

New aids director seeks awareness

By Alice Hrnicek

Insuring that no student leaves the university for financial reasons may seem an unreachable goal, but Don Aripoli, financial aids director, believes it may be possible.

Aripoli, new director since Aug. 1, is planning a number of changes that will make the office more available to students as well as increase the students' awareness of financial aid programs.

"The emphasis as long as I'm here is for students to come in and talk about their financial situation," Aripoli said. "There's no secret about how we decide the aid students receive. We want students to understand how they get the amount and type of financial aid they do."

An open office approach may not be new to the campus, he said. "While we can't promise the student will like what we decide, we will be certain the students will understand the guidelines and standards that led to the decisions."

Under consideration is expanding the number of hours the office is open to include evening hours, he said. This would accommodate students who work during the day, he added.

The director hopes to initiate programs explaining the process of applying for financial aids and related office practices to groups of students in residence halls, fraternities, sororities and apartment complexes which house students. He added that staff members are currently available to speak to groups of ten or more upon request.

Before the end of the semester, he would like to head a personal finance seminar to instruct students about practical problems faced in everyday situations.

"We'd include things students who will be out in the real world in a year or so need to know," he said.

A campaign to encourage more students to apply for financial aid for the next session is one of the office's major concerns, Aripoli stressed. "I can't say that if you apply you will get aid, but I can guarantee that if you don't try you won't." He added that more aid is available than last year.

Plans have begun to expand the job locating service to include more off-campus positions in the Lincoln area, he said. "We are sending a mass mailer to employers to ask them to list jobs with us," he said.

Kenya tour planned

In Swahili, "safari" means "to travel." A UNL study tour to Kenya planned for this winter will be a safari in every sense of the word, organizer Don Young said.

Young, a graduate history student, organized the safari to Kenya as part of the Flights and Study Tours program.

The safari is the first university study tour ever offered to Africa, he said.

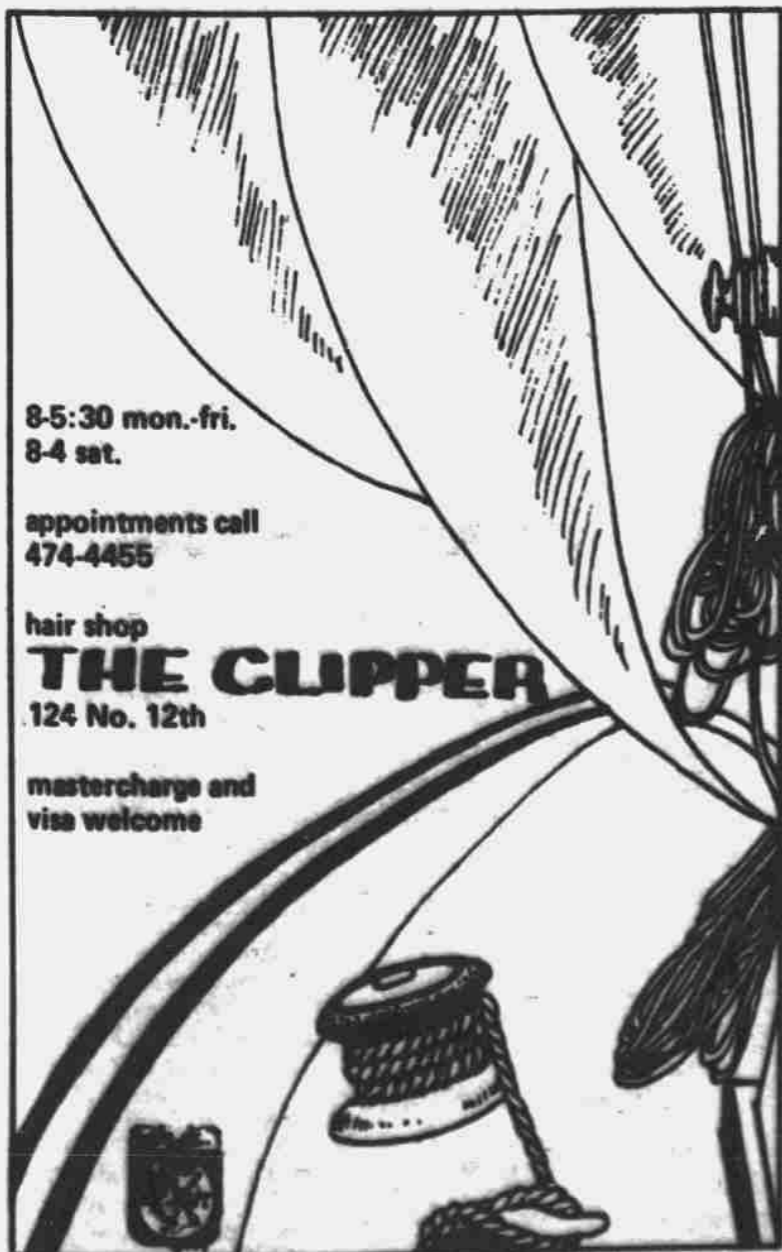
He said the trip is well worth the cost of \$1,850. Airplane tickets account for one-half the cost, and the rest covers food and equipment for the two-week trip from Dec. 28 to Jan. 13.

The tour is non-credit, but Young said credit is available for interested students. He said the safari is open to anyone, but students will receive priority.

Everything will be waiting for the group at the Nairobi airport, he said, including tents, sleeping bags and provisions. The group will leave immediately for the country, he said.

Young called the trip a unique learning experience. He said there will be time to stop along the way and give tour members a chance to photograph, sketch, or talk to local people.

Young said six of the 15 places have been filled.



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