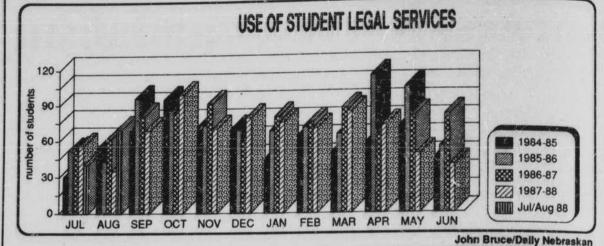


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A night on the town doesn't have to mean a trip downtown anymore.

Daily Nebraskan

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Student Legal Services Complaints filed against landlords

By Tom Koenig Staff Reporter

Although rental complaints and grievances reported to Student Legal Services has increased recently, at-torney Shelley Stall said overall use of the service has also increased.

The increase is probably caused by a higher awareness of services available to students, Stall said, rather than an increase in legal problems.

The office has attempted to inform students about its services. It has sent more mailings to student organizations and fraternities and sororities, participated in a housing fair held by the residence halls and has appeared on television.

"We are trying to step up our budget to help the growing demand of student complaints," Stall said.

About 70 cases closed with the office in August. This is more than a 100 percent increase in cases compared to those closed last August.

It's also possible for a complaint to be filed in January and the case to be closed in August, Stall said.

Of the 70 cases closed in August, 23 complaints were filed against

landlords.

ARROW INN EXTRAVAGANZA

4:00-7:00 Happy Hour \$2.00 pitchers of beer,

.85 rail drinks, \$1.00 cans & bottles

FRIDAY: WIN 3 NU-ASU Tickets in a drawing

SATURDAY: Bus to and from the ASU game.

Bus filled on a first come first serve basis.

Enjoy NFL Monday Night Football at Arrow Inn

with \$1.00 Old Milwaukee pitchers during the first quarter and \$2.00 pitchers the rest of the

night.

2:00-4:00 .25 Old Milwaukee draws

complaints from students who say they have moved into an apartment only to find it a total mess or to wake up one cold morning without heat.

Stall said students with apartment problems should first try to write their landlord and document the problem with a picture or witness. If the student,still gets no results, she said, he or she should contact the housing code office.

There are five to 10 Lincoln landlords that Stall said she consistently hears complaints about, but she would not release their names.

Unfinished repairs are the primary reason students file rental complaints with the office, Stall said. She said she also commonly hears complaints about the cost of utilities, broken leases, bugs, rodents and pests. "It is unlawful for a landlord to rent

an apartment or house that does not meet the standards of the health and safety established in the Lincoln Minimum Housing Code," she said. According to a handout distributed

by legal services and the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska, the first step for a tenant who wants the help of the housing code office is to ask an investigator to The lawyers at the office get come to the apartment and examine

the problem.

If the apartment does not comply with the code, the landlord will be contacted by the investigator regarding steps that need to be taken. They also will be given a deadline for compliance.

Landlords refusing to bring rental property into compliance with the code may be prohibited from renting the property and even prosecuted in some serious cases.

Stall said tenants should pay close attention to the legal process and should report any problems they have.

In one case, she said, a person set up a lease only to move into an apart-ment that had "things growing in the refrigerator, old furniture still in the apartment, holes in the walls and a bathroom that was filthy

In this instance, the health and safety of the tenant was at stake. The housing code office stepped in and had the landlord fix the problems within two to four weeks.

Stall said students should get a copy of their lease from their landlord

If a verbal agreement is made to make repairs, then students should get it in writing in the lease contract, Stall said.

Students also may hold landlords responsible for repairs through a 14day or 30-day contract which says all repairs must be made within that time span, Stall said.

If all repairs are not made during that time, the renter can press charges and take the landlord to court, she said

Students who must break their leases before their contract is up have two alternatives, Stall said.

They must give their landlord notice of their departure as soon as possible or they may discuss the pos-sibility of subletting the apartment or house to another tenant for the remainder of the contract.

The SLS office can also help students with auto accidents, small claims court, traffic offenses and other problems of criminal nature.

State Fair Park is only a few blocks from campus, and horse racing is more exciting than ever this year because we're racing under the lights! What's more, general admission is free every night and on Saturday and Sunday, too, so a trip to the track won't eat up your college budget. Change the way you party, and join your friends for a different kind of fun at Lincoln's newest nighttime hot spot-State Fair Park. Post time: 7 p.m. Wednesday -Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday;

2 p.m. Sunday





aware of the services we offer," Stall said. "Many students feel that there is nothing they can do."

Student loans available Monday

Perkins National Direct Student Loans for first semester of 1988-89 will be issued in the Nebraska Union ballroom Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students must present their student ID cards to pick up their check.

Film on racism will be shown Sunday evening

DREAM, Developing Realistic Educational Activities for Minori-ties, will show "Racism 101," a film portraying the problem of racism at university and college campuses across the country. The film will be shown at the

Culture Center at 333 N. 14th St. Sunday following a picnic which begins at 5:30 p.m.

A discussion of the film will the follow.