

Health Center initiates two programs

By Kimberly Schwartz
Staff Reporter

Two new programs start at the University Health Center this year, the center's administrator said.

Kunle Ojikutu said a registered nurse will now work at the center's front desk with appointment secretaries to direct student-patients to medical services they need.

The nurse will reduce the amount of time students, especially those who are seriously ill, have to wait for medical attention because the nurse immediately can evaluate their illnesses, he said.

The health center also is teaching some students who live in residence halls about sexually transmitted diseases.

Called peer coordinators, those trained will be available for residence hall students' questions about sexually transmitted diseases, Ojikutu said.

The health center provided services for 47,885 student visits last year, he said, and about the same number during the 1987-88 school year. This number was a 2,000-visit increase from the previous year.

The center hired additional staff members last year to handle the increase, Ojikutu said. A part-time dental hygienist will be hired this year.

Health center officials have found that a growing number of students are using UNL dental college services, accounting for some of the patient increase over the past two years.

Health center hours on city campus, at 15th and U streets, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Hours at the east campus clinic, 316 East Union, are 2:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Services offered by the health center this year include:

- an optional health insurance program, which covers some charges that student fees don't cover and medical services that aren't received at the center.
- acute illness and emergency care at all times, with no appointment necessary on either campus.
- non-emergency, after-hours treatment for an additional fee. Health center officials suggest calling first to discuss a problem with the registered nurse who is on duty 24 hours a day.
- allergy injections and skin tests at the center's allergy clinic. A doctor who specializes in allergies is available to students each week. Appointments are necessary and a fee is charged.
- health aides who are in residence halls, fraternities, sororities and co-operatives. The aides have first-aid kits and are trained by the health center to handle minor physical and emotional health problems.
- a variety of wellness programs on campus coordinated by the community health department, which include exercise, weight control and

Rubeola measles outbreak cost UNL center \$58,000 in reserve money

By Kimberly Schwartz
Staff Reporter

The rubeola measles outbreak at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last spring cost the University Health Center \$58,000, the center's administrator said.

Kunle Ojikutu said the health center spent the money on medical supplies, paid employees for extra hours worked and hired non-staff members to give students shots during mass immunizations last April.

Ojikutu said the \$58,000 was taken from money the health center keeps in reserve in case major medical equipment breaks or needs repair.

Some reserve money was used, Ojikutu said, because the measles outbreak "put us in an extremely tight situation."

"We had to spend money that we weren't budgeted for," he said.

The epidemic's expense has not caused any health center programs

to be cut or curtailed, Ojikutu said, but the center is "in a bind" now because "if we have equipment that breaks we might not have the money to fix it."

Ojikutu said that if the federal government had not paid \$87,000 for vaccine to immunize almost 8,000 students, "there's no way (the health center) could have avoided a deficit."

The health center's budget last year was a little more than \$3.2 million.

This year's budget is about \$3.4 million. Ojikutu said the increase is for automatic staff salary raises.

The health center cannot ask for an extra \$58,000 for its budget this year, he said, because this year's budget was proposed before last spring's outbreak.

The center probably will be unable to replace equipment-reserve money used for the epidemic until the 1990-91 school-year budget, Ojikutu said.

stop-smoking classes and blood pressure and fitness-level screenings.

- a drug education program that includes education, intervention and prevention in the form of educational workshops and resources and student support groups. Peer alcohol educators are available for presentations and projects. Assessment and referral services are provided.

- gambling education programs, with assessment and referral services.

- contraceptive counseling. Women are required to have a recent pap smear and attend a contraceptive counseling session which reviews forms of birth control before receiving a prescription for birth control from the health center.

- A dental clinic that offers almost all dental services, except orthodontic work, at a reduced cost. The dental staff is on call 24 hours a day for dental emergencies.

- pregnancy counseling for women who think they may be pregnant. If a pregnancy test is positive, a counselor is available to assist in decision-making. Appointments are necessary. Obstetric care is not provided at the health center.

- specialty clinics with community doctors are available on a referral basis in areas including surgery, orthopedics, gynecology, ophthalmology, internal medicine, urology, neurology and otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat). Allergy, dermatology and audiology specialty clinics do not require a referral because doctors are available weekly. A fee is charged.

- diagnostic X-rays at the center's radiology department. The center clinicians or the student's doctor must order the X-rays. They are read by consulting radiologists. A fee is charged.

- routine and required immunizations for traveling outside the country. An appointment is necessary and a fee is charged.

- a six-bed infirmary for short-term illness recuperation. It's less expensive than local hospitals. Referrals to community hospitals also are available.

- diagnostic testing. All health center lab tests must be ordered by a clinician or a student's doctor. If a test is ordered by a doctor outside the center, results will be sent to the doctor. A fee is charged.

- comprehensive health care, other than areas of referral, for acute and chronic illnesses and minor injuries. An appointment is necessary.

- a pharmacy that fills prescriptions from a student's doctor as well as center clinicians. Over-the-counter medications, such as cold remedies and contact lens supplies as well as contraceptives are for sale at the pharmacy.

- a physical therapy department that offers treatment and rehabilitation for conditions that affect the muscles, bones and joints. Therapy must be ordered by a center clinician or a student's doctor. A fee is charged for disposable items after the fourth visit.

- an ASUN-appointed Health Center Board made up of students who serve as a liaison between the student body and the health center. At weekly public meetings, board members take ideas and suggestions on how to improve the center.

- a medical records department that maintains and protects patient records and can have patient medical records transferred. Nebraska law requires medical records to be maintained for 10 years after a patient's first visit. A copy fee for record transferring is charged if the copies are to be sent to anyone but health care providers.

Because the health center does not have a blood bank or the capability to perform major surgery, some life-threatening emergencies cannot be handled there. In these cases, students should call 911 for help.

Savings only part of cost

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) -- Few families can pay for an undergraduate college education by dipping into current income or savings alone, said James Scannell, who oversees enrollment at the University of Rochester.

"Some parents have the misperception that they have to save the entire college bill, which could be as much as \$20,000 a year at the high-

est-cost universities," he said.

Instead, Scannell advises parents to regard savings as only one component in meeting college costs. Most families will use savings, current income and borrowing, thus spreading out the costs over a 12- to 16-year period and making monthly bills more manageable.

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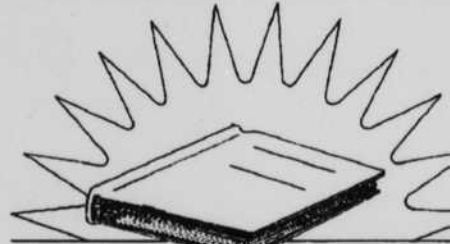
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REPORT

Beginning midnight, Friday Aug. 25

- 1:58 a.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported at the Selbeck metered lot. \$200 damage to one vehicle.
- 8:01 a.m. -- Window well covers reported stolen from Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. \$75.
- 11:54 a.m. -- Vehicle parked at 14th and R streets reported to have been scraped with key.
- 8:02 p.m. -- Bicycle reported stolen near Keim Hall. \$1,200.
- 7:31 p.m. -- Intoxicated person

was picked up near 19th and F streets and taken to detoxification center.

10:36 p.m. -- Receiver reported stolen from emergency phone located at 19th and Vine streets. \$50.

Saturday Aug. 26

12:40 a.m. -- Several minors were cited after being picked up near Abel Hall for possession of alcohol.

12:25 a.m. -- Student was re-

ported to have cut forehead and was treated at health center.

2:37 a.m. -- Window reported broken in burglary attempt at Dental College. \$150.

4:06 a.m. -- Bicycle reported stolen near Love Hall, value unknown.

6:40 p.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported in Area 15 near Temple building. \$600.

10:27 p.m. -- Minor reported in possession of alcohol on 13th floor of Abel Hall.

11:08 p.m. -- Minor reported in possession of alcohol in 214 Abel