

Volunteers in community . . .

## Poor get legal assistance

A number of University faculty members and other Lincoln residents are volunteering their time to help give poor people legal assistance.

English instructor and secretary of Justice, Inc., Mark Dupree, said since the group has gained public notoriety, they have had a "phenomenal" number of calls from people in need of legal assistance.

Justice Inc. was founded a year and one-half ago by Paul Olson, director of the Tri-University project.

Dupree said 75 per cent of those seeking help from the group reside in the Malone area.

"There has also been a great need for our services in the academic community," Dupree said.

"Money is not so much a problem with students as it is with our poor citizens," Dupree said.

But he made note that his organization is not federally funded and, therefore, not restricted as to who and what type of cases it can work with. He added that since many of the members of Justice Inc. are affiliated with the University, they can be especially helpful in giving students advice.

Besides providing assistance, Justice Inc. members are also doing research on recurring types of cases and existing discrepancies in the law,

Dupree said.

"The bail-bonding system is one of the major problems we're researching because poor people often do not have the money to put up for bail," he said. The alternative to this system is called the "property bond," but he said most of the Justice Inc. cases involve people who own little, if any, property.

Problems with the bail-bond system include potential discrimination and high bail rates charged to people who might not be guilty.

President of Justice Inc., Earl Barnawell, professor of zoology said he has been working on a case which might involve discrimination. Barnawell described the case as follows:

"A minority student went to a local bar. He tried to cash a check, but was refused. The student had cashed a check there before and the check was good.

"When he was told that his check would not be accepted, he left the bar, and closed the door on the way out. The window in the door fell out. But part of it was already damaged and had been put back together with tape or some comparable repair substance.

"This occurred at midnight,

and then at 6 a.m. police woke the student and told him that he was being charged with destruction of property."

Barnawell said Justice Inc. was able to help the student by referring him to one of the group's volunteer lawyers. "You don't usually hear of a white man being roused in the middle of the night for breaking windows," Barnawell said. The county attorney concurred with his opinion that discrimination might be involved in the case, he added. The case is now pending.

But Barnawell said things like this happen every day. "Many times the poor and underprivileged have no legal recourse."

"What we're trying to do is contribute to law and order by showing the poor that the law protects them as well as everybody else," Barnawell said. "If people have no legal representation, then they might circumvent the law, especially if they believe the law is not on their side."

## Chamber music workshops planned

A statewide Chamber Music Festival designed to "sweeten the orchestra situation" in schools was recently organized by Louis Trzcinski of NU's School of Music.

Trzcinski, associate professor of string instruments, said "more string players in the schools and community are needed. A strategy of encouraging and developing the chamber music principle in the schools will ultimately provide better string players."

Chamber music is performed by small ensembles of string instruments, sometimes with a bass instrument or piano. This allows more segments of the school population to be involved, he said.

Small ensembles are the answer for schools unable to generate enough interest for an entire orchestra, Trzcinski continued.

The Nebraska unit of the American String Teachers Association will sponsor formal evening concerts at each workshop by the Pro-Arts Quartet-in-Residence of Wisconsin University.

consin University.

The Lincoln workshop will be held Nov. 13-14 at Nebraska Wesleyan Fine Arts Center with some financial support provided by the Lincoln Public Schools. Omaha Westside, Norfolk, Beatrice and Columbus will be represented at the workshop.

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