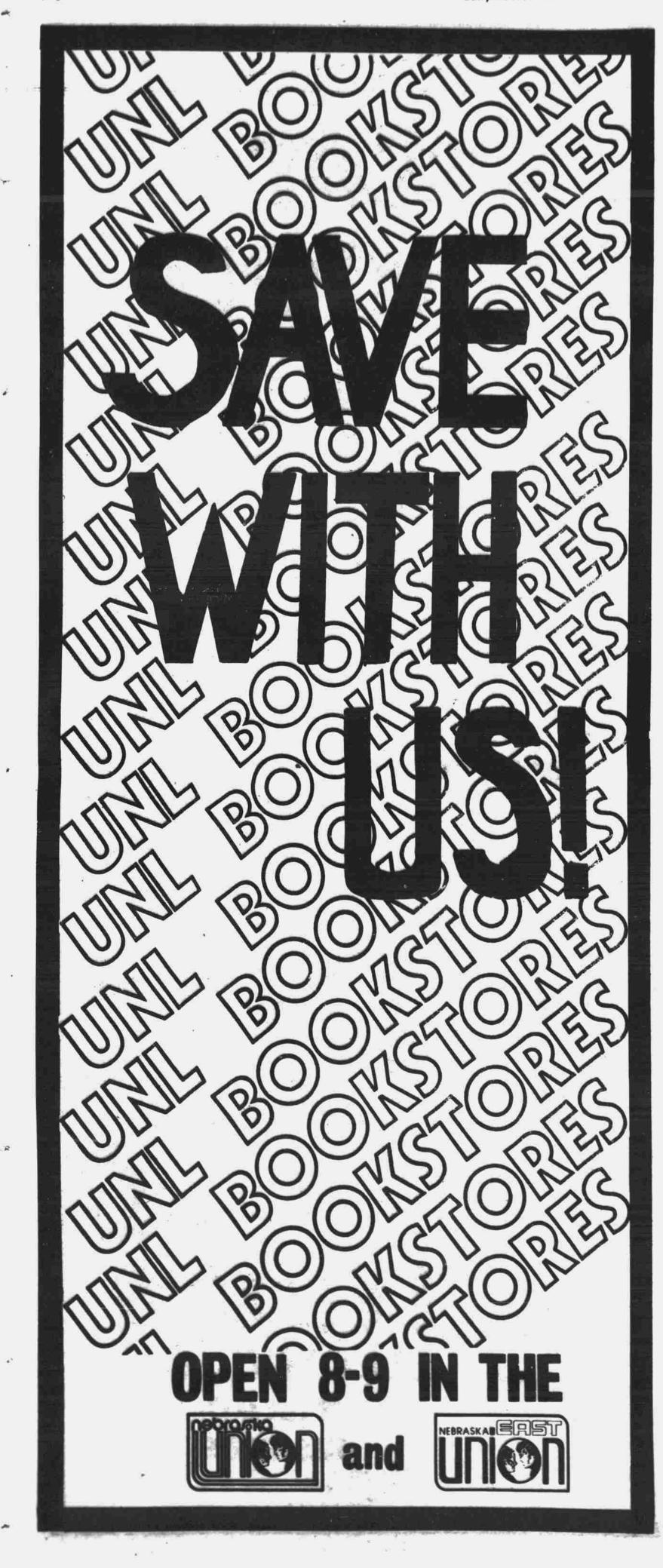
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## Union food services raise some prices

## **By Alice Hrnicek**

Recent price adjustments in the Nebraska and East Union's food services mean students will be paying more for smaller portions of some items.

According to Larry Brandt, executive food service manager of the Nebraska Unions, this will happen only with foods which previously were served in portions too large for their price.

Increases will be the same for foods served on both City and East Campuses, Brandt said:

Adjustments have been in effect since July 1 in the Harvest Room on City Campus and the Terraces in the East Campus Union.

French fries, for example have gone up in prices while portions were cut in half. Brandt said.

Other Union facilities undergoing changes are the Crib, vending machines, the Deli, the Cafe, contracting and catering.

Brandt said rising labor and raw food costs have prompted the price increases. The Unions' food operations have operated at a loss for several years, he said.

According to recommendations made in an audit of the unions by Touche Ross and Co., when an operation does not function properly, a decision must be made to either subsidize or to discontinue it. Brandt explained.

"Our goal is the highest quality food service at the lowest prices of off-campus food services. But we can't run at a loss."

Brandt, who worked for the unions since May 1, called balancing prices a challenge, he said. "We have no guaranteed income in food service. It's all generated through sales of foods."

The manager will work with the Nebraska Union Board Food Services Committee to monitor competitive prices, food product costs and other costs and services.

Moderate changes characterize food service prices today. Brandt emphasized. Each food service operation (cost center) in the unions is being evaluated and charges will be considered at mid-semester. "We are taking a hard look at the centers." he said.

Each operation's financial status will be monitored, he said. Acting upon the Union Board's advice, price adjustments will be made.

"If the costs go up in a given center, then the prices must also go up," Brandt said. "By the same philosophy, we will reduce prices if our costs should be reduced."

In the past, recruiting students to work in the food service facilities has been difficult, Brandt said. This

year, he said he plans an extensive campaign to encourage students to work in these areas.

He also said the Union Board is planning to develop a cost comparison between Union food services and offcampus competitors in the future.



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