Daily Nebraskan

Thursday, March 10, 1983



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UN No 31





Union Square is one of the four food outlets located in the Nebraska Union.

Union vies with downtown

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a three-part series on the Union Food Service programs.

By Ward W. Triplett III

Within a block of the Nebraska Union, you can find about 17 eating establishments. Venturing just two blocks more, you can find everything from Athenian Gyros to steak sandwiches and spaghetti.

The diversity and quantity of food outlets in the downtown area makes for stiff competition and one of the largest competitors is the Nebraska Union.

Food service always has been a mainstay in the union and for the greater part of the building's history, it has been the leading income producer. That changed as the competition downtown grew and union food service has been in the red for several years.

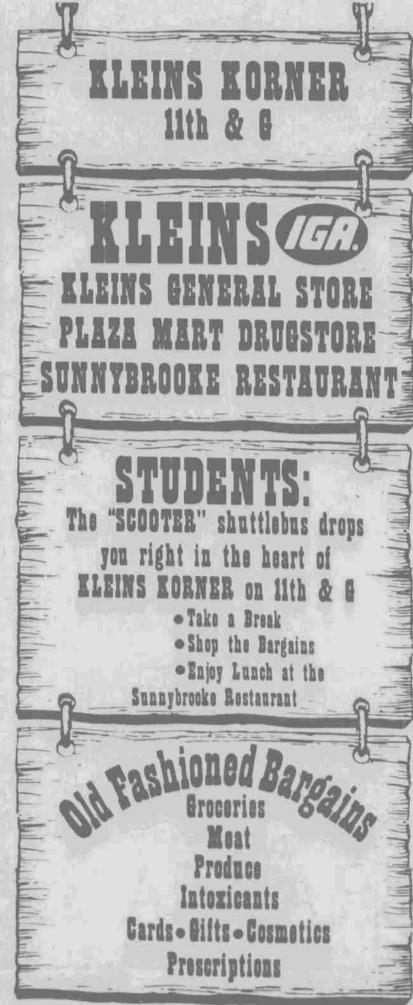
In 1981, Ron Pushcar became union food service director and with him, came Union Square and the renovated Colonial Dining Room, bakery and catering services. According to the latest financial reports, food service is losing only about half what it was when Pushcar took control.

"We always intend to break even," Pushcar said. "But the economy on our campus is not very excellent. We have a lot of students who do not have spendable income." The union staff is in the same position, Pushcar said.

"We're seeing the same amount of customers, but they aren't spending as much. I think that's indicative of our economy."

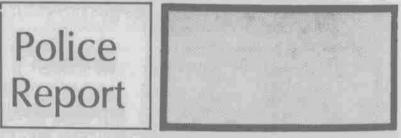
Competition and the economy are not the only obstacles the union food service has had to face, Nebraska Union Director Daryl Swanson said.

"Our single greatest problem is we aren't filling the capacity of any of our rooms," Swanson said. "The Harvest Room could stand 25 percent more business, the Union Square 30 percent more and the Colonial Dining Room 20 percent more. "In all those cases, the increased business would not crowd our current guests," Swanson said. "We really need that business more than any other single operation now" Class schedules, which result in rushes at 25 after the hour, hulls during the rest of the hour, and the university calender make it difficult to maintain a steady business, he said.



In the future, a pre-paid system, like the housing Vali-Dine cards, may be used.

"We would like to develop a charge system that would allow the student to eat here without having to have cash on hand," Swanson said.



The UNL Police Department received the following calls and complaints from 7 a.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday.

8:51 a.m. - Cassette player reported stolen from Andrews Hall,

10:24 a.m. - Parking permit reported stolen from 51st and Walker streets.

11:59 a.m. – Domestic disturbance reported at Ferguson Hall; people referred to county attorney.

3:35 p.m. – Purse reported stolen from Burnett Hall. 3:45 p.m. – Misdemeanor assault reported at Oldfather Hall; person allegedly struck someone with notebook.

4:45 p.m. – Trespasser reported in Neihardt Residence Center; person gone when officers arrived.

5.02 p.m. – Trespasser reported disturbing people in Nebraska Union; person issued citation for disturbing the peace.

6:26 p.m. – Disturbance reported at Neihardt Residence Center; person causing disturbance in union caused another disturbance; person arrested.

8:51 p.m. - UNL police assisted Lincoln police in search for Lincoln juveniles on campus; people were not located.

10:06 p.m. - Bike reported stolen from Abel Hall basement.

11.38 a.m. - Physical assault reported at 12th and P streets; suspects gone when officers arrived; investigation continuing.

4.32 a.m. - Security alarm reported accidentally sounding at Manter Hall.