

Custodian, student honored

For the second year in a row, a UNL student and a member of the UNL custodial staff were named recipients of the 1992 Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity.

Paul Cantu, a junior electrical engineering major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Richard Barnhart, custodial supervisor at the East Campus Union, both received the award.

The two were chosen from among 10 other nominees Sunday night at the 11th annual award celebration at St. Mark's On the Campus Epis-

copal Church.

Cantu was nominated for his work with the Mexican-American Student Association, particularly in developing the outreach of the campus group into the community.

Barnhart was nominated for his work with custodial staff in maintaining a clean, safe and welcome environment in the East Campus Union, and for reducing the amount of chemicals used in cleaning processes. He also was cited for having physically challenged people on his staff.

Student would boost RHA role

Sole candidate for president cites 10 goals

By Lesli Thorn
Staff Reporter

Although only one candidate has filed for the RHA presidency, that candidate said he planned to increase the organization's participation in campus life.

Matt Hammons, a junior Russian and international affairs major, said that if elected, he planned to give the Residence Hall Association a more active role on campus than it now has.



Residence Hall elections are Thursday, and polls will be open in all residence hall food service buildings from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All current residence hall students are eligible to vote.

Hammons, the Cather Residence Hall president, said he and running mate Lawrence Gibbs, a sophomore

broadcasting major and Schramm Residence Hall senator, outlined 10 goals they wanted to accomplish if elected.

He said their goals included sending RHA officers to weekly hall-complex government meetings, visiting floor meetings at the start of the semester to explain RHA's role in residence hall life and creating a "Congress of Floors" — a workshop to educate all floor presidents and treasurers about RHA and encourage involvement in the organization.

The campaign focuses on taking "a personal approach to student government," Hammons said.

To encourage the personal approach, Hammons said he had talked to complex program directors about involving RHA in student-assistant training.

He said the complex program directors were receptive to the idea.

"Until now, there has been no guide to the student assistants on what RHA is or does," he said. "This lack of knowledge is passed on unconsciously to the students."

Hammons said he also wanted to revive RHA Week, which had not been held since 1986.

"This is important," he said. "It can show what is so special about

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— Matt Hammons
RHA presidential candidate

living in the halls."

Each complex would be involved in RHA Week, and Hammons said he already had begun planning for the event.

"I want to make this a reality," he said.

Sonja Kapoun, RHA elections commission chairperson, said it was not unusual for only one candidate to file for the RHA presidency. But write-ins for all RHA and local government offices are allowed.

"Usually the people who would like to run realize how much work it is and choose not to file," she said.

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Classroom

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But students still are forced to take the classes out of sequence, he said, extending their time at the university.

Even when ideal programs are composed, and the students receive their degrees, Wilson said, more than half of their course work could have been done in second-choice classes.

That really does not indicate an ideal program, he said.

"We haven't failed them, but it doesn't mean it isn't a sub-optimal outcome," he said.

NU President Martin Massengale said the problem was not just at UNO; closed classes were a problem at every campus.

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said UNL also had a problem with almost 1,500 closed classes this spring semester.

"Our problem is actually greater" than at the other campuses, Spanier said.

Spanier said he had met with the deans at UNL and was working on a plan to help alleviate the problem.

"This has become one of my highest priorities," he said.

At the meetings with the deans, Spanier said they discussed adding some seats to current classes and were looking into a certain amount of reallocation of funds for larger classes.

UNO Chancellor Del Weber said he also had worked with the deans at UNO, and asked them to look at where they could possibly increase class limits.

But UNO's full-time faculty member-to-student ratio is high, with one full-time professor for every 30 students, he said.

Weber also said UNO was considering hiring more part-time profes-

sors, but had almost "played that option out."

Weber said he would prefer to have more full-time faculty members, although they might not have enough space.

Another option UNO had to eliminate the problem already has been used, Weber said.

UNO already has spread out the class schedule, he said, so a large number of students are on campus for classes throughout the entire school day.

At the end of the discussion, Hoch said the issue showed how the university's goals for recruitment, retention and accessibility were tied together.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said he expected more lively debate on the issue during the strategy-issues discussion planned for a meeting later this year.

Campus Advance

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which was labeled a cult by the Cult Awareness Network of Chicago.

The identification as a cult has some basis, Blake said.

"They seem to act like a cult in that they seem to be using mind-control techniques to gain members and to keep people involved in the group," she said.

Blake said she had been told the group used techniques such as sleep and food deprivation, isolating members from family and friends and continual questioning of their long-held beliefs.

Campus Advance had members in the residence halls last year, she said, and some members are in the halls again this year.

Because the student affairs office wants to ensure people are not harassed in their living areas, Blake said it was concerned with the group's

recruiting activities in the residence halls.

"You could say that we are worried," she said. "Our fear is that individuals in this organization (in recruiting) are infringing on the rights of students."

Blake said the student affairs office would work to make sure UNL housing policy on student groups in the residence halls was enforced.

That policy states students involved in groups have the right to:

- Maintain close contact and relationships with family and friends not involved in the organization.
- Disagree with group members or leaders without being belittled.
- Ask questions.
- Be left alone if not interested in the group.
- Withdraw from the organization at any time without fear.

"We're just kind of watching to make sure what's going on is of everyone's free will or that there's no

coercion," Blake said.

A woman who has a relative in Campus Advance and wished to remain anonymous to protect the relative's safety said the group kept tight control over its members.

Members cannot date anyone outside the group or attend social activities not associated with the group without permission, she said.

Campus Advance members use a technique on new recruits in which they are friendly to the new member and obtain personal information about them, she said.


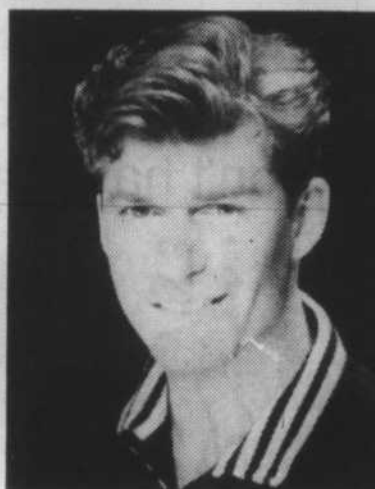
The information later is used against the member, she said, to make them feel guilty about it.

The group moves slowly but effectively, she said, working under the guise of friendship. She said her relative did not think there was any coercion in the group.

Members of Campus Advance refused to comment on the group or its activities.

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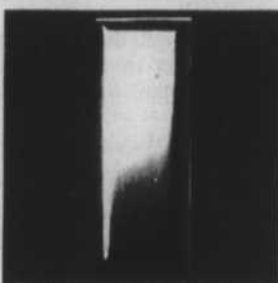
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Closing to cause layoffs

From Staff Reports

The March 20 closing of the Fast Break cafeteria will cause layoffs of 11 permanent employees and a group of Lincoln high school students, an official said.

But Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Union, said the Reduction In Force policy would give employees help in finding work. The policy gives employees priority in any university job applications and interviews for which they are qualified, Swanson said.

Five of the 11 workers to be laid off already have found work, he said.

Special-education students from Lincoln high schools involved in a training program at Fast Break also will be affected, Swanson said.

Those students involved in the training program receive hands-on training experience while working at Fast Break and are not paid, he said.

Head Cook Karen Chong said about eight to 10 students from Lincoln high schools washed dishes and bused tables from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

Swanson said the students would be transferred to similar training programs throughout the Lincoln community.

The Fast Break cafeteria will be replaced with two food-court outlets in addition to Little King, he said.

Chicken, Chinese, Mexican or Italian restaurants, if selected, might move in this fall, he said, but asbestos first must be removed from the ceiling.