

Women's Center confronts tough issues

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

Providing both educational and counseling services to students, the Women's Center has become a cornerstone for informing the campus community on women's issues.

The center is located on the third floor of the Nebraska Union and specializes in informing and confronting such issues as sexual harassment, acquaintance rape and assaults towards women.

The Women's Center staff includes a program assistant, a counseling coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, a project assistant and volunteers. The center's director is Judith Kriss.

"We operate on a very informal basis," Volunteer Coordinator Amie Haggar said, "but we work cohesively as a team."

Information on women's topics is available at the center. Educational videos and pamphlets covering such topics as abusive relationships and date rape are the main sources of information. A new computerized library has also been added to the cen-

ter.

Referrals to other outreach groups are also available at the Women's Center. Some of the programs the Women's Center is associated with are: the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, the Sexual Harassment Assault Rape Prevention Center and Planned Parenthood.

Staffed with 10 professional and peer counselors, the Women's Center provides free counseling to those in need. The staff is also able to provide referrals to anyone in need of further assistance.

"Our education and counseling services are open to both women and men," Haggar said, "but it does seem a bit exclusive."

The Women's Center handles confidentiality with the same priority as other departments around campus. The confidentiality is especially important with the short-term counseling services the center provides, Haggar said.

To play an active role on campus, the Women's Center sponsors and provides support for special events. One of the events the Women's Center sponsors is Women's Week. Tenta-

tively set for spring, the event includes several educational programs. The University Program Council also assists with this event.

The Women's Center also sponsors the "No Limits" conference with the Women's Study Group. The event, also set for spring, includes panels, paper presentations and poetry readings.

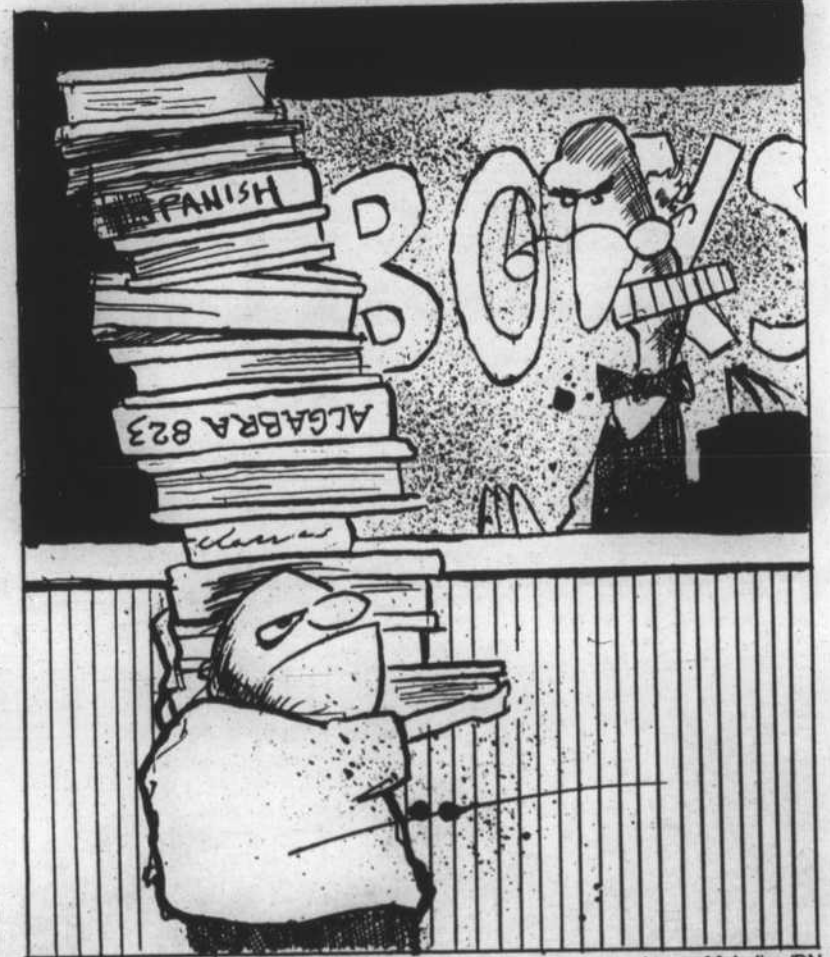
"Women's health will be one of the issues targeted during Women's Week and throughout the year," Haggar said.

While the Women's Center provides support to anyone in need of assistance, it is important to tell people that you don't have to seek counseling at the center, Haggar said.

"People come here to hang out, to study, to get resources for a paper, or to watch TV," Haggar said.

The motto for the Women's Center is "About women for everyone." Instead of pursuing a special target audience such as incoming students, the center tries to cover their entire audience with equal care, Haggar said.

"The center is more than an office," Haggar said, "it's about people, regardless of gender or race."



James Mehling/DN

Hitting books hits wallet

By Marcia Verley
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of each semester, students go streaming into the bookstores with schedules in hand, preparing to spend money on what is a legendary big college expense: textbooks.

Students who will be looking for the books that are cheaper will find that the prices at both bookstores are very similar, said Brian Rundquist, textbook manager at University Bookstore.

"Our used books are priced at 75 percent of the new price, so it's basically a 25 percent discount," he said.

Scott Nicholson, textbook manager at Nebraska Bookstore agreed.

"We try to get as many used books as we can, so the cost won't be so high for books," he said.

The highest cost that hits the student pocketbook comes from the cost of new books, and managers at both bookstores say that not much can be done about it. Rundquist said the price that students pay is the publisher's retail price.

"The total price of a new book includes royalties, publishing costs, shipping, and so on," he said. "We don't mark them up at all."

Both bookstores have services that students can use in order to make the book-buying process easier. At University Bookstore, students are able to use their student ID's to charge books. Dan Smith, who oversees the charge accounts, explained the process.

"If the student is under 21, we need the signature of a parent or legal guard-

ian as a cosigner. If the student is older than 21, he or she can apply on his own name and provide two references. As long as the balance is paid within 30 days, there's no problem. We really like the system," Smith said.

“The total price of a new book includes royalties, publishing costs, shipping, and so on. We don't mark them up at all.”

—Scott Nicholson,
textbook manager
Nebraska Bookstore.

Nebraska Bookstore will have a brand new service starting this summer for the fall semester, called Book Reservations. Nicholson explained that any new students who come in looking for fall books will now have the option of paying a \$20 deposit, and their books will be found and held for them until classes start.

"We'll make a copy of each student's schedule and find their books for them," Nicholson said. "The deposit will go towards the total cost of the books when they return to buy them."

The bookstore will also be having a contest in which a certain number of students will win their books free for the semester, and a grand prize winner will win free books each semester that he or she attends UNL.

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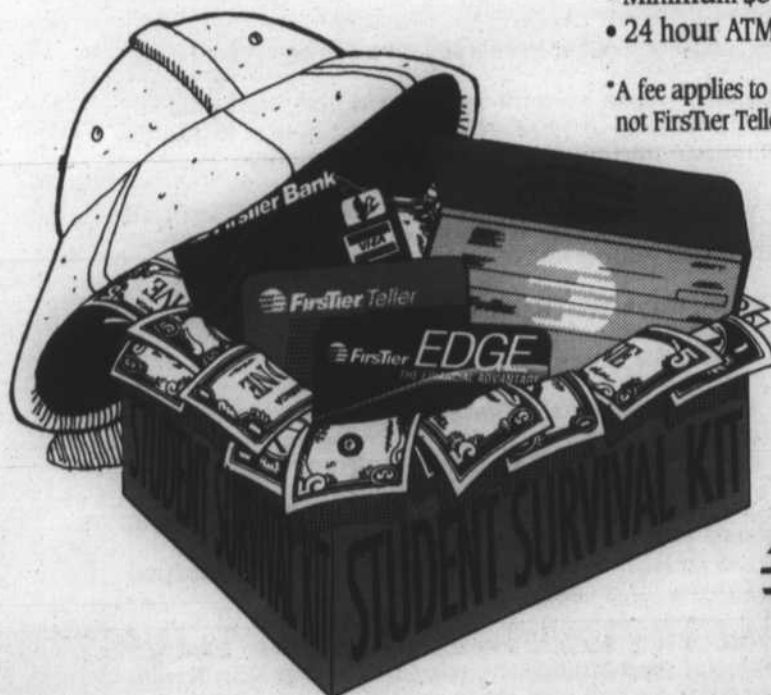
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