



Wallace Peterson...to seek Democratic nomination for U. S. Senate.

## Peterson bids for Senate

Wallace Peterson, chairman of the University's department of economics, is again prepared to seek the Democratic nomination for the U. S. Senate.

Although his decision has not yet been formally announced, Peterson wrote in a letter to Nebraskans who supported him in his initial bid for the nomination in 1970: "It is my personal desire to try again for a seat in the United States Senate."

Peterson ran second to former Gov. Frank Morrison in the 1970 primary. Declared candidates for the 1972 Democratic race include state senator Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff, Donald Ferguson of Lincoln and Phyllis Person Lyons of McCook.

Another NU professor, Bert Evans, an agricultural economist, is also mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for the seat currently held by Republican Sen. Carl Curtis.

## Gay marriage partners discuss legal problems

by Bill Smitherman

The country's first married same-sex couple Friday told a Nebraska Union crowd of over 800 about their marriage and the ensuing legal hassles.

Jack Baker and Mike McConnell said they were married because "we care about each other. We wanted to get married because we love each other."

**BAKER SAID** another reason for the marriage and the court fight to give it legal status was an attempt to establish alternatives to the "nuclear family" of today. He called this reason "a matter of survival of the race."

Noting that the world is quickly becoming overpopulated, Baker said, "We must not have every woman producing children." He added that now a woman cannot be a full member of society unless she is married with children.

To change this social attitude it will first be necessary to have an atmosphere where alternatives to two sex marriage and child bearing can be discussed rationally.

**BAKER SAID** that his and McConnell's case to legalize same-sex marriages is intended to cause a cultural shock and an issue around which alternatives can be discussed.

There is also some money involved, he said. This is the tax and property benefits which are available to married couples.

In the future, Baker said, he thinks society will be forced not to subsidize marriages across the board. Then only those couples who are raising or have raised children will be subsidized, he said.

**IN AN OPEN** situation, where only women who want children will have them, Baker estimated that only about 25 per cent would become mothers. This would greatly reduce the number of children being born, he said.

Baker and McConnell have been fighting their legal case for 18 months. Baker described the events to the overflow crowd.

In May of 1970 the two applied for a marriage license in Minneapolis citing a Minnesota statute which did not prohibit same-sex marriages. Their application was denied because of an opinion by the county attorney. His reason was that granting them a license would destroy the nuclear family.

**BAKER DESCRIBED** this as a case of "upholding God's law rather than the law of the legislature." The denial was appealed and is still in the courts. Baker said it will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

But then the two took another tack. Using an adoption and legal name change as well as a quirk of Minnesota law which allows one person to apply for a marriage license, the license was granted in a small town 90 miles from Minneapolis.

The two were married in early September by a Methodist minister.

The case for allowing same-sex marriages is based on several constitutional points, Baker said. The strongest of these arguments is based on the 14th amendment which provides for due process of law for all citizens, he said.

**"UNDER THIS** amendment the state cannot give rights to

## Chicano centers open in Nebraska

Two Chicano Cultural Centers have been opened in Nebraska in an effort to expose teachers and teacher trainees to the problems of ethnic minorities and offer services to the Mexican-American community.

Erwin H. Goldenstein, UNL Teachers College faculty member who coordinates the University's Training Teachers of Teachers (TTT) program, said centers have been opened in Omaha and Scottsbluff. Plans call for a third to be opened soon in Grand Island.

"The centers are a place where people who want to learn more about Mexican-American culture can come," Goldenstein said. He acknowledged that the success of the centers will largely be determined by how well the Mexican-American community supports them.

The TTT Project at UNL is one of 32 similar federally-funded programs throughout the nation which attempt to offer additional training to teachers and student teachers.

Goldenstein said the centers would be a place "where a youngster could go to get help" for a problem, he may face. He stressed however that no age restriction on center activities is anticipated.

"These center locations have been determined by the Mexican-American community," the program coordinator said. Goldenstein noted that they will also be staffed by Mexican-Americans.

The idea of Chicano centers came out of discussions last January with spokesmen from the Mexican-American community.

Future plans call for collections of Mexican-American art and literature.

Ralph Grajeda, a Ph. D. candidate in English at UNL, was recently hired to coordinate the project centers.

## YAF proposes fees bill

The University's conservative Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) group is proposing a legislative bill to control the use of student fees at UNL.

The fees are now often used for "the projects of small interest groups," according to YAF State Chairman Terry Cannon.

L.T. Col. William Matschullat, YAF attorney, said the bill will be drafted by the time the Legislature convenes in January.

"We are engaged in defining what constitutes the furthering

of a moral or political philosophy," Matschullat said. "Some question remains as to exactly who should determine when a violation occurs."

The bill will insist that no student will be required to finance "a philosophy he abhors" through student fees, Cannon said.

"The Daily Nebraskan has shown us just how many improvements may be made in one year," Cannon said. "We see no reason why such improvements should not be continued, and extended, into other areas supported by student fees."

one group which it denies to another," he said. "It has historically never been a requirement that married couples have or raise children."

Baker said even though these people don't raise children they are given the same tax and property benefits by the state as those couples which do. This is not true for childless same-sex couples, he said, and is a violation of the 14th amendment.

Baker, a law student and president of the University of Minnesota student body, said that the students at Minnesota have seen that a person's personal life is irrelevant to his

ability to do a job. The issue of homosexuality was never brought up in his campaign, he said.

**MCCONNEL**, a professional librarian, was denied a job by the Minnesota Board of Regents. He appealed the case to the Federal courts and won. However, the Regents have appealed the case to a higher court.

McConnel is currently the executive director of the Youth Service Coalition in Minneapolis.

Answering questions, Baker said he feels sexual fidelity is a phenomenon of heterosexual marriage. There are some

reasons for such fidelity in a heterosexual relationship, but none in a same sex one, he said.

**BAKER ADDED** he feels gay couples should be "emotionally faithful," but not necessarily sexually faithful.

Both gay liberation and women's liberation are attacking the stereotype of the "Marlboro Man", Baker said. It is necessary to realize that people should not be stereotyped just because of their sex, he added.

McConnel said gay couples are rejecting the model of heterosexual relationships  
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