

Office helps organizations plan events

BY SARAH FOX
Staff writer

Thomas Dake is a modern fairy godmother. Dake doesn't have a wand or a magic phrase. Instead, Dake, assistant director of Student Involvement, helps student organizations plan events in the Nebraska Union.

Without this consultation, groups would have to plan events by themselves.

"They tell us their dreams, and we tell them what they need to do to make that happen," Dake said.

To plan an event in the Nebraska Union, a student organization representative goes to the Student Involvement consultation desk and fills out an event planning and registration form.

When the form and a meeting are finished, the group reserves a room in the reservation office, 220 Nebraska Union.

The student then goes back to Student Involvement, 200 Nebraska Union, to receive final approval.

Students sometimes think filling out a form is all they need to do, Dake said.

"They say, 'Just give me the form,' and we can't do that," Dake said.

Dake helps students avoid breaking obscure regulations when they are planning events.

For example, a group that plans a fund-raiser on a football Saturday must get permission from the Office of Business and Finance in the Canfield Administration Building.

The office must balance the fund-raiser with the usual vendors at the football games.

If students are planning an event on the green-space north of the union that makes "more noise than normal," the group has to sign a city noise variance.

Spencer Stock, vice president of Phi Eta Sigma, helped set up four events this year.

Stock, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said Student Involvement's consultation helped him plan last week's induction of about 245 UNL freshmen for Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies.

"Having them tell you whom you have to talk to will cover all the bases," Stock said. "It will save you tons of time."

Although Student Involvement's process saves time for students, it keeps the Student Involvement office busy with 50 to 60 registration forms on a busy day, Dake said.

Individual students cannot reserve rooms unless they are reserving for a student group recognized by ASUN.

Union operations manager Bill Behmer works with the union's reservation office, which directly reserves the rooms and booths, for groups.

He said the union renovations didn't add many rooms but changed existing rooms. Before the renovations, there were "good rooms" and "bad rooms," Behmer said.

"We got rid of a couple of really horrible rooms on the fourth floor and a really wretched room in the basement," he said. "Every meeting room in the union is now a nice room."

The union now has a maximum of 23 rooms that can be reserved.

An organization is more likely to receive a room if they don't wait too long, Dake said.

The busiest seasons are the beginnings and ends of semesters.

However, Behmer said he doesn't turn away many groups, especially if they are flexible.

"We're definitely here to serve students," Behmer said. "We're always willing to try to accommodate those different requests."



THE NEW NU MARKET is located down the stairs from the new Nebraska Union entrance. The convenience store sells food, drinks, snacks, gifts and school supplies. LORI SIMPSON/DN

NU Market adds convenience

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

With the recent addition of the NU Market to the University Bookstore, extended hours and shorter lines are enabling students a better chance to do some faster and easier shopping.

"This is a lot classier ... as opposed to the bookstore," said Shannon Robson, a junior elementary education major, who is now able to purchase her beauty supplies without standing in the sometimes agonizing lines in the bookstore.

The NU Market, Robson said, was more appetizing to shop at than a Walgreen's or Super KMart because of its convenient location.

The market is located downstairs, inside the Nebraska Union's north entrance.

Viann Schroeder, acting manager of the University Bookstore, agreed with Robson's assessment of the convenience of the market's location.

"We're very excited about that," said Schroeder, who added a number of other reasons why the market served as an advantage to students and visitors to campus.

For example, she said, the market is open beyond the usual hours of the bookstore.

This, she said, allowed students taking night courses, or who study late in the union or library, to purchase supplies past the normal 6 p.m. closing time of the bookstore.

Market hours are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 11 p.m. Sunday.

With these extended hours, students also can purchase items in the bookstore after the bookstore closes.

"If the NU Market is open, (employees) will go in the bookstore and get students any-

"*We just don't sell gasoline, alcohol and tobacco.*"

VIANN SCHROEDER
University Bookstore acting manager

thing in the store they want," Schroeder said.

But, she said, mostly anything in the bookstore can already be found in the market.

Market supplies are diverse as T-shirts and sweatshirts and small gift items, frozen foods, soft drinks, and health and beauty aids.

"We just don't sell gasoline, alcohol and tobacco," Schroeder said.

A contract between the university and Runza restaurants also is in the making, she said. This would bring frozen Runzas into the store's refrigerator.

"The market is really geared for students in terms of hours and supplies," Schroeder said.

"As we looked at how to best serve students, we felt they would be best served by having a convenience store attached to a bookstore."

So far, the price has paid off for a number of students.

Rob Petzold, a junior news-editorial major, said the installation of a cash machine inside the market was one of the best advantages the store had to offer.

"It's a lot easier to just go in the store and get cash out," Petzold said.

His frustration with having no place to buy a decent snack during his Monday evening reporting class was now over, he said.

"Students who have class at night now have the opportunity to go there at night and buy some things when everything else is shut down," he said.

While things are going well with the market, Schroeder said, students also would take pride in their new bookstore, to be completed by next fall.

The biggest feature of the new bookstore, she said, will be a general book section filled with couches and chairs for students to lounge and read in.

The NU Market will sell coffee as well, so students can drink while they read.

Internet stations also will be set up in that section of the store, which is currently the textbook section. The textbook section will be moved to the northeast corner of the store.

Another change, Schroeder said, will be the addition of 4,000 square feet of space to the already 26,000 square footage of area.

While supplies will mainly stay the same in the bookstore, she said, they will be much easier to find.

The renovations include knocking down the walls inside the bookstore. Signs will be placed above the various sections to identify what items are in a particular section, Schroeder said.

Schroeder said there would be a minor change in the amount of supplies.

"We're going to bring in this fall more items and supplies for a residence hall room or apartment," she said.

This, she said, included wastebaskets, hangers for pictures, laundry baskets and plastic dishes.

Schroeder said she was confident renovations on the bookstore would be completed by summer's end.

"Then, we'll have an entirely different store."