

**I WILL PAY
\$ 200.⁰⁰/₁₀₀**

**IF YOU WILL
DROP MSCS 465
& LET ME PICK IT UP**

Star Photo by Rich Sweeney

Desperation moves one student to offer quick cash for a class sale at add/drop on Wednesday. Due to budget problems and a shortage of instructors for computer science courses, a number of comp-sci classes have become hot market items.

Comp sci students offered up to \$300 for places in classes

By Scott Williams

Some computer science students have been offered up to \$300 for their seats in computer science classes, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean James Norris said.

These students, including one who was offered \$300, were offered the money by students who have been closed out of computer science classes, Norris said.

One computer science student said he witnessed the exchange of money between two students Tuesday during add-drop in the Holmes Student Center Ballroom.

A male student approached the computer science table and said he wanted to drop a computer science class, the witness said. A female student approached the man, and after the two went to the computer science table together, the woman handed the man at least \$70, the witness said.

The witness, who asked to remain anonymous, is a freshman computer science major who was not closed out of a computer science class this semester.

Another computer science student hung a sign in DuSable Hall offering \$200 to any student who would vacate a seat in Computer Science 465. The student refused to comment.

NIU officials Wednesday took immediate action to rectify the situation by instituting a new waiting list system for closed classes, Norris said.

The system only is being used in the computer science depart-

ment, Registration and Records Director Richard Durfee said.

The computer science department is the hardest hit by congestion, Norris said. But the system will be applied to any department whose chairman feels it is needed, he said.

Norris met Wednesday morning with LaTourette, NIU President William Monat and Admissions Director Daniel Oborn as soon as he became aware of what was happening on campus, he said.

"It's my hope that we can nip it in the bud," Norris said.

The new system means students will be put on a waiting list if they request a seat in a closed class, Norris said. If a seat in the class opens up, the seat will be given to the first name on the waiting list, he said.

Prior to the institution of the list system, if a student dropped a class, the student standing in line behind him could pick up the class, regardless of how many students previously had requested the class.

The waiting list system, which went into effect Wednesday morning, is a much fairer system, Norris said.

Norris said he has never heard of students buying and selling classes before. "As far as I know, this is the first time it has happened," he said.

"Maybe it's like scalping tickets. But I don't know if I'd call it a black market," Norris said.

"The seriousness (of the matter) is that students have been forced to do this," he said.

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