

Students find internships in Congress rewarding

By Scott Binder

Last summer, while most UNL students slaved through summer school or jobs, three students tried their hand in politics in Washington.

Serving as congressional interns, Julie Hill, Greg Krieser and Jeff McGrath learned outside of the classroom.

Although each was assigned different duties in the offices in which they worked, all said they benefited from the experience.

Each of the interns encountered a duty Krieser termed "casework," which included researching a constituent's

gripe and often writing a reply.

While working with Sen. Edward Zorinsky's staff of 17, Hill took computer courses related to her job and earned college credit.

To get the internship, Hill said she called and wrote Zorinsky's offices in Lincoln and Washington, but the Washington Center for Learning Alternatives, a nationwide internship organization, set up Hill's stay and arranged for her to get college credit.

Hill said she spent most of her time doing casework and working for the congressional mailing service, and said that her most interesting work was researching for the John Hinckley Jr. case.

Krieser simply wrote an application letter to Sen. James Exon's office and received notice that he was awarded the internship.

Krieser, the first vice president of ASUN, said the internship gave him a "good opportunity to see how government worked on a national level."

While working with Exon's aides, Krieser said he spent much of his time in the Library of Congress researching agricultural issues such as agricultural exports and the possibility of a grain cartel.

Krieser said although he "enjoyed the job and looks forward to completing his

duties with ASUN," he will not pursue a career in politics. Krieser is majoring in mechanical engineering and is aiming for a job as an agricultural engineer.

McGrath had the opportunity to work in both House and Senate offices. For two months, McGrath worked for 3rd District Republican Rep. Virginia Smith, and for an additional month, McGrath worked for Sen. William Armstrong, R-Colo.

McGrath, a political science major who hopes to go into politics, did research on two major topics — the closing of National Weather Service stations and the Federal Witness Security Program.

Higher public awareness goal of eye health fair

By Vicki Ruhga

Topics on eye health and safety will be presented during the noon hour today through Friday at the Prevent Blindness Fair, said Barbara Allen, executive director of the fair.

"We are trying to create a festive atmosphere and raise the public awareness about blindness," Allen said.

The fair, which will be at the Lincoln Foundation Gardens, 15th and N streets, will have eye tests, vision screenings and pamphlets containing information on eye

problems, she said.

Allen said topics covered will include eye safety for children, the elderly, safety in the work place and safety in sports.

"It's a good idea to have a regular eye checkup," she said. "Many times there are no outward symptoms of eye problems."

Allen cited amblyopia, or lazy eye, as a major problem in children. "The muscles in one eye are weak, so the other eye must do all the work," she said. "If this is not detected by age 16, serious eye damage can result."

"Many problems of the elderly also have no outward symptoms," Allen said. "People think they are just getting older, but this often isn't true."

Glaucoma is one such disease, she said. The pressure in the eyeball increases, and the person loses side vision. Eventually, the person may lose total sight if the problem is not detected.

Allen emphasized that new treatments are constantly discovered. If detected early, glaucoma can now be controlled with drops, she added.

Eye safety in the work place is promoted through the Wise Owl Club of America, Allen said. There are currently 70 chapters in Nebraska, and any company can join, she said.

When a worker avoids an injury, such as the loss of an eye, because he or she was

wearing protective goggles, that worker receives special recognition from Wise Owl, she said.

Allen advises college students to see an eye specialist regularly because they may need glasses.

"Don't read in poor light," she said. "Students should also be careful not to study beyond their eye capacity, which often happens when they stay up all night to study for a test. This can result in eye strain."

If a person participates in sports, he or she should always wear eye protection, she said.

"Eyes come only two to a customer," Allen said. "You can get a hearing aid or false teeth, but not new eyes. We should always stop and think before we do dumb things which may hurt the eyes."

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Linda Pence, a clerical assistant in the Registration and Records Office, said a student's group requirements and entrance requirements are checked to see if that student is eligible to apply for graduation.

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The checks, which usually are completed in two weeks, can be requested at Administration 208, Window 2.

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