

# Health Center request approved

By Kathy Stokebrand

The Committee for Fees Allocation approved the University Health Center budget request as it was submitted at its meeting Thursday night.

The budget request calls for an increase in student fee support of \$2.93 per student per semester. The actual health fee portion of University Program and Facilities Fees would then be \$32.62.

"This year I feel that after looking at the budget that their request for increases is justified and because I as a student want to see the services remain the same I move that we approve the Health Center's budget request," said CFA member Rocky Yapp III. The motion to allocate \$1,386,275 to the center passed unanimously.

Steve Blom, administrator of the Health Center, said the largest increase in the budget resulted from a 10 percent salary increase for staff members. The university budget before the Legislature requests a 10 percent salary increase across the board said Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs.

### Personal satisfaction

Even so, "there is no way we can pay our doctors and nurses what similar professionals are getting in the rest of the community. There must be some personal satisfaction from working at the Health Center involved," Blom said.

The other major element increasing the budget request this year is the utility bill, Blom said. Last year the Legislature withdrew utility funds for the Health Center. Blom estimated the utility bill for 1980-81 would be about \$30,000.

"Our feeling is that, as much as possible, the students want all of the services that we offer," said Blom. The budget calls for no student fee funded program additions or expansions, just the continuation of present services, he said.

If the request budget was not approved, Dr. Garland Bare, medical director of the Health Center, said "the health aid program could be jeopardized."

### Used as model

The program, which was initiated at UNL and has been used as a model on other campuses enables the Health Center to get by with the fewest physicians in student health centers in the Big Eight, Bare said.

In looking for areas to make cuts, "The question comes up 'Do we need round-the-clock service on campus?' Every time we save a life I say yes we need the 24-hour service, even if it is an expense," Bare said.

Blom said the dental department could be self-supporting.

"Our biggest problem is students don't show up for their appointments. Otherwise it could be self-supporting," Bare said.

Yapp asked if the NU Board of Regents would consider adopting a dependable income increase policy for facilities that project beyond one year, such as the unions and the Health Center. More efficient long-range planning could be done that way, he said.

Armstrong said as long as the regents have the feelings they do about student fees it would be extremely difficult to get them to take such action.

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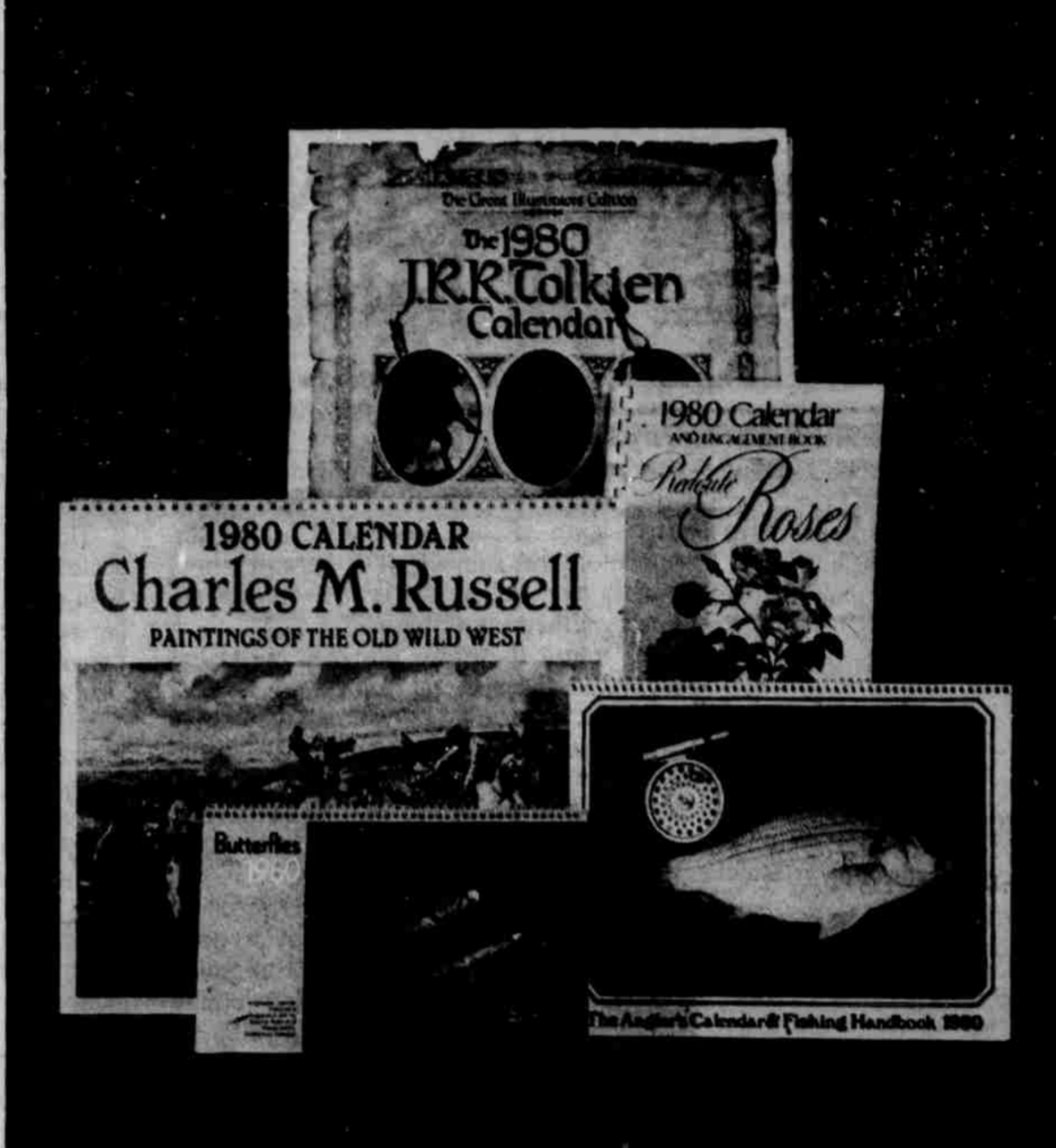
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