

Delayed VDTs 'worthwhile'

By Liz Austin

A delay in acquiring Video Display Terminals for UNL's School of Journalism will be worth the wait, according to Neal Copple, the school's director.

VDTs are computer systems which are growing in use in newsrooms across the nation. Such a system does away with many time-consuming steps in writing, editing, and typesetting material used in newspapers.

Copple said the school's original goal was to raise \$100,000, and have the terminals by the middle of last semester. But Copple said the committee formed to advise the school on its purchase of VDTs contended that \$100,000 would not buy the kind of system needed for a school of its size.

The committee, consisting of Lincoln Journal Editor Joe Seacrest, Grand Island Independent Publisher Dave Belilis and McCook Daily Gazette Publisher Allen Strunk, advised the school that a larger, more updated system was needed, Copple said. All three newspapers use VDTs.

New Goal

The goal now is to raise \$200,000 and have the system by next fall, Copple said.

The school would like to get enough terminals to supply two kinds of systems, Copple said. One system would be what a middle-sized daily newspaper would use and the other what a smaller newspaper would use.

"It is important the student have exper-

ience with both kinds of systems," Copple said.

Copple said \$85,000 in private monies has been raised so far. The Gannett Foundation contributed \$40,000 and the Stauffer Foundation \$10,000. The other \$35,000 came from a source Copple preferred to leave unnamed.

Copple also said he has an application from a foundation, which he also preferred not to name, to match the \$85,000 already raised.

A larger system will be useful in serving more than just students interested in newspaper work, he said. The system will be flexible enough to serve students in other journalism sequences, such as broadcasting, and will be helpful in graduate programs, he explained.

No new courses

No new courses will be created to teach students about VDTs, but instruction will be integrated into existing courses.

One such course is typography, which is being revised into a modular course next semester, Copple said. When the VDTs arrive one of the mods will be learning to use the terminals, he explained.

Copple said the goal is for students to learn the system as early as possible.

"By the time students are taking advanced reporting and editing classes we want them to be as comfortable with the terminals as they are with a typewriter. But that is pretty much of a dream considering the amount of equipment they will be dealing with."

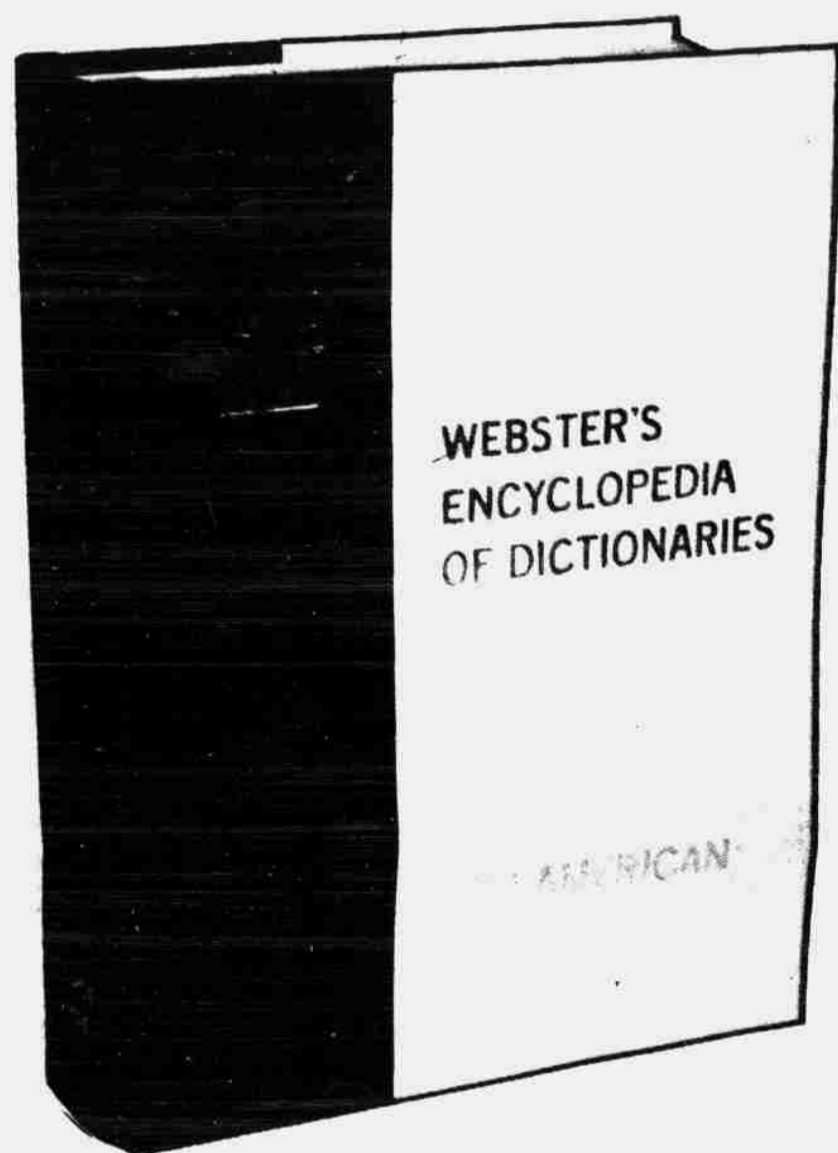
Committee considers final list

The committee charged to find a replacement for former Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Miles Tommeraasen is now considering a final list of candidates, according to the committee chairman.

Wilma Crumley said the committee selected the candidates by the Dec. 18 deadline. She would not release the names on the list.

Tommeraasen resigned last semester.

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