



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

COREY HOELKER, a sophomore architecture major, performs a juggling act for a group of architecture majors Thursday afternoon in Architecture Hall. Hoelker won a silver medal at the 1993 International Juggling Association National Championships in Fargo, N.D.

Health Center boosts budget for next year

Increase to meet rising costs will not affect student fees.

By KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

In a time when health costs skyrocket on a yearly basis, the University Health Center has done what few other health care providers centers may dream of.

In a single year it has increased its budget by \$119,946 without increasing student fees by a cent.

The health center's 1997-1998 budget, which calls for a 0 percent increase in student fees for the second consecutive year, will be voted on at Saturday's NU Board of Regents meeting.

The budget was already passed earlier this year by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska after the Committee for Fees Allocations voted 8-0 to approve the budget.

With increases in inflation, technology costs and the recent minimum wage hike, the health center has squeezed its budget since 1994 to cover its costs without relying on more student fees.

Peg Blake, health center director, said the health center was careful in evaluating its budget and specific items contained within it.

In addition, Blake said the income generated by the health center helped with the expenses. Income comes from payments from government agencies, fees for health services and student fees.

Yet the health center's future budget for 1998-1999 might be a little less predictable, Blake said.

When writing next year's budget, the health center will have to consider replacement of a retiring doctor, a new \$100,000 medical information services system and possible changes in the center's hours of service, Blake said. Those changes may bring a small increase in the center's student-fee budget request.

But Blake said the increase will be well worth the cost.

Of last year's graduating class, Blake said 77 percent had used the health center at least once.

"And of the 200 or so students that didn't use it," she said, "there wasn't a single negative reason why they did not use it."

Animal rights group wants CU mascot free

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(U. of Colorado)

(U-WIRE) BOULDER, Colo. — Outside the dusty roadside town of Hudson, about 50 miles east of Boulder, CU's 1,300-pound buffalo mascot munches her alfalfa and mixed-grain breakfast.

A light breeze wafts through the gruff dangling from her chin as she alternates between the alfalfa, grain and some seaweed-laden water in a trough next to the food bins. After finishing, she is free to roam the 320-acre Parker Ranch in southern Weld County.

Spring is the off season for Ralphie, who has run at CU football games since 1987. Ralphie is the third buffalo to be dubbed CU's mascot by John Parker, who also owns the ranch where the buffalo roams.

Parker, a CU graduate and the Ralphie Program Director, feeds Ralphie twice a day and keeps her by herself.

"We let her just be a buffalo," Parker said. "She leads a happy life."

With a snort, Ralphie retreats from the fence when she has had enough of her daily meal. Although she seems content, people harbor mixed feelings on keeping wild animals, such as buffalo, in captivity for the purpose of entertaining people.

CU Animal Rights, which became active again last year after a lull in student interest, is trying to raise awareness about animal exploitation.

The group wants to get Ralphie released but is having problems figuring out how to accomplish this.

Lisa Boehm, CU Animal Rights director, wanted to continue an initiative for an exotic animal ban in Boul-

der, which former CU Animal Rights Director Steve Gisondi started last semester. She said she hoped this would prohibit Ralphie from being run at football games.

Boehm said the ban would be similar to one in Brighton where it is illegal to own carnivorous animals, non-human primates and poisonous reptiles. However, because buffaloes are indigenous to Colorado and are herbivores, the ban would not preclude Ralphie from running at games.

Mike Gulliksen, a member of Ralphie Runners, the student group that runs the buffalo at football games, said he doesn't understand why anybody would want Ralphie released.

"How do they feel about the buffalo up in Yellowstone?" Gulliksen asked.

"At least she is safe from being slaughtered." In Montana, buffalo that leave Yellowstone's park boundaries are open game.

Marc Bekoff, an EPO biology professor, said there are bigger questions to ask in a case like Ralphie's.

"You have to ask what would Ralphie be doing instead of running at games," Bekoff said. "Once you have an animal in captivity, it's a different ball game."

A Sports Illustrated poll published in the Aug. 31, 1992, issue named Ralphie the NCAA's top live mascot. Despite Ralphie's appeal both at home and around the country, Parker expressed concern that Ralphie might not be allowed to run in the future.

"Can you imagine a CU football game without Ralphie. We (mentally) defeat the opposing team when we run Ralphie along their sidelines," Parker said. "I would never want to go to a game (without Ralphie there)."

Juggler juices up act

JUGGLER from page 1

a book when he was 13, and performed in high school and middle school talent shows. He also began attending IJA conventions and learning more tricks.

Each of the seven performers in national contests had to put together a five- to seven-minute routine to music.

"I spent six hours working on my routine every day. Now I haven't practiced for six months," Hoelker said.

He also competed in the 1995 Flatland Juggling festival in the Haymarket, where he won the show by the people's choice.

Hoelker said his favorite act is the "head roll," where he catches a ball on the side of his head, rolls it behind his back, then repeats it on the other side.

He also does routines with fire, but didn't do them on Thursday night because he didn't have his torches with him, and usually limits fire to outdoor performances.

After they performed, the jugglers offered lessons in juggling to anyone interested.

Trevor Hull, a sophomore architecture major, was one of Hoelker's earlier students he taught while working on architecture assignments.

"Corey (Hoelker) kind of taught me while we were up here, and we'd take a break from our projects."

Hoelker's impromptu performance will be followed by a performance by a traveling juggling troupe, "The Passing Zone," at 9 p.m. April 11 in the Nebraska Union Crib.

Chambers stalls legislation

Same-sex marriage bill held up by 'filibuster.'

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

A bill that would ban recognition of same-sex marriages in Nebraska was left hanging Thursday afternoon by the Nebraska Legislature.

Senators debated the bill through the noon hour in an attempt to bring it to a cloture vote, but ended up adjourning in the afternoon without moving the bill through second-round debate.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha took up most of the debate time with

amendment proposals that would make small, inconsequential grammatical tweaks — such as verb form changes — in an effort to extend debate.

Sen. Kate Witek of Omaha told Chambers his actions frustrated senators and constituents alike. She said she talked to a constituent who commented that it was once again "going to be the Ernie show all day."

She called Chambers' "filibuster" an unfortunate abuse of legislative rules that allow extended debate.

"This year is one of the worst since I've been here in five years," Witek said of Chambers' lengthy soliloquies. "It's taking so much essential time."

Chambers said he was not trying to filibuster.

"This is why some people should

Legislature

stick to the sewing circle," Chambers said of Witek's actions, saying Witek would appreciate the opportunity to change topics more easily.

Senators are often too eager to vote on topics they don't fully understand, Chambers said. LB280, introduced by Sen. Jim Jensen of Omaha, is unnecessary, Chambers said, and stems from political underpinnings.

"If (Jensen) really thinks the highest priority of the Legislature is to deliberately single out a group for discrimination," Chambers said, "then I will battle him until the cows come home."

The Legislature is adjourned until 8 a.m. Tuesday.

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