Fund deficit closes Faculty Club cafeteria

By Kent Warneke

The UNL Faculty Club will end its cafeteria services in the Alumni House Dec. 14 because of a lack of funds, the president of the club said.

Donald Pierce said he believes there are many reasons why the Faculty Club is no longer able to get sufficient funds to keep its current five day a week noon meal facilities.

"There is obviously competition, because people like to eat at different places," Pierce said. "But also, with prices of food increasing, the number of brown-baggers has increased tremendously. And also quite a few faculty and staff members have started using their lunch hours for athletic type of activities."

The Faculty Club began in the early 1950s with a faculty dining room on the second floor of the Nebraska Union, with the purpose of sponsoring fellowship and good food, Pierce said.

"It is an invaluable thing to be able to interchange ideas with other faculty members, not just in your own department, but also in other departments," Pierce said.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB has been limited to members of the UNL faculty. In the late 1950s, the club moved to the basement of the Alumni Association House, he said.

A cafeteria-type line existed for several years, but with the food standards increasing, the need to move out of the basement became apparent with drawbacks in food preparation, Pierce said.

Pierce said it was about then that the university added to the back of the Alumni House, partially financed by donations through the UNL Foundation by faculty members.

"Student union personnel was then put into use at the Faculty Club, up until this current year, when they found that they were not making any money with food prices increasing," Pierce said.

"They asked to withdraw their support from our program at that time," Pierce said. "And we have been unsuccessful since that time to run a financially solvent operation."

PIERCE SAID many things were done in an attempt to increase membership in the Faculty Club and increase use of the cafeteria.

"We had a membership drive to try and get more UNL faculty members to become members and consequently pay their $24 a year dues," Pierce said. "And we tried to work out parking problems so East Campus personnel could easily eat here, in addition to all of the personal talking current members have done."

All university staff can use the Faculty Club, and according to Pierce an average of 100 persons used to eat at every meal offered by the club. Now the average is down to 75, at its best.

Membership numbers also are down considerably from a high of 300 to the present 150 members, Pierce said.

Pierce said the Faculty Club will remain an organization even after the Dec. 14 closing, in hope the cafeteria can open again.

"For right now, we have talked to Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Unions, to see if we could work anything out with union facilities. But at this time, it doesn't look like anything will really work out," Pierce said.

Pierce added that he believes the Alumni Association will make use of the cafeteria after the closing until its new facilities are ready.

"This is putting an end to a very enjoyable experience, the meeting together of UNL faculty and staff members, and we have had a small, but faithful group through the years," Pierce said.

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short stuff

Application deadline for two national internships, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Geology Intern Program, is Jan. 8, 1980. Students interested should contact Millie Katz, coordinator for experiential education, Oldfather 1218, 472-1452.

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The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

* * *

The UNL Dance Department's senior dance class will perform at 7 p.m. in Mabel Lee Hall 304.

* * *

The Campus Scouts will meet Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the State Capitol. A progressive dinner will follow the sing.

calendar

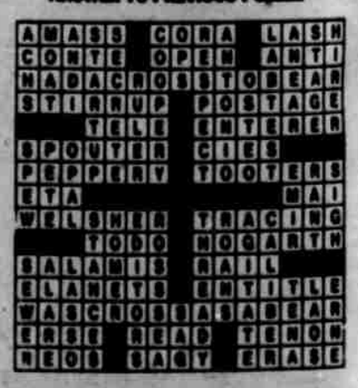
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.–Recreation Department-Big 8 Intramural Sports Conference, Georgian Suite A.

10:30-11:30 a.m., & 12:30-1:30 p.m.–Bowling Exams, The Rostrum.

1-2 p.m.–Muslim Student Association, Room 401.

2-4 p.m.–Student Y Jazz Group, South Crib.

7-8:30 p.m.–Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Regency Suite A.

7:30-10 p.m.–Chi Alpha Campus Ministry, Room 402.

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