

Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 95 NO. 33

THURSDAY



WEATHER:

Today - Cloudy and windy.
80% chance of showers.
Northeast wind 10 to 20 mph.
Tonight - Cloudy. Showers.
Low in the upper 40s.

October 5, 1995

Health care for students keeps pace

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

As the medical profession progressed from aspirin to ultrasounds, the University Health Center has kept up with the times. When it was founded in 1958, the health center looked much different than it does today. At that time, it resembled a hospital, served about 8,000 students and had 70 beds. The last six of those beds were phased out last spring.

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Dr. Ralph Ewert, interim medical director, has been at the health center since the early 1970s, when the center still had 32 beds.

Back then, he said, people were hospitalized for more illnesses, including mononucleosis. As medicine improved, the center followed a national trend of outpatient care.

Now, any student who needs to be hospitalized is referred to Lincoln General Hospital, 2300 S. 16th St.

During its transition from hospital to health center, the building at 15th and U streets was continually being remodeled and expanded.

It underwent a \$2.7 million upgrade in 1985, expanding its medical clinics and mental health, radiology and physical therapy departments.

In 1982, the center offered student health insurance for the first time.

The health center staff grew from three full-time physicians in 1958 to more than 91 full-time and part-time workers in 1995, not including outside consultants.

The center continues to be funded by student fees.

Some NU Board of Regents questioned at their meeting Friday whether the health center should be funded through mandatory student fees.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln representatives insisted at the meeting that the health center is a necessary expense and a valuable resource.

Although the center's capabilities continue to improve, the stigma that students attach to it waver, Ewert said.

"Some called it the Band-Aid box or Student Death," he said. "It's like students complaining about dorm food. It's part of the milieu of the university."



Rachel Pettit/DN

Brian Stonecipher, an industrial engineering major, exits the health center Wednesday morning after attending his physical therapy appointment.

That reputation greeted UHC director Kunle Ojikutu when he came on board in 1987. Ojikutu switched administrative positions for a year but will return to UHC in 1996.

Ojikutu said he didn't know what caused that negative reputation, but he tried to improve it by letting students know where their student fees were going.

"It's a more respectable organization," he said. "It's a well-managed organization."

"We have brought in a lot of qualified individuals in key positions, and we improved the budgetary process of the faculty to a healthy one."

The center recently added a podiatric

clinic, an optometry service, a dermatology clinic and more physical therapists, he said.

Last year, the center had to cut back its 24-hour service because of budget constraints, he said.

The students still get a good deal for their \$80 a semester, he said, which is much lower than community rates.

"If a student has to go to Lincoln to see a physician, it could average \$94," he said. "If a student goes to the health center to see any of the primary care physicians, it's free."

"I've worked outside at private institutions," he said. "From both sides, I think the students have a very great deal."

Four regents push opinions without votes

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

A dispute between a regent and a student regent at last week's meeting may have sparked a few flames, but both sides said cooler heads usually prevailed.

The persons involved in the dispute, University of Nebraska at Omaha Student Regent Justin Peterson and Regent John Payne of Kearney, both said the student regents made important contributions, even if some comments are not appreciated.

Peterson and Payne first disputed an engineering issue at Friday's NU Board of Regents meeting. Later in the meeting, they argued again, prompting Peterson to say, "Yeah, well at least I'm not a drunk."

Regent Chairwoman Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo then said Peterson was out of line.

Peterson declined to explain his comment, but said his disagreement with Payne began during the engineering issue last year.

"It's very disillusioning to be a student regent and come to the regents meeting and try to speak on an issue, which is engineering, which is very important to UNO," he said.

"John Payne doesn't think I have a voice anymore because he doesn't agree with what I say, and if I'm in disagreement with him, then I'd better shut my mouth."

Payne said the situation was isolated and unfortunate.

"I think I've gotten along with more student regents than most other regents," he said. "The Omaha situation is an unfortunate thing, and it's the engineering issue that triggered that."

Peterson said Payne was the only thorn in his side on the board. Peterson works well with Regents Robert Allen of Hastings, Don Blank of McCook and Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha and other regents, he said.

UNL Student Regent Shawntell Hurtgen said she thought the student regents were treated as equals on the board.

"The majority go out of their way to make us feel comfortable," she said. "Most take student input very seriously on important issues at UNL."

Although Peterson said he felt intimidated during some engineering debates, his contribution made an impact.

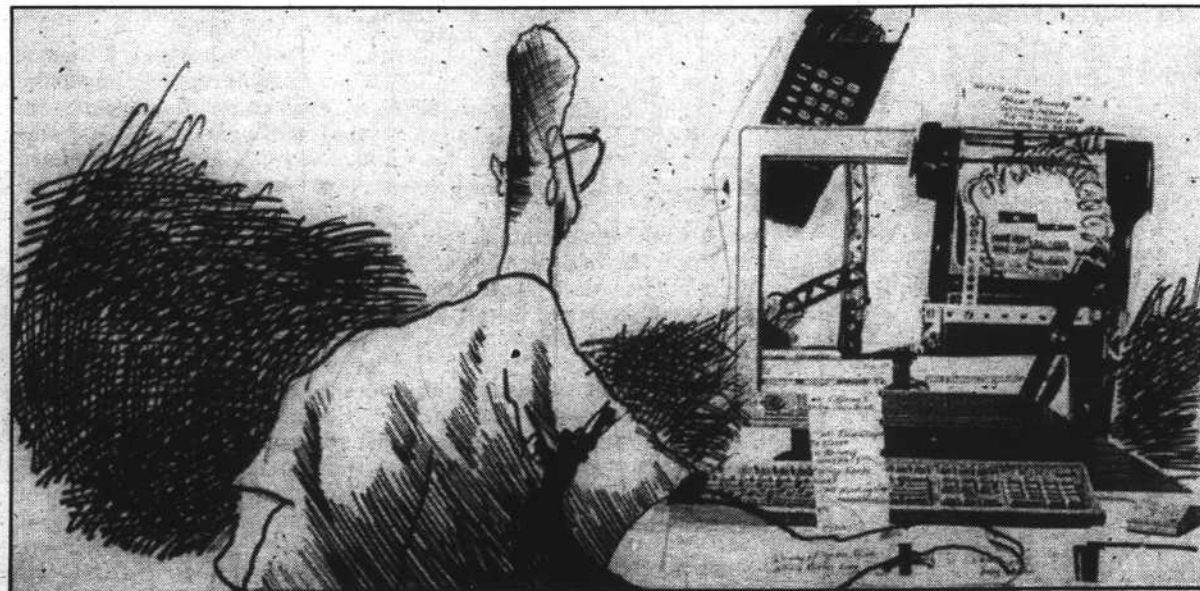
Student regents have been part of the board since 1974. The student body presidents of each of the four campuses serve a one-year term as student regent.

They are regents in every aspect but one; they do not have a vote. Their opinion is noted, but not officially counted.

Without that vote, they said, their impact is

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Students take advantage of free electronic mail service



James Mehsling/DN

By Tasha E. Kelter
Staff Reporter

Since school started, Shane Blaufuss has talked to friends in different cities and states, discovered obscure information about his favorite TV shows and made new friends he has never seen.

And he hasn't paid a dime. "E-mail is great," said Blaufuss, a freshman psychology major. "It's better than s-mail (snail mail) because you can get it any time during the day, even on Sundays."

"And there are no disgruntled postal workers to shoot you." Blaufuss is one of more than 3,000 UNL students who have taken advantage of bigred, the university's free on-line service.

Though more extensive services are available for a fee, bigred is perfect for most students who just want

to use electronic mail, said Larry James, Computer Operations Center spokesman.

About 3,110 people on campus have bigred accounts, James said, about 20 of which are management accounts. About 25 to 50 people sign up for bigred accounts every day, he said.

"There are lots of people getting in there and using it," James said. "That's good because that's what it's there for."

Bigred offers fewer options than paid UNL services such as herbie, unclass1, or uninfo. Herbie, for instance, has compilers, which allow a user to write a program and run it from a herbie account. Herbie has about 1,500 users.

By the end of the semester, James expects at least 5,000 students to

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