

# New petition written to improve office

By Lee Rood  
Staff Reporter

A new petition drive was started Thursday that's aimed at making improvements in the Office of Financial Aid and requests a timetable for the changes to be implemented.

A previous petition, started at the beginning of the week by first-year law student Dave Regan, was rewritten because Regan said it lacked preciseness. Regan said the office charges "unnecessary late fees" and delays in its processing of financial aid packages.

The new petition was unofficially endorsed Director of the Office of Financial Aid William McFarland, and Assistant Director of Financial Aid Larry Apel. It asks the administration for a "more timely and effective delivery of services to students."

ASUN Senator Pete Castellano said the petition will be available to students next week in the ASUN of-

ice and residence halls. A booth will be set up in the Nebraska Union next Wednesday and Thursday, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., he said.

Regan said he wants students to sign the old petition as well as the new one. He said the old petition called for students to write a brief description of their problems with the office.

"What they write will be read," he said.

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs James Griesen said he welcomes concern and support, but added that university officials were already aware of the problems. He said university officials are doing the best they can to solve the problems without the additional resources they need.

"You just don't walk in overnight and fix it," he said.

Griesen said the office has increased its full-time staff from 14 to 18 people in last 10 years. At the same time, the office has gone from giving

\$6.7 million to \$41.9 million in awards to students.

Despite federal regulation changes, altering several students' status of eligibility for financial aid, and the increased workload brought on by those changes, the university is doing everything in it can power to plug staff resources to get the work done, Griesen said.

The university spent \$175,000 in April 1986 on computer software package to help alleviate some of the problems, but difficulties with interfacing its current software with the new system, Griesen said. The new system isn't expected to be in full

swing until January.

Griesen said the university has been searching for additional space for the office, and expects that it should be taken care of in a few weeks.

Most of the office's problems stem from lack of money, and the university hasn't appropriated extra funds because of a tight budget, Griesen said.

But Larry Apel, assistant director for the office, said the funds are there.

"I know there is all kinds of money being spent at the university, but not on us," he said.

"We've pushed for changes for years, and years and years," he said,

and we've watched other people get improvements, while we stay the way we are."

"I feel like we're the plague," he said.

The space the university has been considering given the office has been empty for almost a year, Apel said.

"I can't believe we can't get a commitment," he said.

Automation systems in other offices have been given money for development, but the financial aid office was left out until recently and is 10 years behind other universities, he

See ASUN on 6

## Spirit clubs cheer team

By Libby York  
Staff Reporter

When Nebraska plays Kansas in Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Cornhusker fans will wave "terrible towels" and release hundreds of red balloons with the first score as they do at each home football game.

Corn Cobs and Tassels, two University of Nebraska-Lincoln spirit organizations, give Husker fans a chance to swing and let go during games.

Although once designated "male only," Corn Cobs is now open to both male and female students. It is sponsored by the national fraternity Phi Epsilon Phi.

Members attend weekly meetings and help at every home football game. One of the benefits of joining Corn Cobs is getting 50-yard-line seats.

Corn Cob President Rusty Harder said the group has pledged 85 new members, which has increased membership to approximately 120.

Corn Cobs traditionally sold flowers to raise money. But Harder said the group is enjoying much success with its new sale of "terrible towels" at football games. "Terrible towels" are the red clothes that fans wave at football games.

Although the retirement of Harry Husker, who is owned by the Corn Cobs, will reduce the organization's sideline participation at football games, Corn Cobs will continue to use Harry at pa-

rades and pep rallies, Harder said.

"We're disappointed (about Harry's retirement). . . It's a loss, but we're trying to find the positive and are hoping to work with the athletic department," Harder said.

Tassels is much smaller than Corn Cobs, but it is the oldest continuing spirit organization at UNL, with more than 50 years of campus participation. This year, Tassels pledged 25 new members, bringing membership to about 50.

Bob Sheldon, assistant director of university information, is the Tassels adviser. Sheldon said the group's goal is to promote spirit at football games.

Tassels members sell red balloons at football games to raise money. Proceeds from the balloon sales help pay for the group's annual trip to an out-of-state football game, Sheldon said.

However, at one game each season, proceeds from the balloon sales are donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, which the Tassels have worked with for nine years. This year, the Tassels donated the profits from the Nebraska-South Carolina game. To date, the money raised has not been totaled.

"The balloon sales have generally been pretty good," Sheldon said. "We sell an average of 800 to 1,000 per game."

Students interested in joining Corn Cobs or Tassels are encouraged to attend weekly meetings in the Nebraska Union. Corn Cobs meets on Tuesdays at 5 p.m., and Tassels meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

## Bug research shown

By Christine Anderson  
Staff Reporter

Although "La Cucaracha" remains a popular, traditional Spanish folk song, its inspiration, the cockroach, is still merely a household pest.

Scientists at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who are researching ways to control cockroach populations presented their research at the Institute of Natural Resources Open House Thursday.

Two examples of their research at the entomology department include researching a biological control method involving a microscopic wasp, which implants its eggs into the egg or body of the roach. The roach becomes sterile, said Roger Gold, UNL entomology extension specialist.

Scientists are also developing synthetic growth hormones that inhibit the roach's physical development.

Gold said the German cockroach, commonly found in Nebraska, is the most recognized pest in the United States. The abundant pest produces up to eight generations per year.

Visitors were able to get an up-close-and-personal look at several cockroach species at the open house.

About 4,000 people of all ages, including several school groups visited the campus, said Dick Fleming, chairman of the IANR Open House. Many high-school students who are interested in attending UNL also visited, he said.

Gold's insect exhibit had no trouble attracting guests.

"Many people are fascinated by insects, but they don't want any part of them," Gold said. "Most stand in awe at a distance."

Along with five species of cockroaches at the booth, the entomology department also displayed a black widow spider and a caterpillar of house fly maggots. A large African cockroach painted red with a white "N" insignia is the department's Big Red mascot.

The display was one of 25 exhibits at the East Union and other locations across campus.

Participants were also invited to tour various departments including agriculture engineering, the animal science complex, horticulture, agronomy, Maxwell Arboretum, veterinary science, biochemistry and food science.

The open house will end this evening.

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