

Sawdon defends police in gay assault charge

Robert J. Sawdon, Lincoln, police inspector, defended his office's actions in handling an assault charge filed by two members of the University of Nebraska Gay Action Group (UN-GAG).

Monday's Daily Nebraskan reported that members of UN-GAG were displeased with how the Lincoln Police Department handled an assault incident at a Lincoln restaurant.

Sawdon said his office has investigated the incident and sent a report to the county attorney's office. No further action is planned by Lincoln police, he said, until the county attorney issues an arrest warrant.

According to Sawdon, the individuals making the complaint were told to report the incident to the county attorney's office.

One individual who filed a complaint said he was never told to contact the county attorney. The other individual, a 17-year-old girl, could not be reached for comment.

"If anyone is displeased with our operation, then there should be greater displeasure that those tutti-fruties dressed in Playtex girdles were not arrested," Sawdon said.

"In my opinion and the opinion of the chief of police, a mistake was made," Sawdon said. That mistake was that the three individuals brought to

the police station dressed in women's clothing were not arrested.

Sawdon said the violation was "clearly observable" to the officers at the station and if it ever happens again "arrests will be made."

Sawdon declined to specify what constituted "clothing of the opposite sex" but indicated the individuals involved were clearly dressed in women's clothes.

Noting he expects several individuals to test and bait officers over the city ordinance, Sawdon said, "We don't arrest homosexuals per se, unless they have committed an offense."

ASUN

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Both resolutions probably will be re-introduced at ASUN's Wednesday meeting.

The resolution noted that the ASUN budget was approved by the proper channels and resolved that any recommendations by the Regents for change in these channels be submitted to ASUN for approval.

Although any programs calling for student fee expenditures must be reviewed, Varner said, "I would imagine that some programs underway would be continued."

Varner added that fees aren't available to support any contractual arrangements for programs until a policy is established.

When it was suggested that the Regents' decision was aimed directly at the World in Revolution Conference, which is in the process of gaining speaker contracts, Varner said he didn't think the Regents motion is intended to bar any programs.

The Regents are weary of the highly controversial issues growing out of the use of student fees Varner said, and are concerned that programs are being managed in a way that they have no control, although legislators and parents assume they have control.

Berkheim: conference will go on

Amid speculation the 1972 World in Revolution Conference was a principal motive in the recent freeze on student fees, Dennis Berkheim, conference chairman, said "World In Revolution will go on."

Pres. D. B. Varner said at a special Tuesday ASUN meeting he will decide in two or three days the status of a list of Union functions presented him by Interim Dean of Student Affairs Ely Meyerson (who received them from the Union Board).

"We have to await that decision," Berkheim said, but added he is now operating under the assumption student

fees will be made available to him since the conference is a "normal annual function," and all such Union functions were to be allowed to continue.

He said, however, that during Tuesday's meeting, "It was clear World in Revolution was singled out from the other programs."

Berkheim complained "although the Regents are

ignoring all freedom of speech and the U.S. Constitution's first amendment, they consider themselves to be proceeding properly because they are doing so under procedures they themselves set up."

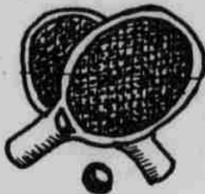
Conference committee member Doug Voegler said the committee anticipated trouble because of the Time-Out Conference controversy, so made a special effort to have a balanced program.

Voegler, a conservative, pointed to James Kilpatrick and Earnest Vanden Haag as two conservative speakers scheduled to speak at the conference.

"The conference has been modified quite a bit from what was originally planned," he said, because of input from students--conservatives, moderate and liberal--throughout its planning.

"The Conference isn't just going to be Bobby Seale," he said.

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