

Safety rules, lack of money cause class crowding

By Brad Kuhn

A lack of money and a shortage of classroom space are the causes of overcrowding in many required and some popular elective courses, said Tony Schkade, UNL's assistant director of registration and records.

The problem is most severe in sections meeting between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., he said.

Student enrollment is so high during this period that there are no rooms available to divide a class into additional sections.

In 1967-68, the university had 211 general purpose classrooms. At that time, 17,563 students were enrolled at the university.

Ten years later, the enrollment at UNL was nearly 23,000 students. At that time, the number of available classrooms had dwindled to 163 general purpose rooms, with an additional 10 rooms available for varying department conditions.

The other rooms were converted to office space when growing enrollment and expanding curriculum required

an increase in faculty members and more departmental offices.

Ray Coffey, UNL business manager, said the student capacity of a room is determined by two factors. The overriding rule is a guideline set by the Fire Safety Commission. The guideline limits capacity of rooms with only one exit to 50 students. Rooms with easily removable first floor windows may be considered to have more than one exit.

The second factor is a formula derived by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, which determines the number of students a room may handle based on the square footage of the room. Coffey said that an effort is made to allow for visual obstructions such as structural columns and alcoves.

However, occasionally a mistake is made. For instance, Room 208 in Burnett is a second floor room with one exit. Fire safety dictates a maximum capacity of 50 students. However, the room was mistakenly booked as having a capacity of 72 students.

"Ideally, if you want the perfect situation, you should

arrange your classrooms like a military academy," Schkade said.

"The rooms are all exactly the same, with classes fixed at 35 students."

Class assignments at UNL are based on information from three departments: business, institutional research and planning, and the office of registration and records.

"The place where a class meets can make or break a course," Schkade said.

"At the start of a semester, the place where a class meets is really important. But if you ask a professor today what room he wanted last year that he didn't get, he probably will not remember."

Schkade said he thinks the cramped situation might be alleviated by scheduling more classes in the early mornings and evenings. He suggested an alternative program that would create a situation of uniform class length, shortening the current Tuesday and Thursday classes. This would leave teachers and class rooms available for more classes.

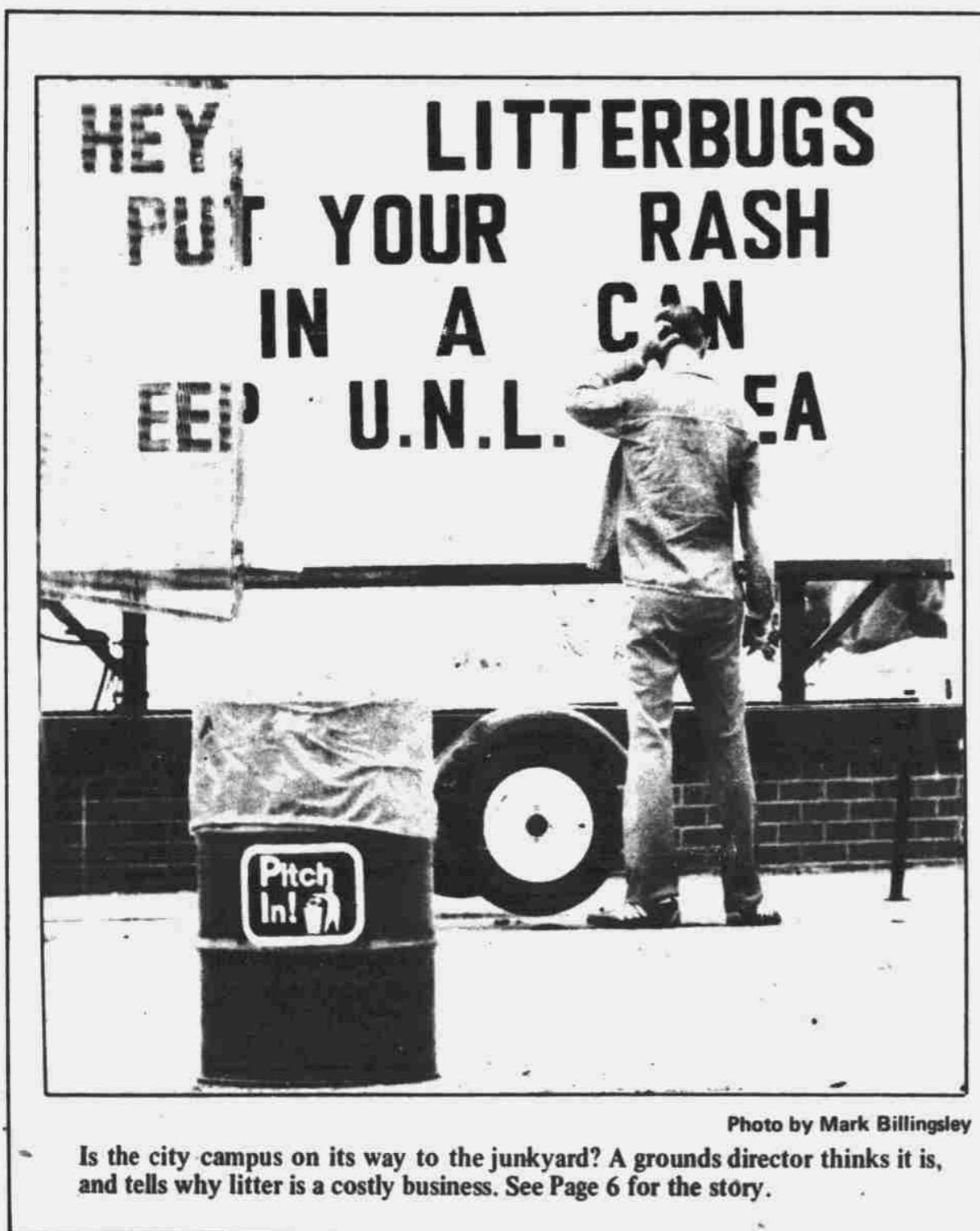


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Is the city campus on its way to the junkyard? A grounds director thinks it is, and tells why litter is a costly business. See Page 6 for the story.

Center counsels convicts

By Mary Kempkes

Last week, a UNL student was directed to a Lincoln drug center for drug rehabilitation following a felony drug conviction.

This week, Kevin Urbom, 21, begins his two to four month sentence at the Lincoln Post Care Center. Counselors there will attempt to "give him a different outlook on life" and drugs, said its director, Dr. Miriam Haworth.

Urbom, an Arapahoe native and a former Kearney State College student, was sentenced and fined \$2,000 Sept. 3 in U.S. District Court after earlier pleading guilty to attempted manufacture of a hallucinogenic drug. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, and a \$10,000 fine.

But U.S. District judge Donald O'Brien of Sioux City, Iowa, gave Urbom probation—through the center—of not less than 60 or more than 120 days. O'Brien was named to the case after Nebraska's federal judges disqualified themselves from the case because of the defendant's uncle, chief of the U.S. District Court Warren K. Urbom of Lincoln.

O'Brien said Kevin Urbom would have received a prison term, but provisions in the Youth Corrections Act do not allow for both prison and probation.

Urbom will benefit from probationary treatment at the center, O'Brien said, because in addition to the counseling he will receive, the student can continue classes at UNL.

Dr. Haworth, a psychologist for the Department of Correctional Services and coordinator of chemical dependency pro-

gram, said Urbom will have check-in and check-out times and will not be free "to just run around."

Although Dr. Haworth said she could not release specific information about a patient's care, she gave examples of routines Urbom is likely to undergo at the center.

Urbom will be assigned a cubicle-sized bedroom at the Lincoln Post Care Center, in air-park, a dormitory-like building, Haworth said. Group therapy sessions with small groups of the faculty's 80-100 inmates will become part of his life.

She said group therapy is a tool used extensively by center counselors.

"It's not so much what we tell them (inmates) as what they can discover for themselves," she said.

"We hope to obtain—we hope the man will obtain—a different lifestyle and that he will look at what he is doing and look at the consequences of his behavior. Then he can alter his self-defeating behavior so he will stay out of prison."

A 1977 study by the center showed its patients averaged 18 percent recidivism, meaning that 18 percent of the patients released committed another crime and returned to prison.

"But you can't tell if they're back on drugs if they're out on their own," she said.

The chemical dependency staff also uses a variety of psychological approaches, Haworth said, and tries to "look at the total person. The whole is bigger than the sum of the parts."

Haworth's 20 counselors work in the men and women's centers in Lincoln, Omaha and at the penitentiary.

Graduate's travel, teaching are 'success story'

By Patti Gallagher

He jokingly termed his tale "the success story of a UNL graduate from Omaha."

Well, if you call spending a year in a Japanese university, working for Time-Life magazine and winning a full-ride scholarship to work on your Ph.D. successful, then Doug Rice fits the bill.

Rice, 22, is a 1979 UNL graduate in anthropology and Asian studies. He also received a Kawasaki travel grant in 1977. The grant enabled him to spend his junior year in Japan.

Rice said he began his 10-month stay in Japan not knowing how to say hello in Japanese. But, he learned it quickly at Nanzan University in Nagoya with help from professors who taught English.

In addition to the language, Rice studied Japanese history, culture and politics.

Rice's non-academic pursuits in Japan were studying

Zen Buddhism, photographing Japanese life, learning martial art similar to judo and going to bars.

In a bar in Japan, Rice said a friend introduced him to a Japanese man named Doug. The man was ecstatic at meeting an American named Doug.

"Doug? like Douglas MacArthur? the man asked. "Here, I buy you a drink." And he did, Rice said.

The Japanese are very accepting of Americans, Rice said, although they tend to be a close-knit society.

"You're a visitor, and you'll always be a visitor," Rice said.

Rice said he was often approached by Japanese asking, "Are you an American?" He said that his height gave him away.

Rice returned to UNL in 1978 to complete his senior year. The day before graduation ceremonies, Rice was off to Japan again.

During the summer of 1979, Rice and Peter Bleed, chairman of the department, went to Toyko for arch-

eological research. Funded by National Geographic, the international crew studied social organizations in Toyko for three months.

After the summer in Toyko, Rice returned to Nagoya for another academic year. This time, however, he was the teacher.

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