

Library's computerized circulation system set to begin

By Nancy Ellis

A computerized circulation system which has been in the works for four years will begin operating in Love Library, Aug. 27, according to Brice Hobrock, assistant dean of libraries.

LIRS, Library Information Retrieval System, was publicized last spring but be-

cause of a number of complications, Hobrock said the new target date was set. Hardware failure and delivery problems from the system's vendor, Data Phase of Kansas City, contributed to the delay.

"We've been ready for six months, but are waiting on them," Hobrock said.

LIRS is a multifunction information access system which, Hobrock said, "will

ultimately make life easier for all of us."

The system, which Hobrock said isn't being used in any other major universities yet, will automatically store and file library transactions.

"The patron won't have to record anything," Hobrock explained. A sensitized number found inside every book, called an optical character code, and the automatic charge number in the upper right hand corner of the patron's library card will enable LIRS to automatically check out a book. Book renewals and holds will be handled in the same way instead of pulling from a manual file.

A special inquiry function, which is already operating, allows authorized personnel to check for book fines and overdue books and will block future check-outs, Hobrock said.

In addition to handling day-to-day transactions, Hobrock explained that multiple terminals located at UNO and the University of Nebraska Medical Center will give the staff access to books at all campuses and colleges. A computer bank in Love's basement is being programmed with information on books bought since August 1975, Hobrock said.

Five employees are working part time on the conversion, half of them labeling books and half on feeding information to the terminals, Hobrock said.

"We're linking codes with book information," Hobrock explained, allowing LIRS to retrieve information including a book's location, status, due date and call number. Aside from circulation information, Hobrock said LIRS can provide bibliographical information.

According to Dan Kloepper, UNL is LIRS coordinator, "the system links a lot of information together that is hard to find manually."

LIRS can find information by subject, title, or author and can tell us if other libraries have the information.

"Eventually we could handle almost any library on campus," Kloepper said.

Although library acquisitions have been cut, it won't effect LIRS, because "LIRS is funded out of foundation and utility surpluses from the 1977-78 fiscal year," Hobrock explained.

He admitted, however, that the system's \$1,200-a-month maintenance charges will be difficult to meet. They are being paid out of an operating fund.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Rebecca Ferguson demonstrates Love Library's new checkout system.

Registration need not be traumatic

General registration can be a real pain. But it doesn't have to be if students know where to go and what steps to take when they get there, according to Anthony Schkade, UNL assistant director of registration and records.

General registration will be Aug. 22-24 from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. Late registration, which costs an additional \$5, starts Monday, Aug. 27 and continues until Wednesday, Sept. 5. General registration hours also apply to late enrollment, except for a 3 p.m. closing date Sept. 5, Schkade said.

A student's first stop should be at the Administration Building, Room 103. This is downstairs on the lower level of the building.

In this room a worksheet, time appointment card, and fee card, which later be-

comes a temporary identification card may be obtained.

On the wall near the Crib on the main floor of the Nebraska Union a student can find a list of all closed classes.

The actual registration process will occur in the Union Ballroom on the second floor.

In the Ballroom, students will pay an advance registration deposit, draw class cards, fill out registration forms and check out.

Schkade said that, although the check-out step is often skipped, it is one of the most important. At checkout, the student hands in university copies of class cards.

"If the student leaves with all his (computer) material, we don't have anything to feed the computer. So he doesn't get registered," Schkade said.

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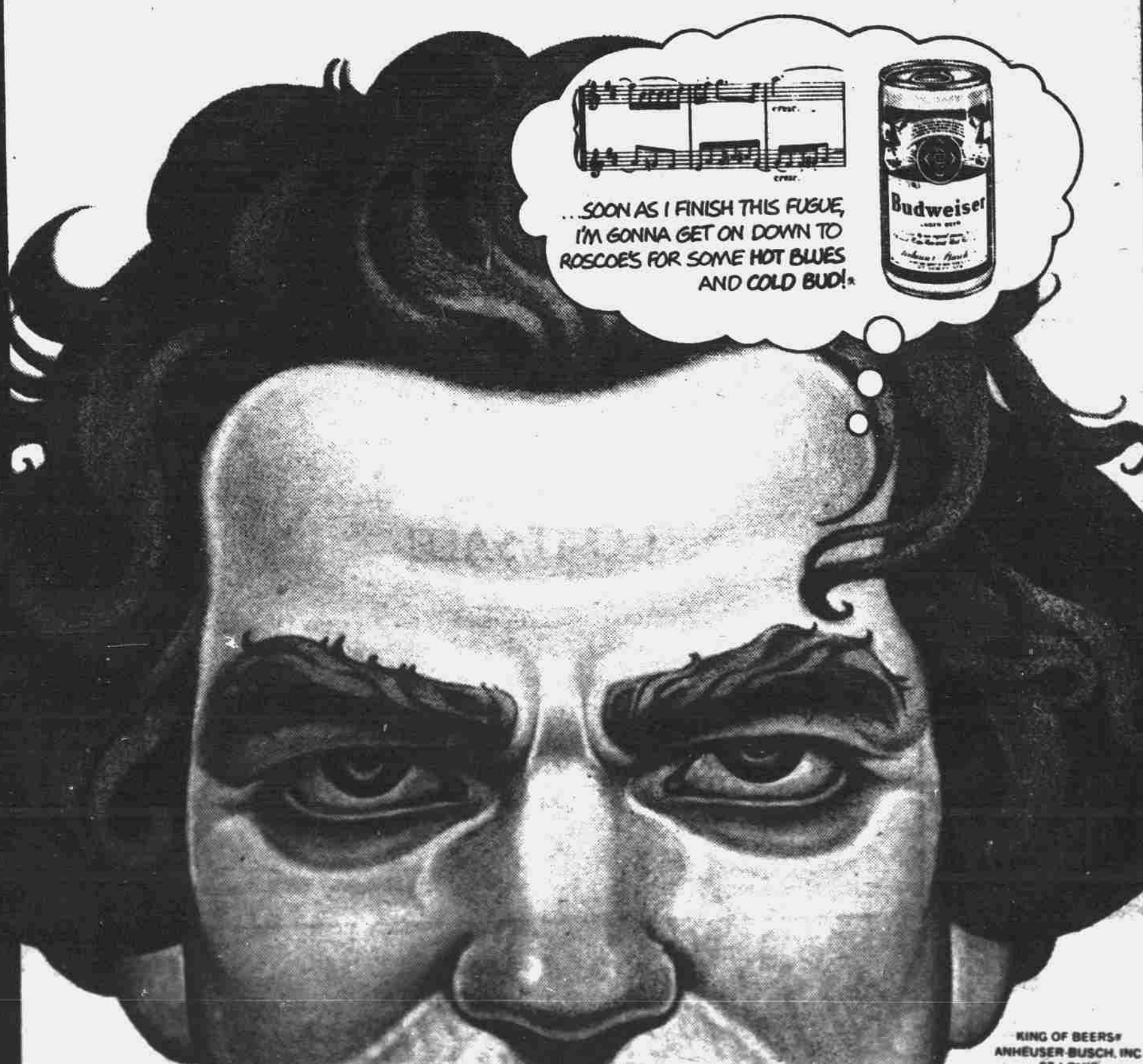
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Rushin' Greeks ready to pledge here this week

Panhellenic is still processing figures, but according to Jayne Anderson, UNL Panhellenic - IFC coordinator, 650-700 women should be on campus today for the opening day of formal rush.

There are no figures yet on men who went through fraternity summer rush, Anderson said.

Women will begin rush activities Aug. 22 with an orientation, and wind up with pledging Aug. 26. A mini-rush for men will be Aug. 24 and 25, according to Anderson.

Rush has remained unchanged from past years and according to Anderson, it is a substantial, solid program.

"Why change for change's sake?" Anderson said.

Collegiate rush chairpersons are Leroy Chapin and Liz Meyer.

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