

# ASUN to help choose part-time ombudsman

by Carol Strasser

ASUN has a go-ahead from the UNL administration to begin selection of candidates for a part-time ombudsman next semester.

At its meeting Wednesday, ASUN Pres. Steve Fowler asked for senate volunteers to serve on the selection committee of three students, two administrators and one faculty member.

Several weeks ago ASUN adopted a report calling for the creation of an ombudsman position at UNL. It recommended that a selection committee establish criteria for the position and that possible financing of the program be investigated.

In meetings with ASUN executives, interim UNL Chancellor C. Peter Magrath reaffirmed his commitment to help find funds for the program, Fowler said.

Magrath said Wednesday that after a budget is presented, he will investigate possible funds to sustain a part-time ombudsman second semester.

Once the budget for a part-time ombudsman is presented and funds are found, he will look into a budget proposal for a full-time permanent ombudsman, Magrath said.

There probably won't be a problem finding funds on an interim basis second semester, he added, but a "more serious problem" is funds on a permanent basis.

John Humlicek, author of the ombudsman proposal, and Carl R. Yost, University comptroller, are studying University accounts to determine possible financing and are drawing up a budget, according to Ely Meyerson, interim Dean of Student Affairs.

Any final recommendations will be placed before the Board of Regents, for action, Magrath said.

Fowler told the Senate if there is enough student demand, it's almost certain the University will have a full-time ombudsman next year.

In other action, the Senate formed an ad hoc committee

to investigate student penalty fees.

Administrators Ron Gierhan and Harry Canon from Student Affairs told senators that the administration isn't happy with the current fee structure and would like student input to change the system.

The committee is charged with establishing a "workable rationale or policy which would be a guide to equitable fee assessment."

The resolution, introduced by Sens. Patti Kaminski and Mike Berns, lists book fines, late registration fees, and drop-and-add fees as some areas where student input is needed to determine policy.

The committee will report its finding to ASUN next month.

The Senate passed a resolution Wednesday which affirms ASUN endorsement of students involved in the Nov. 6 anti-war demonstrations planned for several major cities.

The Senate also agreed to schedule one meeting a semester in Residence Halls, tentatively set for Nov. 3 at Schramm Hall and March 1 at Sandoz Hall.

To be considered next week is a Senate Bill introduced by Roy Baldwin which raises some constitutional questions.

The bill, relating to rules of procedure, asserts that the senate can interpret sections of the ASUN Constitution relating to quorums and the abstention rule.

ASUN First Vice Pres. Michele Coyle held these two provisions of the bill to be out of order because they are in direct violation of the ASUN Constitution and give the senate interpretative power allocated to the Student Court.

The senate voted to appeal her decision on Baldwin's assertion that the senate has the power to pass any legislation, and it is up to the Court to rule on constitutionality after legislation is passed.

Anyone interested in the vacant Senate seat for Teachers College and two vacancies on the Student Court should contact the ASUN office in the Nebraska Union.

He also said he was surprised at the result of last spring's parental questionnaire on coed visitation, which showed that 56 per cent of the 2,200 parents interviewed were in favor of the idea.

Meyerson told the students he is aware of the possibility of mass demonstrations in the future over the coed visitation question. He said this would only hurt the students' chances of influencing the Regents.

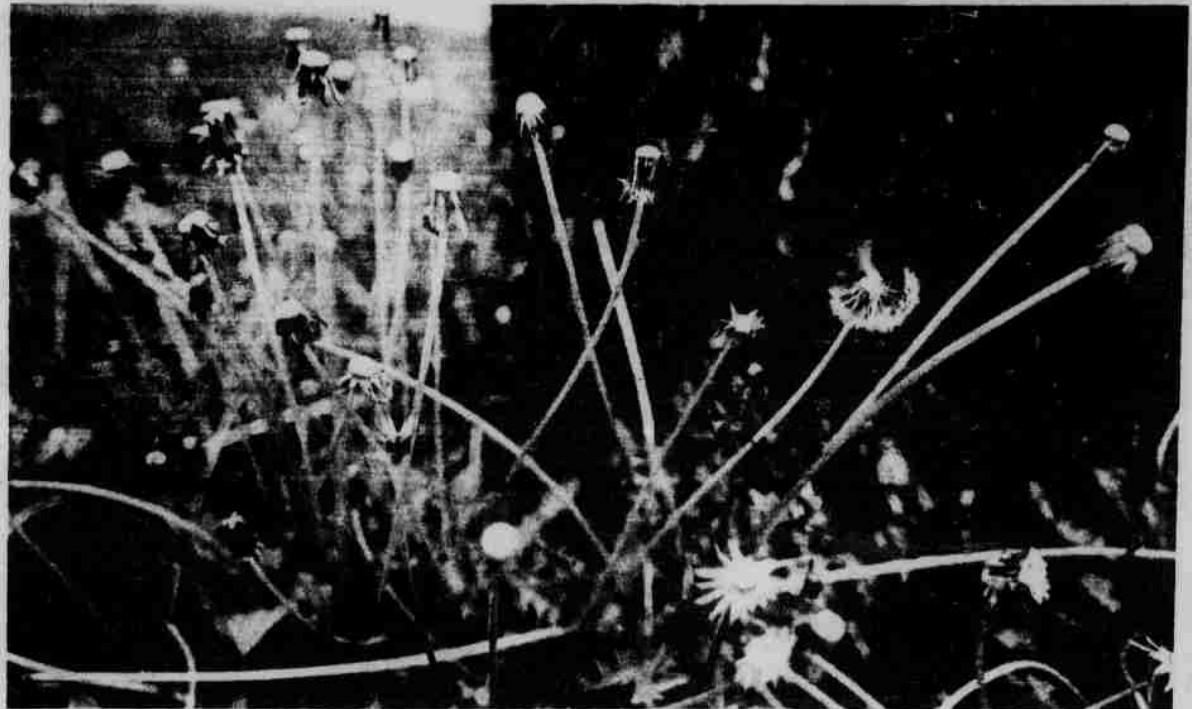
"This is an inappropriate time for demonstrations," he said. "If anything was gained last summer through the guest rights proposal I think it was that the Regents came to respect the students for being responsible."

"I think it's naive on the part of students if they think demonstrations are going to work," Meyerson said. "I don't think the Regents will capitulate to this type of action."

"Usually when there's a deadlock between people, negotiation is the answer," Meyerson added.

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"Succulent greens" . . . provide an interesting diet for the foragers of the NFU weed eating class.

## If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em

by Duane Leibhart

Roger Welsch, Nebraska Free University instructor says the theme of his weed eating course is "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!"

The NFU weed eating class was introduced to such succulent greens as duckweed, curly dock and swampy smart weed on its first field trip Tuesday afternoon. Although much of the vegetation is now dry and brown Welsch had no problem finding an abundance of edible plants in road ditches near rural Emerald.

THE 12 CLASS members tasted along the roadside, as their instructor identified edibles and dug the potato-like roots of the arrowroot and Jerusalem artichoke. The situation seemed faintly reminiscent of the well-known TV commercial where the man who tries all the strange foods on the menu suffers for it.

Welsch said he learned the useful properties of area plants from botanists, books, and Indians of the Omaha tribe. He received an M.A. degree in German at UNL and did graduate work in folklore at the University of Colorado.

Now at Nebraska Wesleyan University, he teaches "pioneer and Indian folklore" and German. The seven-year veteran of The Wesleyan faculty has familiarized himself with the plants that pioneers and Indians found useful.

ONE STUDENT SAID the course was made more interesting than a conventional

study of plants. His sentiments seemed to be that many professionally trained botanists know the names and characteristics of weeds but seldom tell any of the interesting uses they can be put to.

According to Welsch, the Indians used the oil from sunflower seeds to groom their hair and the fluff from milkweed pods to line their babies' leather diapers. The former UNL student said the Omaha Indians recall many old recipes and still make use of edible plants growing wild.

One novice weed eater expressed an immediate distaste for ground cherries but found rose hips (rose berries) more to his liking. Welsch, who once took a correspondence course in wine making, said wine can be made out of rose hips.

THE WEED EATERS became a little more selective in their grazing when the instructor indicated the presence of the poisonous hemlock plant. In their introduction to Nature's bill of fare students felt they had found everything but "wild hamburger".

The instructor said this was the last meeting of the weed eaters this year. He said the course will be offered again in the spring when things green up.

Welsch, who believes he can live on the prairie by eating roots and greens, is planning a four-day test of his survival ability in the Nebraska sandhills next week.

## Meyerson explains visitation possibilities

The head of Student Affairs told students attending a Wednesday night rap session at Harper Hall that there are three courses of action students can take in regard to coed visitation in the residence halls.

"You can give the Regents a new plan that is different than the guest rights proposal they turned down during the summer, you can work outside the system with demonstrations and mass sleep-ins, you can give up and do nothing," Ely Meyerson, interim executive dean of Student Affairs, said.

Meyerson declined to hypothesize as to the Regents' reasons for turning down the proposal, but hinted that if another proposal is taken to them it would have to be a compromise of the original measure in order to get tax payer support.

Meyerson said the University has to be responsive to the public, to a point, even though the dorms are self-sustaining and use no tax money.



MAMA!

Photo by Bill Genzel