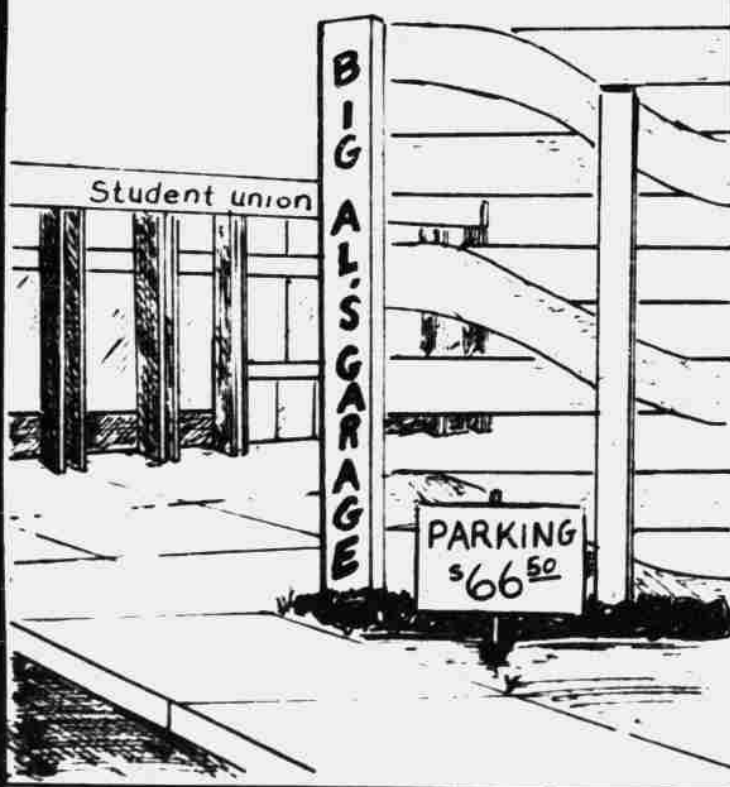
Letters policy

The Summer Nebraskan will publish letters to the editor and guest editorials. The editor will decide which letters are published and reserves the right to condense submissions. Timeliness and clearness of writing will be considered.

All letters must be signed.

Letters should be received by the Summer Nebraska Monday prior to the date of desired publication.

Editorial cartoon



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