



Attention Center helps juveniles with secure, humane environment

By Mike George

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

A 16-year-old commits a criminal offense and is sent to the County Attention Center until the court date. Once the suspect passes through the doors of the center, he begins a new life.

The center, for juveniles going through the court system, has been in operation since January 1976.

"During their stay at the center, we try to change their behavior, their attitude and their morals," John Hill, director of the center said of the residents. "We try to set up an environment that is secure, yet humane."

One look inside 2220 S. 10th shows it is not like the detention centers most are accustomed to seeing. Unlike a "jail cell," there are no bars on the windows, the bedrooms do not have toilets 3 feet away from the bed and the resident has the freedom to move about the building.

The center offers a school program that teaches basic skills. The center also allows the resident to continue academic studies.

"The resident is challenged both physically and mentally," Hill said. "We try to offer an individualized school program with a one-on-one relationship between student and staff." The school runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The residents also are challenged physically by the recreational programs offered at the center. The center offers basketball, volleyball and various table games; and residents can use TVs, stereos, etc. It also offers a craft shop where residents are allowed to work with tools, art supplies and other crafts.

One of the reasons for the center's success may be its staff. There are 16 full-time staff members with one member on call at all times.

"Our staff members are concerned with the residents, but they are firm. They care about the well-being of the students," Hill said. "Our staff is usually capable of preventing any situation from occurring. This sets the tone for the residents' stay at the center." Hill said the staff is not intended to be used as guards.

An average day at the center begins at 7:30 a.m. Residents have free time until 9 a.m. when they have the option to go to school or spend their time in their rooms reading or writing letters. The students break for lunch, then continue studies until 2 p.m. when they have the remainder of the day for other activities.

Residents may call their parents three times a day, and may call their attorneys or probation officers whenever they wish. These privileges increase as a resident's behavior improves.

Discipline, however, is not forgotten at the center. If the resident commits a criminal act, the staff will call the police to cite the resident for the offense.

Also, other means of discipline are used. The center has two security rooms which are used when a resident shows destructive behavior.

"The residents have time to cool off and in most cases are back in the mainstream within a short time. They usually cause no more problems after that," Hill said.

The center receives meals from the county jail with the exception of breakfast, which is cooked at the center. The center contracts with the Lancaster County Health Department to have a physician on call 24-hours each day.

Run to Rockies

Lee Wagner (left) lifts the Ag Men sign for a cheer as the Ag Man Band kicks off the first runner in the Run to the Rockies philanthropy project Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. The project, sponsored by Coors, KXSS 96 FM and Ace Liqueur, is a bi-annual 500-mile relay run to the Colorado football game. Each fraternity member takes turns running a mile for the kidney foundation. The first runner left at 2:30 p.m., and the run should be completed Friday afternoon.

MARATHON TRAINING CLINIC FOR MEN & WOMEN

This year's clinic is headed by RALPH MILLER, 1984 Lincoln Marathon Winner and Boston Marathon Qualifier.

YWCA



The Clinic begins Oct. 31st and runs for 26 weeks ending with the Lincoln Marathon in May 1985.

There will be Wednesday night talks 7:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday group runs at 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$45.00 (\$40 YWCA members) Includes a long sleeve shirt.

Unlimited fun but limited space so register soon. Registration forms available at sporting goods stores or call Teresa at the YWCA — 476-2802 1432 N street.

A THIN LINE
SEPARATES
LOVE
FROM HATE,
SUCCESS
FROM FAILURE,
LIFE FROM
DEATH.
A LINE AS
DIFFICULT
TO WALK
AS A
RAZOR'S EDGE.



THE RAZOR'S EDGE

THE STORY OF ONE MAN'S SEARCH FOR HIMSELF.

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS A MARCUCCI-COHEN-BENN PRODUCTION A JOHN BYRUM FILM

BILL MURRAY

"THE RAZOR'S EDGE" BASED ON THE CLASSIC NOVEL BY W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

THERESA RUSSELL CATHERINE HICKS DENHOLM ELLIOTT AS UNCLE ELLIOTT AND JAMES KEACH
WITH JACK NITZSCHE MURRAY JOHN BYRUM & BILL MURRAY WITH THE ROB COHEN
PRODUCED BY ROBERT P. MARCUCCI AND HARRY BENN DIRECTED BY JOHN BYRUM

PG-13



MAKE ADVENTURE A WAY OF LIFE... IN UNIQUE FUNCTIONAL CLOTHES FROM



MOOSE'S TOOTH
OUTDOOR SPORTS

17th & Holdrege 475-4453

OPENS OCTOBER 19