

Unions might remove news boards to save money

By Christine Graves
Staff Reporter

The electronic news boards in the Nebraska and East Unions may have to be removed because of budget priorities, said the director of the Nebraska Union.

Daryl Swanson said the university might have to pay telephone charges because the news is run over telephone lines. Initially the service was free.

The news boards carry eight to 10 minute spots comprised of spots, campus, national and world news and

an entertainment update.

Swanson said two Texas companies approached the university two years ago and proposed the news service. He said the service was offered at no cost to the university.

Since the service was free, the Union Board approved it, he said. The boards were installed in 1984.

But Swanson said he was notified last spring that if the university wished to keep the service it would have to pay the phone charges of between \$30 and \$50 a month.

He said he declined last spring because of "budgetary priorities." But, he added, the university has never been billed for the service.

"I wouldn't spend \$600 a year on it (the news service)," he said.

Swanson said if the university receives a bill for the service he would take it to the union board for a vote.

But, he said, he doubts it would be approved.

"It (the cost) is not in our current budget."

UNL is one of 180 colleges and

universities to receive the service. Since the boards were initially installed, the two companies have merged into Texas EFN INC. The company operates out of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Swanson said the company maintains the boards and runs the news over telephone lines. The only input the university has in its operation is controlling the speed of the news, he said.

The company receives their revenue from national advertising, he said.

"Their whole premise (is) based on selling national advertisements" and is directed toward "college agreement," he said.

Swanson said alcohol and tobacco products are not advertised.

The company subscribes to four news services, press releases and news received from campuses, Texas EFN editor Peter McNabb said. The news services include the Associated Press, United Press International, Dow Jones and the College Press Service.

Newspaper headlines and radio newscast is the format of the service, McNabb said.

"We're trying to be interesting to read in a short amount of time, but long enough to get the facts across," he said.

McNabb described the service as a "good information type tool and campus vehicle of communication."

He said he thinks students benefit from the news service because they can "catch up on what's going on with the world."

The advertisements are geared toward the students "in a lot of ways," he said.

Lori Houska, a sophomore nursing major, said he likes the news on the board and thinks it's "pretty up to date."

She added, "It gives us bored people something to do."

Another student said reading the board makes her dizzy.

Junior nursing major Michele Knopik said the news board is not what she goes into the union for.

Dave Noonan, a sophomore psychology major, said, "I think I would miss it because I don't read the paper or watch news so this is fast and easy."

Weight, smoking clinics begin soon

Classes to help faculty, staff and students lose weight and quit smoking begin Feb. 18 at the University Health Center.

The Stop Smoking class will meet for eight sessions between Feb. 18 and March 4, 7 to 9 p.m. A second session will begin in April. The session costs \$20.

"This program helps smokers learn how to deal with the habit," said Joseph Anderson, class coordinator and clinic technician at the Health Center.

The program, in its third year, is a modification on the 5-Day Stop Smoking Plan, which has smokers gradually decrease their daily number of cigarettes until they can quit, he said.

The center's Weight Loss classes will begin Feb. 18 for students and Feb.

19 for staff and faculty.

Student classes are Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. and staff and faculty sessions meet Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m.

The Weight Loss class is designed for individuals who are 15 percent or more overweight, said Kathleen Lehr, registered dietician at the Health Center.

Participants must make an appointment with a physician to determine any special requirements for starting the program, she said.

"Our philosophy centers on long-term weight loss guidelines," she said. "We distribute information on good nutrition, behavior modification, exercise and medical information."

Lehr said the program organizers

have added a 30-minute exercise session to the weekly class and are also trying to individualize the diets.

Two computer printouts of participants' food intake are also included in the program. An initial analysis shows individuals what foods or nutrients they lack when they start the program. Another analysis, given halfway through, shows what improvements have been made.

Lehr said a daily worksheet, listing exercise time and foods eaten, is an effective method for watching individual progress.

Participants can also become eligible for partial refunds from the registration fee with progressive weight loss.

For more information call the University Health Center at 472-7440.

Instrumentation society forms; recruits members

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

Although it's still in the planning

stages, two UNL professionals said they are confident a chapter of the National Instrumentation Society can be formed at UNL.

An instrument can be anything that measures — a tool of science, or engineering, but not a tuba or violin.

Jack Lemon, a university power plant employee, and Allen Edison, an electrical engineering professor, said they are confident they can get the five students needed to gain recognition as an official group by the Student Affairs office.

The group held its first meeting Jan. 21, where four students showed interest in the group. Lemon said he is confident that the group can get a fifth member.

Once formed, Edison said, the group would devote its' biweekly meetings to educating group members about various instruments.

Edison said that his main goal for the club is that it helps to clear up some of the questions surrounding various types of instruments.

Lemon said before the group can be officially recognized as an official student chapter of the National Instrumentation Society, the club must have 14 members and elect officers.

Currently, Lemon said, 77 student chapters of the society exist throughout the world, while about 40 adult chapters can be found in the United States.

"The field of instrumentation is growing," Lemon said. "Anyone that is interested in instruments or that is pursuing an instrument-related field should see this as an opportunity to expand their knowledge."

Both men said that they are seeking the advice of Bud Degraff, an instrument sales engineer who was instrumental in forming a student chapter of the national instrumentation society at UNO.

Lemon said he is hoping the UNL chapter could have a yearly competition against the chapter at UNO.

"I'd like to stress that this club is open to any student at the university," Lemon said. "You don't have to be an engineering major to join. All we ask of members is that they have a general interest in the field of instrumentation."

Persons interested in joining, Lemon said, should call either Lemon or Edison for more information.

Police Report

TUESDAY

10:13 a.m. — Car reported vandalized in Wick Alumni Center parking area.

3:15 p.m. — Purse reported stolen from the Westbrook Music Building.

4:04 p.m. — Person arrested for alleged hit and run.

4:30 p.m. — Two car accident reported in parking area 30 near the activities building on East Campus.

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