

Campus Notes



# Center meets health needs

By Amie DeFrain  
Staff Reporter

Trying to fulfill the needs of students, the University Health Center will offer a new peer support program, condom vending machines and send out thousands of proof of immunization forms to incoming freshman, center officials said.

After having a lot of success with prior peer support programs, the community health office of the center added a third program entitled "Peer Sexuality Educators," said Janet Crawford, health educator.

In the program, students teach other students about contraceptives and other pregnancy prevention measures.

"We will use this small group of students as sort of the voice of the campus," she said.

Crawford said she has hired about eight students to be peer educators. She hopes to get two more.

Students interested in applying should call the community health office at 472-7440 before Aug. 1, she said.

According to Kunle Ojikutu, health center director, since rejecting the proposal of putting condom vending machines in residence halls, three machines have been installed inside the center.

Ojikutu said that the machines are located in the main floor restrooms and on the inside wall of the north exit. The condoms cost 50 cents each, he said.

Ojikutu said that next to the machines are brochures on the use of the condoms as a contraceptive device or to prevent the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Ojikutu said that condoms can still be purchased for 10 cents at the pharmacy counter.

Ojikutu said that since the outbreak of rubeola measles this past semester, the center has made plans to mail all incoming freshman a proof of immunization form this summer.

New students, he said, just need to fill out the form by giving when they were last immunized and then send it to the center.

Those students who know they need to be re-immunized, Ojikutu said, must contact the center.

Nora Ryschon, University Health Center program assistant, said that

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open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. During the fall, the center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening hours are offered on Tuesday and Wednesday during the fall.

the vaccine costs \$36 at the center. But students can go to the Nebraska State Health Department for a free vaccine, she said.

At the health department, students 18 and older can be immunized without parental consent, she said. All students younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent, she said.

Along with peer support programs, supplying contraception and trying to keep students clear of the measles, Ojikutu said that the center offers many other services.

These include an allergy clinic, Acute Care and Emergency Service (ACE), wellness programs, campus alcohol education program, contraceptive counseling, dietary service, dental clinic, dermatology clinic, immunizations, infirmary, laboratory, medical and mental clinic, pharmacy, pregnancy counseling, physical therapy, sexually transmitted disease counseling and X-Ray services.

Health insurance, Ojikutu said, also can be purchased from the center.

The insurance covers charges from laboratory work and tests to catastrophic illnesses, which are not covered by student fees, Ojikutu said.

Non-students, spouses and children of students can purchase or have

insurance purchased on their behalf, he said, but they are not eligible for use of the center's services.

Purchasing insurance is strongly encouraged, he said, but not required for the use of the center.

Students who have a minimum of four credit hours can use the center, he said.

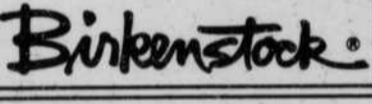
Ojikutu said there are six full-time physicians, a full-time psychiatrist and 40 specialists working at the center. It also has 28 night University of Nebraska Medical Center residents to help and treat students after center hours, he said.

During the school year, the medical clinics, center and pharmacy are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8 to 11:45 a.m. After-hours services are available whenever the center is closed. Visits are free during regular hours.

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