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daily nebraskan

GIUSEPPE'S Mentors steer student ambitions

By Lori McGinnis

Educators in the Office of Student Affairs and Teachers College have developed a program to give UNL students a systematic method of achieving their goals.

The mentor program matches students with a faculty member to help students develop and reach their goals, according to David DeCoster, dean of students.

Once a student and a mentor are matched, the student completes a self-assessment inventory to find strengths and weaknesses, DeCoster said.

After the student assesses himself, he and the mentor set goals for self-improvement. The student and mentor then identify ways to achieve these goals.



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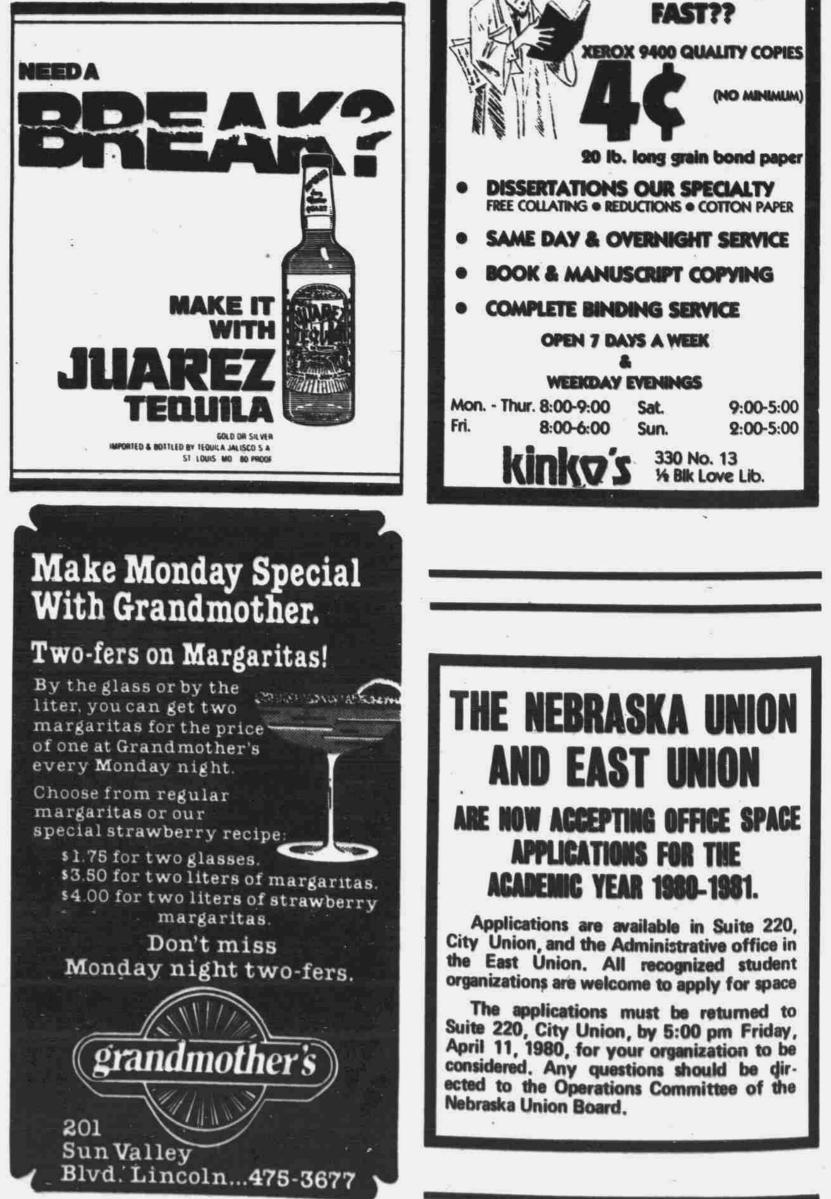
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The next step is evaluating the student and documenting skills and accomplishments on a developmental transcript. This transcript is proof the person has developed skills, said Jane Baack, assistant to the dean of students.

There are six areas in which the mentor program attempts to help students develop: personal identity and lifestyle; interpersonal competencies and relationships; academic and intellectual; aesthetic awareness; health, physical fitness and recreation; and multicultural awareness.

There are 24 mentors from the Office of Student Affairs and the Teachers College at UNL. DeCoster said he hopes the program will expand next year to in. clude more colleges. Any student can have a mentor, he said. There are 30 students now with mentors.

After a student gets a mentor, the two can meet as often as they wish, Baack said, adding that some meet once a week.

They discuss the student's progress and see if there is anything preventing him from reaching his goals, Baack said.

The program can improve the student's educational ex. periences, DeCoster said.

"It is an enrichment of the education process."

