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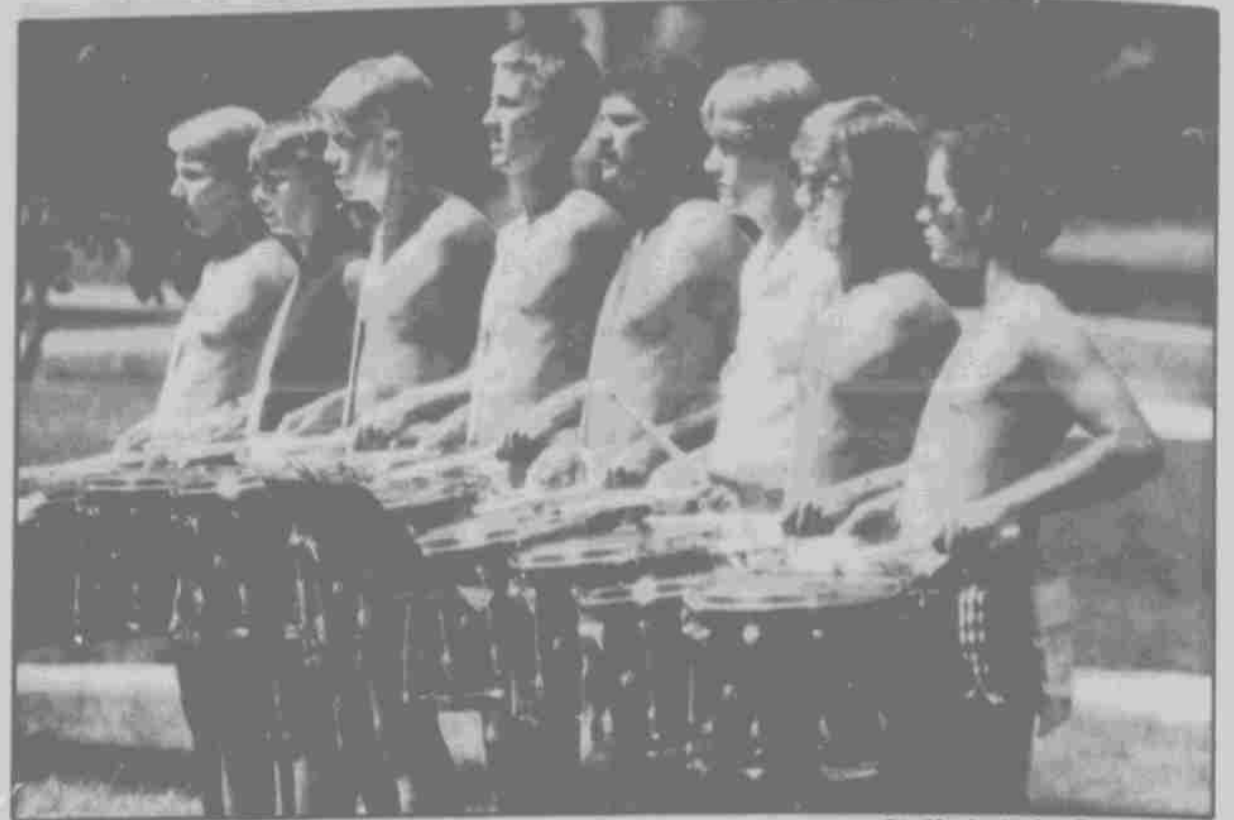
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Staff photo by Dave Bentz

UNL band drummers practice Friday in front of Kimball Recital Hall to improve their synchronization. The marching band will perform for the first time this season at the first home football game against Wyoming on Sept. 10.

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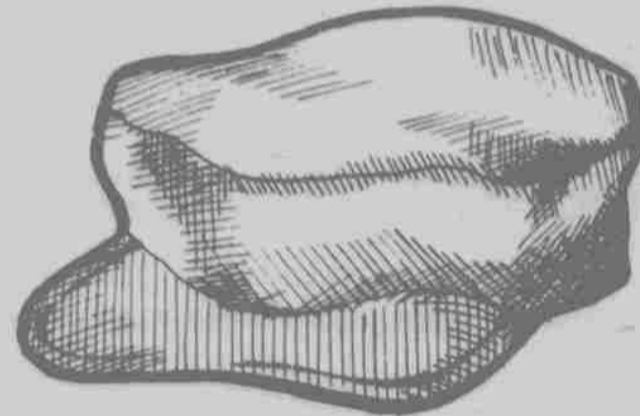
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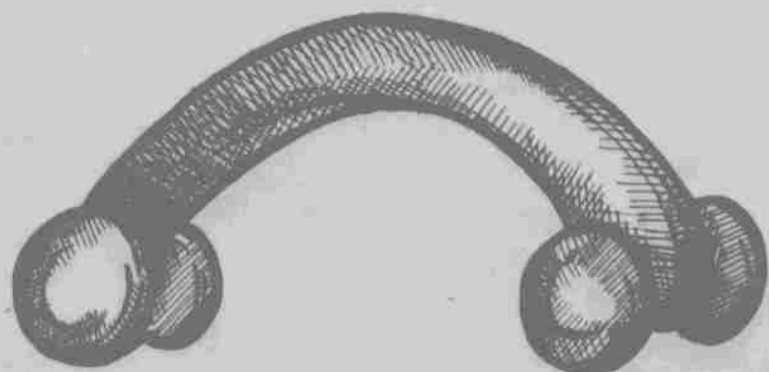
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**Pre-trial...**

Continued from Page 2

"The city considered eliminating it (the program) altogether, but they do that every year," McMasters said. "It (pre-trial diversion) doesn't fit under the 'essential services' catchword that the city has been using."

Unlike other programs funded by the city and county, the pre-trial diversion office is not mandated, he said.

"We're like an extra. We're always in a down position," he said. "Also, we're still seen in some people's eyes as being soft on crime. We are not universally accepted... some people don't think we ought to be doing this."

McMasters said the program's budget for 1983-84 has been set at \$175,558. His request for more than \$64,000 in city and county funding has been approved, and the remainder of the budget will come from fees and client charges.

The budget for the program is \$40,000 less than it was in 1975, McMasters said.

The office has eliminated one part-time position in order to save money this year. The program offers internships in the misdemeanor division, but is unable to pay the interns, Albers said. Two UNL students are working as volunteers under her supervision this summer.

The completion rate of the pre-trial diversion program is very high, McMasters said.

"Completion rates mean that the person at least is not re-convicted," he said. Completion rates average 90 percent in the misdemeanor division and 70 to 73 percent in the felony division.

Withdrawal rates among pre-trial diversion participants are hard to pinpoint because of the complexity involved in studying them, McMasters said. However, he conducted a study in 1981 in Lincoln that revealed the rate among diversion participants was 8 percent lower than those who went through the court system.

"This is only statistically important..." he said. "Financially, it doesn't make much of a difference. But it at least gives us an argument against critics... we at least don't do any worse with diversion."