

Maintenance working conditions nightmare-carpenter

By Wayde Ulrich

The working conditions at the UNL Maintenance Department are a nightmare said James E. Young, a journeyman carpenter at UNL.

"There is no safety program in our department. Men inhaling dangerous fumes and breathing toxic dust they don't even realize is a threat," Young said.

Young first made these accusations in a letter to the Editor of the Lincoln Star.

Young said that the personal files of employees have been abused.

"Items have been removed from files by the administration and reports inserted in files without notification of the employees involved," Young said.

Young added that the director of the Physical Plant, before a group of 90 people included 25 carpenters, said that he (the director) was as good a carpenter as any of them.

When asked about the statements made by Young, Harley Schrader, Director of the Physical Plant, said the statements are not due any comment.

"The accusations have no validity and are not worth the time to comment on," Schrader said.

Young said that his supervisor, Ray Campbell, made a personal accusation towards him.

"He abusively accused me, by name and with pointed finger, of writing graffiti on restroom walls," Young said.

Campbell, the construction carpenter supervisor said he had no comment about the accusation.

"The matter is being handled internally and until the department releases a statement I have nothing to say," he said.

Young also said there have been many accidents in the past couple of years.

"We've had a broken shoulder, injuries to hands, and many other accidents," he said.

Young said he has asked his supervisor about the lack of a safety program and empty first-aid kits.

Young said that when he questioned his supervisor about these problems, he was told that "production is the priority here, not employee safety" and that "each employee has to look out for his own safety."

Young further said the apprenticeship program that has been in existence for two years is badly run.

"In fact, apprentices are taught nothing about their trades, are assigned to journeymen on a day-to-day basis with no job continuity and are often used as a cheap labor crew," he said.

Jerry Delhay manager at the Maintenance Department said he had no comment about the statements made by Young.

"There are channels Mr. Young can go through to express his claims in the personnel department," he said.

Young said that for the past two years every man in the department was required to work 15 minutes overtime everyday. He also said the evaluation system is abused.

"It's been predetermined by the head of the Physical Plant that employees grades will average a two on a scale

of one to four. I've been advised by my superior that a four is 'for someone who's perfect,' so no fours," Young said, "This defeats the entire purpose of an evaluation system."

Young said he believes he has much support within the department.

"There are other people in maintenance who have the same feelings as I do, but I guess they're not as outspoken as I am," he said.

Young also said the apprenticeship program is discriminatory toward women and minorities.

Young said he was fired a month ago for insubordination. "I was reinstated after I went to talk with the personnel department," he said, "I think I was fired because I encouraged the men to speak on their own behalf."

Budget...

Continued from Page 1

Senator John Parsons asked where the funds would go if the 15 percent increase is approved. Young said 11 percent would go for faculty increases. Of that 11 percent, 10 percent would be allocated for salaries and 1 percent for fringe benefits. Another 1 percent would be for operational supplies and utilities each, he said, with the remainder to be spent on program improvement.

The UNL campus is falling behind the other campuses of the university system and the UNL instructors specifically are falling behind, Senator Brad Belt said. Young said, "We (UNL) have just about had our share."

Programs that are not on a list to be cut if the increase is not approved include the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Engineering, Young said, adding that is not saying that any colleges not mentioned are automatically on the list of cuts.

Young said there were many factors, among them poor faculty salaries, influencing UNL teachers to unionize. He blamed an inadequate budget for the problems with the computer system.

Wright said all computer use was cut, including administrative use, and many people didn't understand that the system still has to be paid for.

"This is a wealthy state," Young said. Faculty salaries have dropped but per capita income is up, he said.

"The dollars are there," Young said, but added that the tax rate is relatively low.

Agriculture college plans parents' day

More than 200 parents and students Saturday will get an in-depth look at the College of Agriculture and some of its programs.

The UNL Agronomy Club is holding its eighth annual parents day and will sponsor tours of East Campus and various research projects as well as holding a banquet for participants, according to Gary Tuxhorn, publicity officer for the club.

Invitations were sent to agronomy, soil science, agricultural honors and general agricultural students and their parents. Faculty members also are encouraged to attend, Tuxhorn said.

Tuxhorn said the day is a service to the university and gives parents an opportunity to see what is going on.

"This is kind of a chance for parents to get acquainted with faculty members and the university. They would not have an opportunity to see this much otherwise. It is also a good opportunity for students to see projects and research not related to their major," Tuxhorn said.

Barbra Streisand
Wet

including:

- No More Tears (Enough Is Enough) (Duet With Donna Summer)
- Niagara
- After The Rain
- I Ain't Gonna Cry Tonight





DIRT CHEAP RECORDS
XMAS SALE 10:30-10



217 No. 11th / 477-6061

DRIVE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

LET'S SEE...
IF I DIVIDE THE
DAILY RATE
BY 37



As low as:

\$5.28

per day

No mileage charge

Call now for reservations: 474-4301



We feature GM cars like this Chevy Chevette.

National Car Rental

We offer S & H Green Stamp certificates on rentals in all 50 U.S. states.

