

Gerontology center proposed

Changes in state affect elderly, professor says

By Linda Hartmann
Staff Reporter

The Chancellor's Committee on Gerontology has submitted a proposal to the NU Foundation to establish an interdisciplinary Center for Gerontological Research, said Lois Schwab, UNL professor of human development and the family.

The committee is seeking private funds for a \$1 million endowment and \$100,000 annually to support the center, she said.

The proposal says Nebraska has one of the highest percentages of elderly citizens in the United States. More than 13 percent of the population is more than 65, and in some counties more than 30 percent of the population is in this age group.

Schwab said the problem is that many elderly people live in small towns that are dying. When the resources that these people desperately need — a grocery store, church, hospital, bank and social groups — are removed, she said, elderly residents face problems.

The present move from small family farms to larger farms and ranches leaves many elderly people without the support services they need to live on their own, she said.

"The desperate economic situation makes it more important than ever to promote what is happening with the people of Nebraska," Schwab said. "The university needs to form a partnership with the people of Nebraska so that we can continue to lead the good life."

The committee wants to research the health, economic, housing and educational problems of older people in Nebraska, the proposal says. Money from endowment funds would provide a salary for a full-time coordinator, secretaries, operating funds for the office and money for graduate assistants and development of proposals and research grants.

Schwab said the university needs facts about elderly people's problems rather than act on assumptions. She said the university has the know-how, expertise and interest to work directly with the elderly on research.

"These people have been the producers of our state," Schwab said. "They made our wealth and we can't leave them today."

Wick Center increases business at union indirectly, director says

By Jody Beem
Staff Reporter

Increased use of the Wick Alumni Center will increase Nebraska Union profits, said Daryl Swanson, union director.

Although some events are scheduled at the center instead of the union, Swanson said, union catering to the center will make up for the loss.

"The alumni center is like an extra room," Swanson said. "The outcome will be a net increase in catering sales."

The center's use increased this fall, said Jack Miller, alumni association

executive vice president. On football Saturdays, about 500 to 600 people visit the center. Miller said the center is booked up to 14 months in advance.

The center is open to anyone, but campus groups use the building most. A few student groups have used the center, but the students can use the union so the center hasn't actively sought their business, Miller said.

Groups that aren't official university groups are charged a fee. Miller said an official group is supported by state funds.

Eventually the center's use will level off, but it hasn't reached that point yet, he said.

Police Report

- UNL police received a report of forgery Thursday. Checks allegedly were stolen from someone at 1245 N. 16th and forged in Lincoln, Seward and Norfolk.

- A fire was reported at Abel Hall Thursday. A blanket was left too close to a light and began smoldering. No damage was reported to the building.

- Stereos were reported stolen Thursday from two cars in Parking Area 3 near Harper Hall.

- UNL police received two more reports Friday of stereos stolen from a vehicle in Parking Area 3 near Harper Hall and a vehicle in Parking Area 1 on 19th Street from Q to R streets.

- Theft by deception was reported Friday at 1245 N. 16th St. A person allegedly was billing phone calls to the number at that address.

- A U.S. flag and a Nebraska state flag were reported stolen from the pole on the south side of Agricultural Engineering on East Campus.

- Other items reported stolen Friday were a bookbag from the East Campus Union, clothing from the Coliseum and a dust mop from Nebraska Hall.

- UNL police helped with four traffic accidents Saturday. No injuries were reported at two on-campus accidents at the North Stadium and one east of Sandoz Hall. Minor injuries were reported at two off-campus accidents at 70th and Cornhusker and 14th and Virginia streets.

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