

Auditors to analyze union; answer critics' questions

By Amy Lenzen

An audit of Nebraska Union operations will be conducted by a private firm this fall in accordance with recommendations made to the NU Board of Regents in July.

Richard Armstrong, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, suggested the audit in response to criticisms of union management presented to the regents in May and June.

UNL graduate students Bob Simonson and Carol Petersen had criticized plans for union expansions and renovations which union director Allen Bennett said were necessary to recoup financial losses of last year.

Regent Robert Prokop of Omaha had questioned why the Nebraska Union last year had the highest administrative operating costs of all Big Eight universities unions, the second highest income from funds like student fees and was the only union to lose money.

Analyze management

Last week Armstrong said the audit will answer some of the questions raised by

critics, establish a base for long-range union planning, and should introduce fresh ideas to the union management.

The auditors, Touche, Ross and Co., will analyze how the union is managed as well as its financial records, Armstrong said.

The audit will focus on areas that have had problems in the past, such as the food service department, which Armstrong said has had problems breaking even. No area, however, is immune to the investigation, he added.

The audit is scheduled to begin in late August and should be completed by mid-October, Armstrong said.

The firm will include recommendations for change in its final report which will be reviewed by Armstrong, Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance Miles Tommeraasen, Chancellor Roy Young and the union management.

Investigate finances

The audit was requested by Simonson and Petersen in presentations to the Board of Regents in May and June. They asked the regents to investigate the financial status of the union before approving expansionary projects suggested by Bennett.

They specifically criticized proposals to use \$120,000 in a bond replacement fund for union renovations and expansions. The proposals called for redesigning the Harvest Room entry, adding a delicatessen, converting the main desk into a store, expanding the bakery and renovating the south women's lounge, record lending library and first floor television room into a retail site for lease.

They also criticized Bennett's proposal to the Union Board in May to construct a 600 stall parking garage in the lot directly north of Broyhill Fountain. The parking structure, as proposed, would contain two levels of retail space including a Univer-

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Freshmen sure sign of fall



By Pat Gentzler

Autumn is a time when the air turns crisp, leaves turn bright colors, birds fly south, and a strange species of mammal begins to appear on college campuses all across America: the freshman.

Ever since the beanie went out of style, freshmen have been more difficult to recognize. At first glance, they can sometimes pass as real people. But a keen eye will notice a few tell-tale characteristics that set aside freshmen from other students.

The one most obvious item that gives the freshman away is the campus map. Even the more college-oriented fresh-

man, who has tossed the saddle shoes and letter jackets, can be found with a campus map. Scotch taping to Spiral notebook covers and tacking to bulletin boards are two of the most popular methods of displaying the maps.

Freshmen, as a rule, also can be identified by their possessions. Everything is new. Anyone moving into the dorm with new towels, new luggage, and a new bed spread can immediately be labeled "freshman". So can those wearing new wool sweaters and ski boots in August.

Now, no one is saying that freshmen are dumb. They just haven't had the advantage of experience and education that the upperclassmen have had. The freshman who thinks that the tall building on campus is Godfather Hall isn't dumb, just misinformed. Freshmen can't be expected to know that Phi Delt is a fraternity and not a social disease.

It doesn't take long, however, for freshmen to get the hang of college life. By mid-September they stop running to class and stop leaving half an hour early. By October, they're all complaining about dorm food and have written their final letter home. By November, they've all stopped reading the back of the all-tempa-Cheer box while doing laundry. Some have quit doing laundry altogether.

At the end of the first semester, freshmen have become so much like upperclassmen that it's hard to tell them apart. Fraternity pledges have all grown moustaches. Seven thirty classes are all but empty. For an entire semester, except for a few straggling mid-year starters, the freshman is an extinct being . . . until fall, when a whole new flock invade campus.

Registration today

Today is the first day of general registration for fall 1978. Registration will be in the Nebraska Union from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, and from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Students should first report to Administration 103 to obtain a registration permit and a time appointment card before going to the Union.

A \$25 deposit is required at the time of registration.

Students dig deeper into pockets as college costs rise

By Brenda Moskovits

UNL students may be wishing they had saved more money from their summer jobs because tuition, university housing, and textbook prices all are higher this fall.

Resident tuition will increase for the second year in a row, from \$21 to \$22.50 a credit hour, up \$21 dollars a semester for a full-time student carrying 14 hours. Out-of-state students will pay \$61 a credit

hour compared with \$57 last year.

"If we didn't have the tuition increase, we wouldn't have had the increase in faculty salaries," according to Miles Tommeraasen, UNL vice-chancellor for business and finance.

Tommeraasen said the university has an informal agreement with the Nebraska Legislature that tuition "ought to go up with inflation." The tuition increase was

built into the university's budget request for 1978-79.

Students should share

The Legislature takes the view that "if they (the taxpayers) are going to increase their share why shouldn't we increase the students' share," he said.

The NU Board of Regents approved this summer a budget request for 1979-80 which includes a resident tuition hike from \$21 to \$24 a credit hour. Outstate students would pay \$65 next year if the Legislature approves the request.

Returning to the university residence halls will cost students an additional \$70; room and board for a double room will cost \$1,335 this year compared with \$1,265 for the 1977-78 year, according to Douglas Zatechka, director of housing.

Zatechka cited three reasons for raising housing rates 5.5 percent this year.

Food costs skyrocketed

"Inflation seems to be climbing in the area of six to seven percent, particularly in the area of food costs," he said. "Hamburger and beef products have just skyrocketed. Last year we elected to go to six hamburgers per pound," he said, compared with dividing a pound into five servings earlier in the year.

Increased utility bills are a second reason for the increase, Zatechka said, with electricity for lights, heating and air conditioning up about 15 percent from last year.

The increase in the federal minimum wage is the third factor. "We employ a lot of students under that," he said. Minimum wage went from \$2.30 to \$2.65 last year

and is scheduled to go up to \$2.95 on January 1," Zatechka said. Last year students faced a \$40 increase.

Textbook prices higher

Textbook prices have also risen and students are advised to get to the bookstore a week before classes start to buy used books, according to Kathleen Morris, textbook manager of the University Bookstore.

Hardcover books are about a dollar higher this year, she said. "Some publishers have raised prices on all their books and some publisher haven't increased prices," according to Morris.

Hardest hit by rising textbook prices will be incoming freshmen, who should count on paying \$75 to \$100 for books. Morris said that many instructors at the 100 level have changed textbooks and editions which is typical each fall.

The only expense students can count on as not being higher this year is student fees, Armstrong said. Fees will remain at \$66.50 for full-time students.

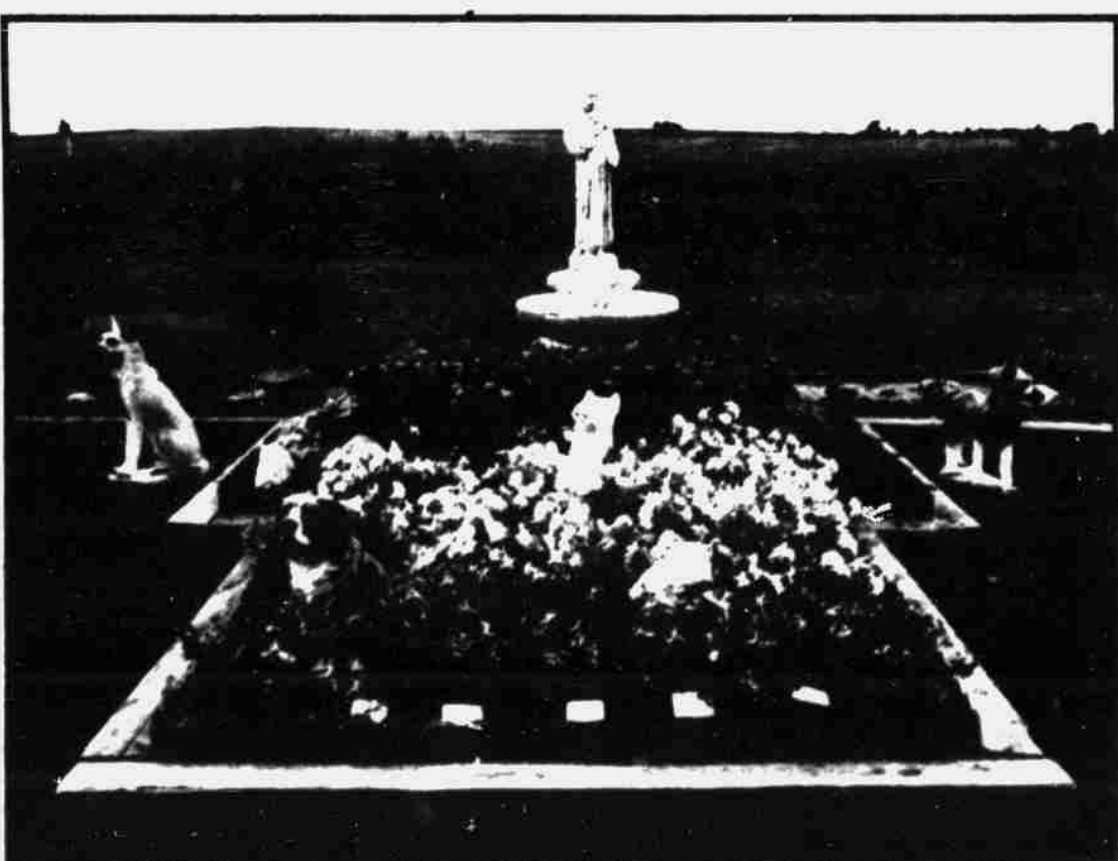


Photo by Tim Ford

Lincoln's answer to Forest Lawn—for pets—the Rolling Acres Pet Cemetery, provides a much-needed service for pet owners, according to owner Patricia Strnot. For story and more pictures see page 22.

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