

Committee asks reconsideration of Davis case

by MARSHA BANGERT
Nebraskan Staff Writer

A special student government investigating team, in a 35-page report made public Monday, has recommended that the Board of Regents reconsider their decision not to appoint controversial Michael Davis to a NU teaching post.

The investigating committee, appointed by ASUN, took issue with two of the four reasons given by the Regents for not hiring Davis, a teaching fellow at the University of Michigan.

And the seven-member committee, headed by junior Dave Ratliff, makes two recommendations:

—Davis should be given an instructor's job in the NU Department of Philosophy, as

had been recommended early last summer.

—The Regents, in cooperation with the rest of the University community, should set forth an explicit policy for the hiring of teachers including "criteria on the qualifications and standards" the Regents expect from prospective teachers.

The report, scheduled to be submitted to the Board of Regents at their Monday meeting, states: "Open discussion of this matter ought not to be discontinued until some nature of consensus within the University community is reached."

The committee's report concludes that the Regents have been misinformed about some of the information they cite as reasons for their refusal to hire Davis.

Davis attended an inauguration reception for the President Robben Fleming of the University of Michigan and made some remarks to the effect that Fleming could not always be trusted, the Regents said.

No one who would testify that Davis appeared at the reception could be found, the report says. Several persons who did attend the reception have given signed statements to the investigating committee to the effect that they did not see Davis at the reception.

Fleming said in a telephone conversation, committee members reported, that he could not remember seeing Davis there.

The committee's report also refutes the Regents' charge that Davis said in testimony before a legislative committee that the University of Michigan administration had a repressive, non-communicative

attitude toward students.

In the telephone interview, Fleming said he did not remember Davis making such a statement, the investigation committee's report states. Davis has also denied making the statement.

The Regents also said that Davis' actions in participating in a four-day fast in the Michigan administration building did not "meet the standards expected by the Board of Regents."

Davis was protesting a proposal by the Michigan Regents that he felt would have denied students adequate participation in university government. The ASUN report states that Davis saw his action as an alternative to violence, which he felt would have erupted had the Regents approved the proposal.

"The committee views the fast as an individual, victimless action, as evidence of Davis' sensitivity to important issues and his sound judgment with regard to appropriate means of expression."

The Regents have charged that Davis was found guilty of violating trespass laws following an arrest in November, 1968. This charge leaves out relevant information, the ASUN report says.

The protest occurred because of inadequate payments to

welfare mothers, while the county board held a \$100,000 budgetary surplus for that year, the report says. The protest in which Davis participated did achieve its goal, as the county board later reversed its decision, the ASUN report said.

Also, the Regents' assessment of Davis' teaching ability was questioned by the ASUN committee. The Regents released "no public information" on how they arrived at their assessment, the committee says.

Based on course and department evaluations of Davis, and on letters of recommendation submitted by faculty members at the University of Michigan, the committee reports that the Michigan institution was more than satisfied with Davis' performance in the classroom.

The committee also finds questionable the Regents' charge that Davis is "intellectually arrogant and lacking in tact, objectivity and judgment."

The report notes that Davis was immediately rehired by the University of Michigan after his rejection by NU, and that he is now a member of

President Robben Fleming's ad hoc committee on a permanent university judiciary.

Since discrepancies were found in the Regents' charges and supporting evidence, the ASUN committee found the "character judgment of the Board of Regents to be without foundation."

In late September or early October, the Regents received information from an anonymous source that Michael Davis was a minister of arms for the White Panther Party in Michigan. Board of Regents Corporation Secretary G. Robert Ross attempted to check out the report with a special assistant to President Fleming.

However, according to the ASUN report, the assistant, Barbara Newell, said there were several persons on the Michigan campus who were quite active politically and that the Davis associated with the White Panthers was not the same Davis who had been rejected by NU.

"This whole case is far from closed," commented Ratliff. "Student concern hasn't died, and we hope this report will renew interest throughout the University community."

'Tom Jones' here Tuesday

Tom Jones is coming! The popular British movie that has been acclaimed as the best comedy ever made will be shown by the English Department on Tuesday at 7 & 9 p.m. in the Nebraska Theatre. According to Ned Hedges, director of freshman English, there are tickets available in the English Department for \$1.00.

Tom Jones is being shown as part of a movie series. The third and final film of the series will be Billy Budd, on January 5.

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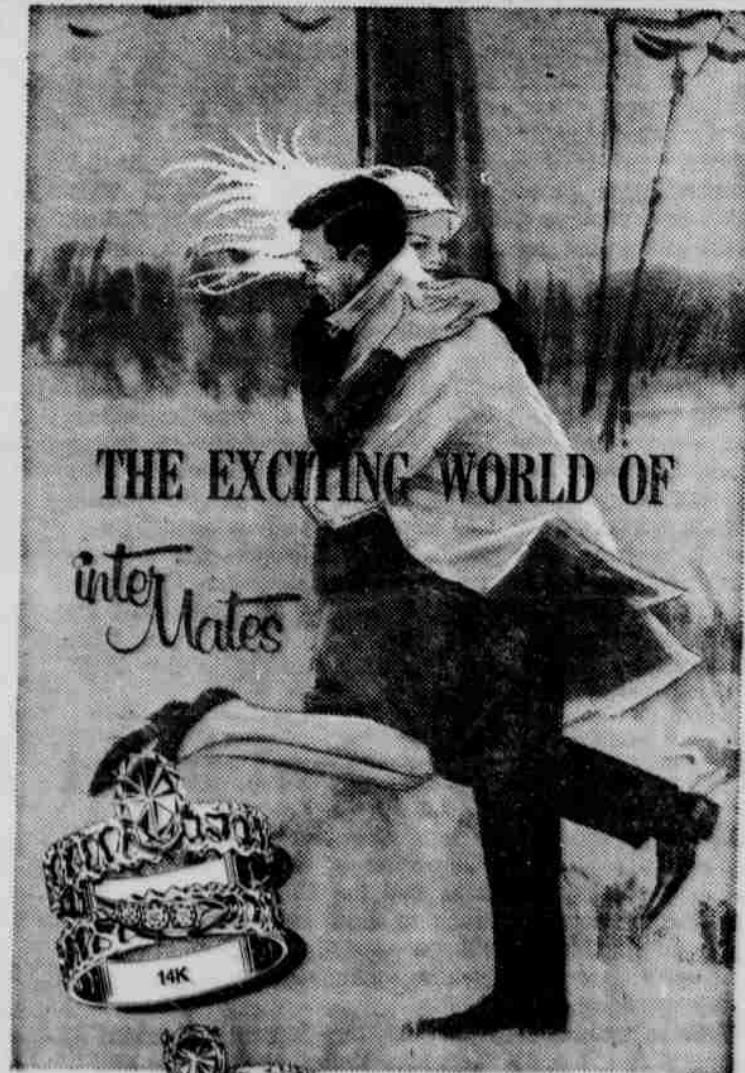
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