

# perspectives/on the economy

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## University costs follow general rise in prices

By Kathy-Stokebrand

The college years are the first time many people realize how inflated prices can strain their checking accounts. Budgeting suddenly becomes a real concern for many students.

Here is a look at some of the specific costs most students must cope with.

**Tuition.** Yes, college is expensive entertainment, folks. For the 1980-81 academic year, Nebraska residents are paying \$26.50 per credit hour. That is \$2.50 more per credit hour than a year ago.

Non-residents are paying \$72 per credit hour this year. They paid \$65 per credit hour a year ago.

Ten years ago tuition was \$18 per credit hour for residents for each hour up to 12 hours, Bursar James Wickless said. Any hours taken in a semester from 12 through 16 were free, he said. For 17 hours and more, \$18 per credit hour was charged again. From February, 1948 to September, 1969, any hours taken over 12 were free, Wickless said.

**UNL ENROLLMENT** has increased 2 percent since last year. A record 24,132 students enrolled this fall. For the fall semester of 1970, 20,810 students were enrolled, according to Chris Lodes, statistical technician for Institutional Research and Planning.

The basic necessities of food and shelter have increased, too. The cost of a double room and food for the 1980 academic year in a UNL dorm is \$1,555, Coordinator for Residence Hall Administration Guriana Wittstruck said. That amount increased by \$130 since 1979. Since 1970 room and board costs for an academic year have increased 43.4 percent. The 1970 cost was \$880.

As of Aug. 31, 1980 the Office of University Housing had 5,314 student contracts, Wittstruck said. There has been a general increase in the number of housing contracts made by students in the last ten years, she added. On Sept. 18, 1980 there were 5,011 student contracts with University Housing, she said. However, a gradual decline in occupancy within the next ten years is expected, she said.

**AS WITH** other living quarters, the cost of living in a Greek house has increased, said Jayne Anderson, coordinator of sororities, fraternities and cooperatives.

"I don't know of one house that doesn't work to keep costs low," she said. Most houses have the added expense of paying property taxes to the city, she added.

According to the 1980 rush brochures, the average cost for an active to live in a sorority during 1980-81 is \$1,513. The average fraternity cost is \$1,600. Individual house costs may be higher or lower but most of them are comparable to dorm rates, she said.

Cheap entertainment seems to be a thing of the past. NU football tickets this year sold for \$35. A year ago they were \$25, but there was also one less game, Ticket Office Manager Helen Wagner said. In 1970 a student football ticket cost \$12.50.

**NU BASKETBALL** tickets this year cost \$10. In 1970 they were \$5.25. Revenue from ticket sales helps support the athletic department, said Business Manager William Fischer. The price of athletic tickets went up because of inflation, according to Fischer.

The spirits many people enjoy while watching and or listening to Nebraska football have gone up in price right along with

the tickets. A six-pack of beer costs almost \$2.30, the late Herm Strackbein said in an interview three weeks ago.

Strackbein was the owner of Herm's Liquor Store, 1644 P St. for 25 years. A six-pack cost about \$1.45 ten years ago, he estimated.

"Business is still good," Herm said, in spite of the higher prices.

Charlie Nichelson, owner of Ace Liquor, 4741 Holdrege St., has been in the liquor business for 10 years. There has been a national trend toward more beer and wine sales in proportion to hard liquor sales, he said. The price of all alcohol has increased at about the same rate, he added.

**AN ADULT** movie ticket in Lincoln today averages \$3. Paul Ellsberry, manager of Douglas 3 Theatres, 1300 P St., has worked with movie theaters since 1945. In 1970 an adult movie ticket cost \$2, he estimated.

The largest group of moviegoers today are between the ages of 10 and 35, he said. Years earlier the crowd was of a wider age range, but now shows are slanted more for a younger audience, he said.

Each time prices increase, Ellsberry said, he has noted an accompanying decrease in movie attendance. Therefore, about the same amount of money is made as before the price increase, he said.

The consumer price index, which most people refer to for the inflation rate, has gone up 113 percent since 1970, UNL Economics Professor Wallace Peterson said.

In other words, the price of most things has more than doubled. Although few of the prices outlined here have increased to that extent, many have nearly doubled.

## Marriage weathers work, school mixture

By Lori McGinnis

For Randy and Becky Hall, the economic pinch means fitting classes, studying and working into a 24-hour day while still needing time for their married life.

"It's hard sometimes," said Randy, 24, a junior criminal justice major. Randy works 35 to 37 hours a week at the Town Pump Liquor Store, and carries 12 hours of classes.

Becky, 23, a junior interior design major, works 20 hours a week as a cocktail waitress at Holiday Inn, and carries 13 hours.

"We survive by both working," Randy said. The couple's tuition is paid with money they get from raising the cattle

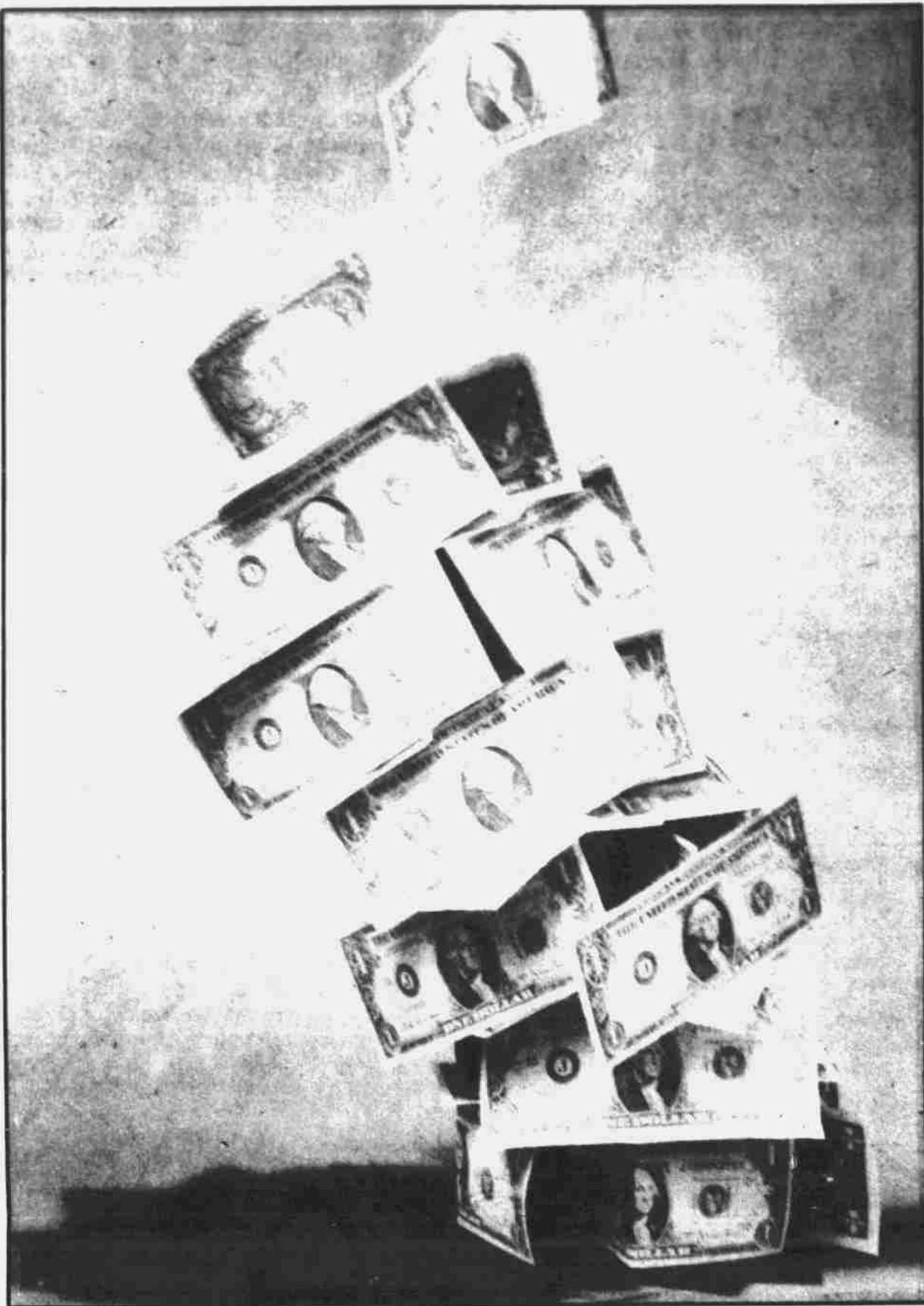


Photo by Mark Billingsley

The finances of many UNL students are in a precarious state and—at times—the whole money mess can come crashing down around them.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Randy and Becky Hall relax in their house during one of their few free moments.

meows. Becky drives to class at 8:30 or 9 a.m. Randy usually rides his bike to his class which begins at 9:30.

Randy gets home at noon, eats lunch, studies and goes to work at 3 p.m. Becky gets home at 3 and then must go to work.

Because of their busy schedules, Becky and Randy sometimes don't see each other much. It doesn't bother Randy to come home to an empty house when Becky works until 1:30 a.m., but he said it does get lonesome.

"I come home and it's just me, the TV and the stereo," he said. "But we always think that in another year and a half we'll both be done and then we've got the rest of our lives to be together."

**BUT BECKY** said that despite their schedules, they do find time for themselves.

"You'd be surprised how many spare minutes you can find," she said.

The couple tries to keep Sunday free so they can do things together.

Randy and Becky don't mind putting up with their schedules because they are determined to get their degrees.

"We're really looking forward to getting our degrees because we know we've worked for them," he said.

Although they do not receive financial aid, they have each applied for student loans.

"I think that for a student, finances are a silly reason to quit school," Becky said.

Becky said they don't gripe about working hard. Rather, they feel lucky for having their jobs.

"We're very fortunate to have what we do have," Randy said. "There are lots of people with better houses, but we're very fortunate to be going to school and have a house."

Very little is left after paying the bills, Randy said. Enough is left to see a movie or have a few drinks once a week, he said.

But they have no regrets about forsaking the luxuries and buying the house.

"SURE THERE ARE times when we wish we had money that we could go out and buy a bunch of new clothes, but once you sit in your own house you can really enjoy it," he said.

A typical day at the Hall household begins at 7 a.m. when their Siamese cat, Mandy, wakes them up with her loud

meows. Becky drives to class at 8:30 or 9 a.m. Randy usually rides his bike to his class which begins at 9:30.

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