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Service offers free legal advice

By Emily Rosenbaum
Staff Reporter

Students who need an attorney have an alternative to using an entire paycheck to pay for an hour of legal advice.

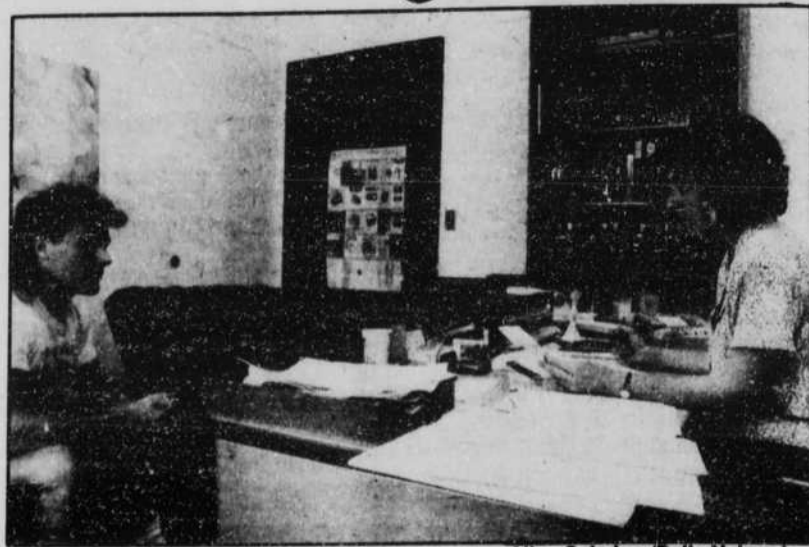
Free legal counsel is available through the Student Legal Services Center, part of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Student Legal Services is funded by student fees and is handled through student government. Every semester each UNL student pays \$1.27 in student fees to finance the service. Started in 1976, the center offers free legal advice and representation to students with legal concerns.

Most of the cases involve misdemeanors and traffic violations, said Shelley Stall, attorney and director of the center. In March, 45 percent of the cases handled involved misdemeanor and traffic charges. Legal services closed 108 cases in March 1989 compared to 84 cases in March 1988.

"I'm excited because the statistics are going up," Stall said. "Students are using the service more and more each year."

The first step for a student who wants to use legal services is to make an appointment with one of the two attorneys at the center. During the scheduled meeting, the attorney will listen to the student's problem and



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Shelley Stall, UNL Director of Student Legal Services, gives legal advice to Jerry Lofberg, a junior Criminal Justice major.

offer legal advice. The attorney will represent the student in court if necessary or refer the student to another source, such as a private attorney.

Stall said a referral is needed when the case involves a large settlement. A student may also be advised to take a case to small claims court.

In addition to misdemeanor and traffic cases, legal services handles landlord/tenant, consumer, family law, employment and business problems. Landlord/tenant cases made up the second largest percentage of cases for March this year. Twenty-one cases were closed, and in one of

those cases a student recovered \$950 in a dispute with a landlord.

Student Legal Services also publishes a handbook which gives basic legal information to students. The handbook offers advice on how to handle auto accidents, student discipline, sexual harassment and race and sex discrimination. It also tells students how to win in small claims court.

Students are not always aware of where they stand in terms of the law, Stall said. They often don't realize that legal action can be sought in many circumstances, she said.

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Scholarships available

UNL welcomes minority students

By Deanne Nelson
Senior Editor

The past year has brought increased action by state and University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials to make UNL a more warm and accepting place for student minorities, said Paul Miles, special assistant to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen.

State action has come in the form of a bill passed by the Legislature that allots \$1 million in minority scholarship funding, said Peg Johnson, director of special projects for Griesen. About \$800,000 of the funding will be state-supported, she said.

University officials also have supported cultural diversity, Miles said.

Griesen and Robert Furgason, vice chancellor for academic affairs, have requested reports from college deans and university departments as to what they are doing for student and

faculty minorities, Miles said.

Although the university tries to make all students feel welcome, Miles said, officials' recent efforts have been aimed at minority students in particular.

"Last year was deemed the year of appreciating cultural diversity (at the university), and definite support was shown by Chancellor Martin Massengale and other administrators," he said.

The growth of this appreciation also can be seen in increased student and faculty interest in the variety of cultural and cross-cultural organizations at UNL, Miles said.

Campus organizations designated as Ethnic Minority groups include the Afrikan People's Union, the Mexican American Student Association, the Native American Students Association and the Vietnamese Student Organization.

UNL organizations designated as International groups include the Chinese Student Association, the Free China Association, the India Association, the International Student Organization, the Korean Student Association, the Malaysian Student Association, the Nigerian Students Association, the Organization of Arab Students, Permais (Indonesian) and International House.

Information about these organizations can be obtained by contacting the Campus Activities and Programs office, 200 Nebraska Union, for a brochure. There is also a CAP office

on the third floor of the East Campus Union.

DREAM, Developing Realistic Educational Activities for Minorities, is a cross-cultural organization which was started last year to bridge gaps between the aforementioned campus organizations and to foster "involvement from a cross-cultural perspective," Miles said.

"DREAM is a combination of all the groups' voices and tries to address problems facing minorities," he said.

Miles said a trial-and-error period last year showed that there was enough interest for DREAM to become a reality. Since DREAM was in an embryonic stage in the spring of 1988, the group was not formally recognized until a year later.

"It has been tough to deal with going across the cultures because of certain sensitivities," Miles said.

Johnson agreed and said "there are many sensitive issues which need to be addressed. One of them is the ignorance within and between the groups."

"Part of students' overall education is learning about different people, and you can't get that from a book," she said.

Miles added: "The best thing about these groups for new students, and not only minority students, is that they may come to the university not knowing anybody and can go to any one of these groups and be accepted."

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