

daily nebraskan

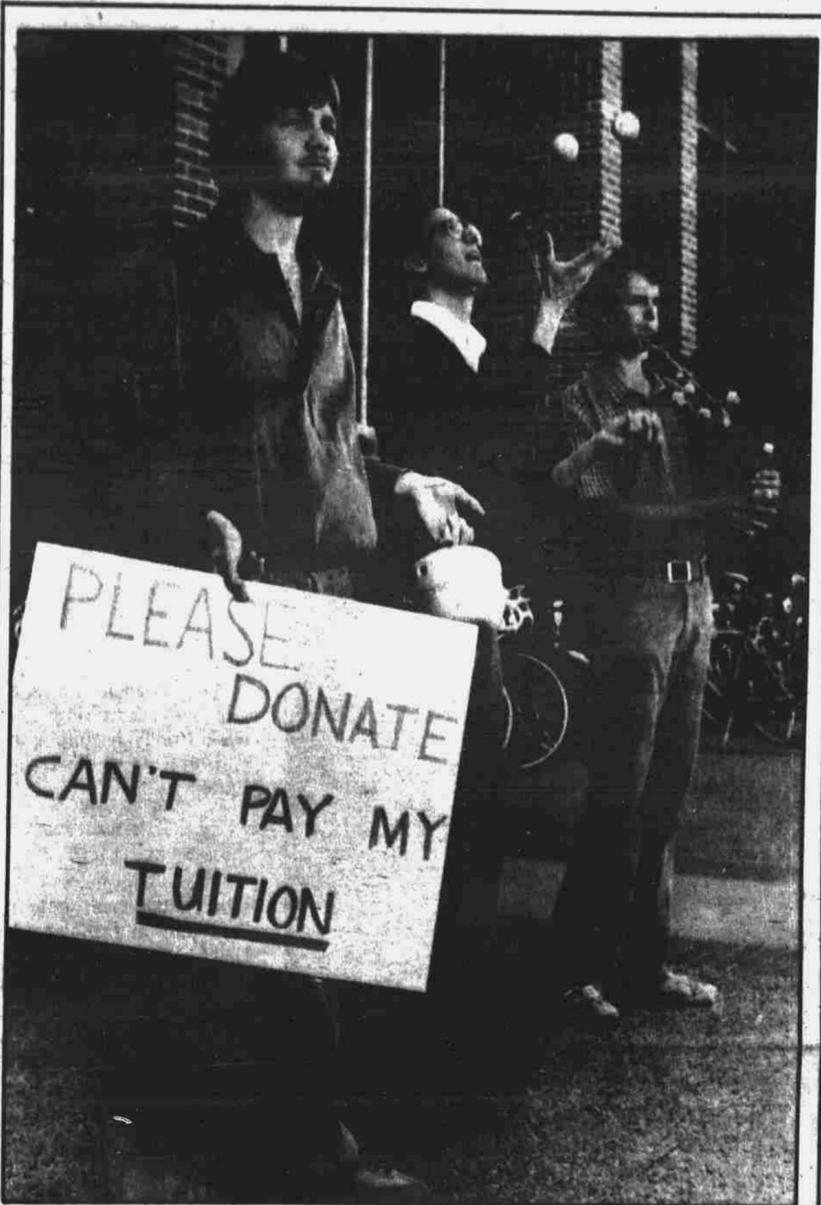


Photo by Mike Sweeney

Tuition protest

As ASUN senators collected signatures Thursday afternoon protesting the recent 10 percent tuition increase, Jim McAllister, political science sophomore, Tom Payne, agronomy junior and Mark Hirschfeld, political science junior collected money for their education.

"We just wanted something to catch people's attention that we're unhappy

that the regents did not hold a public hearing for the tuition increase and that they passed it in the summer," Hirschfeld said. "We're concerned that we have one of the highest tuition rates in the Big Eight, but we have the lowest paid faculty. And if they don't get the money, where does the money go?"

At the end of their performance, the trio had collected \$2.07.

Separate Ag College effort still possible by 'Ag 40'

By Craig Nelson

A spokesman for the group instrumental in creating the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL says that the possibility of another effort by his group to create a separate college of agriculture at the university "cannot be ruled out."

It has been six years since the office of the vice chancellor for IANR was established at UNL.

Prior to 1973, the departments now under IANR were under the direction of the academic affairs office.

The change was the result of a compromise between a group of individuals who wanted an agricultural college established separate from UNL, and those who wanted the situation to remain as it was.

The change, which was approved by the Legislature, went into effect in 1973.

The group that fought for this change is known as the "Ag 40 Group."

THE "AG 40 Group" is a group of about 40 individuals who represent almost every agricultural organization in the state. These individual agricultural organizations select their own representative to the Ag 40 Group.

Eugene Glock of Rising City, who is the chairman of the Ag 40 Action Committee, said that the group was originally formed because "we felt something needed to be done to get grass root support for the agricultural programs at the university."

"The group's purpose is to support the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL," Glock said. "We do this by serving as a type of advisory group to the Vice Chancellor of the Institute. We look at the budget, review the programs currently offered by the Institute, and then make our recommendations."

"It is a shame that with the importance of agriculture in Nebraska, not more of a

priority is placed on the agricultural programs at the university," Glock said.

Martin Massengale, Vice Chancellor of the Institute, agreed that "agriculture is the most important industry in the state."

"WE CONSTANTLY try to listen to ideas from groups such as the Ag 40 in an attempt to make our program better," said Massengale. "But we do not look at one interest group as being more important than another. We look at all groups as equals."

NU President Ronald Roskens welcomed the contributions the "Ag 40 Group" has made and continues to make in regard to the institute.

"Their group is a good representative of grass root agricultural impetus in Nebraska," Roskens said.

"The group is made up of competent individuals, and we appreciate their attempt to make clearer to us the real agricultural needs of the state," he added.

But the question of a separate agriculture college keeps recurring. Massengale said that he is questioned about this subject occasionally when he travels outstate, but sees no widespread support in the state for a separate agriculture college.

That doesn't rule out another effort by the "Ag 40 Group" to generate interest in a separate agriculture college.

"We currently have a committee working on a 5-year program for the Institute," Glock said. "We want to look at how the Institute will fit into the academic and budgetary picture of the university in the coming years."

"We have not always been satisfied with the progress the Institute has made over the past several years," he added.

"We are continuing to evaluate our options in regard to the Institute and a separate ag college. I wouldn't rule out the possibility of another effort by our group to establish a separate ag school."

Counseling centers ready to help when pressures mount

College life.

Sweaters, football games, fellowship, social life, romances and pressure all are part of it. The pressure can come from classes, parents and spouses, and, according to a mental health professional, can lead to the end of college life.

"For freshmen, the university is overwhelming. Some of them may have been leaders in their high schools and they come here and find out everybody is a leader," said Dr. Robert Heins, director of the student health center's mental health unit.

Heins said the unit is trying to make students—especially freshmen—aware of the help available at student health. People may be hesitant to seek counseling because of the stigma associated with emotional problems, he said.

"But we can help. Our program is very action oriented. Many of the people we see visit only four times," Heins said.

Among the problems faced by the 600 students who seek help each year from the mental health unit are adjustment problems, problems with parents, spouses, marijuana and alcohol.

Marijuana, Heins said, is a common and serious problem for some students. Students smoke marijuana "to tolerate their classes," he said. But daily use can lead to psychological addiction, and students cannot get motivated for classes.

"IT RELIEVES the anxiety of school, but pretty soon some of these people can't function as students."

Heins said sometimes students reach the point of not being able to do their work because of pressure and not

because of drug use. Studying all of the time they are not in class can sometimes cause problems for married students, he said.

"These people often wouldn't have marital problems if they weren't in school," Heins said.

Although Heins said he is especially concerned about problems freshmen may have adjusting to college, an equal number of students from each grade level come to the unit for help.

"Older students are more likely to come with their own problems rather than problems with school," he said. Often, upperclassmen have had psychology classes and aren't as hesitant to seek help as those who attach a stigma to mental health care, according to Heins.

"We think the strong people come in. Perhaps they have endured a problem for a long time, and they want to change it, and they know they need help," Heins said.

LEAVING SCHOOL because of pressure, Heins said, is similar to escaping by using alcohol or other drugs to cope with problems.

The director of another mental health organization on campus said he expects more people to visit the UNL Counseling Center with the onslaught of the semester's first hour exams.

Vaughn Williams, with the UNL Counseling Center, said hour exams, rather than finals and the beginning of the school year, bring more students to the center.

The counseling center, located in Seaton Hall 1316, has eight trained counselors to help students with academics, career planning or personal conflicts.

Williams said close to one-half of the people who visit the center seek career direction, and the other half is

divided between school, roommate, romantic and other problems.

Few students visit the center because they are considering quitting school, Williams said.

"It seems that personal problems don't play a large part in leaving school," he said. "The vast majority leave because they have no money, decide they are not getting much out of it, or find some other kind of training more to their liking."

One-half of the students who visit the center are freshmen, Williams said, and most people come an average of two to three times.

Williams said his staff attempts to follow up on most students they counsel.

The difference between the counseling center and the mental health unit of student health is that the health center has psychiatrists, who can prescribe drugs, and the counseling center has psychologists. However, Heins said the health center has only 20 to 30 cases a year requiring the use of medication.

inside friday

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