

Colleagues urge dismissal of ag economist Evans

by John Russnogle

A letter urging the dismissal of Bert Evans, assistant professor of agricultural economics, signed by thirteen members of the UNL agricultural economics department, was "generated within the department to show support for the respondents of my charges, especially the department," according to Evans.

The letter was presented to department chairman Glen Vollmar nearly six months after Evans leveled charges of discrimination in pay, promotions and other employment matters against six College of Agriculture staff members.

Evans said, "It is quite possible the letter was welcomed if not fostered by Vollmar as a means of showing departmental unity against one who dares to question the economic philosophy of the ruling club."

He added that the actions of the faculty members were "a natural response of any closely knit organization when threatened internally."

Vollmar was unavailable for comment Thursday night.

The letter says:

"It is the judgement of the undersigned faculty members of the department of agricultural economics that there has been a long standing and continuing performance problem associate with the employment of Dr. Bert M. Evans in the department. Furthermore it is our professional judgement that it is in the best interest of the department of agricultural economics and the University of Nebraska that the University terminate the appointment of Dr. Evans."

The letter was signed by professors Dale G. Anderson, Maurice E. Baker, Larry L. Bitney, A.W. Epp, Thomas L. Frey, James B. Hassler, Glenn A. Helmers, Phillip A. Henderson, Paul Gessaman, James G. Kendrick, Paul W. Lytle, Michael S. Turner and Allen C. Wellman.

"The recommendation for dismissal is innocuous as far as my personal situation is concerned," Evans said. "What distresses me most is such as action tends to weed out faculty members of differing views, as it has in the past. Ultimately such actions are a detriment to the students' chances to learn and the department's opportunity to grow."

Only two of the 13 faculty members who signed the letter have had any opportunity to judge Evans' academic performance, according to Evans.

"It is regrettable that a number of recently appointed staff members were drafted to defend the department against me in a matter that they could have little more than 'coffee shop gossip' knowledge of," Evans said.

Professor Erwin Goldenstein, chairman of the academic freedom and tenure committee, which recently completed 2½ days of hearings into Evans' complaints, said the committee had heard rumors of the letter's existence but did not have the letter at the time of the hearings.

Goldenstein said the letter would not be considered as part of the case brought by Evans because the committee was not given a copy of the letter and "We've not been approached about a dismissal."

Women's honorary names 27 'notable women'

Mortar Board, the University's senior women's honorary, Friday named 27 coeds "notable women."

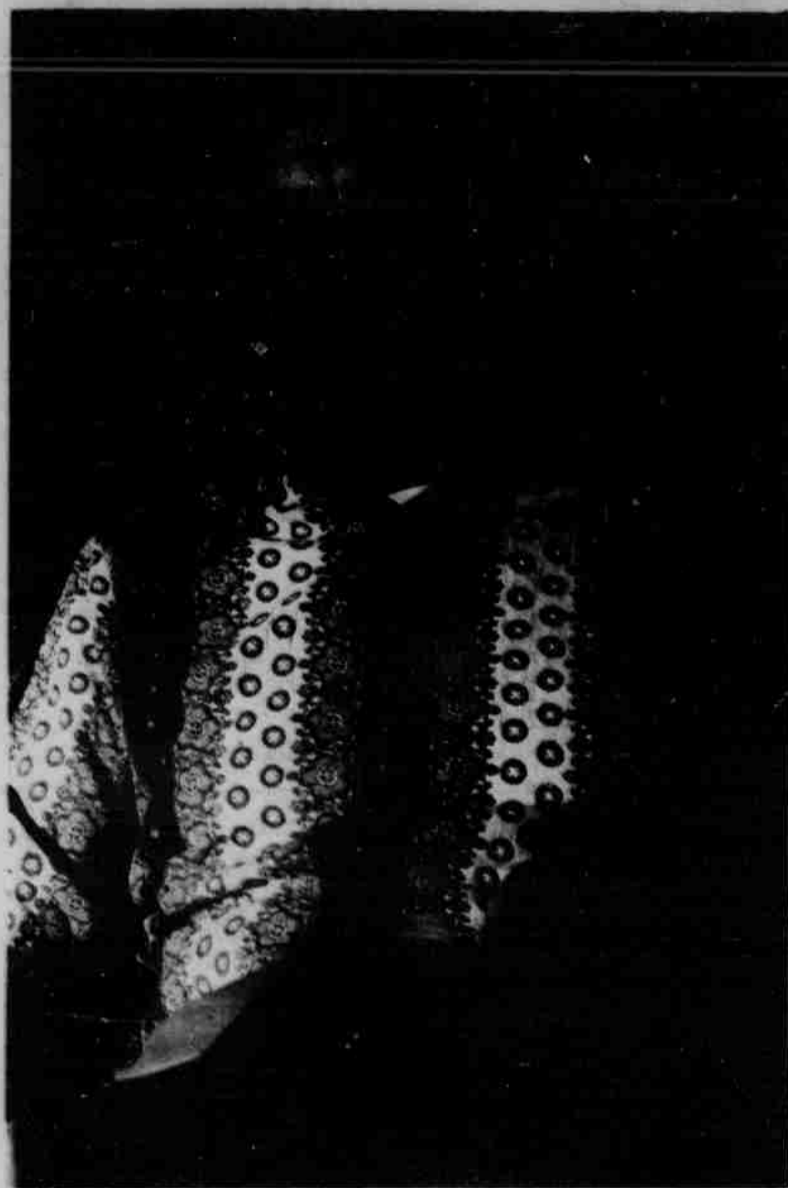
Mortar Board President Janet White said the women were selected on the basis of scholarship, service to the University, activities and leadership.

Seniors: Rita Becker, Harvard; Gretchen S. Davis, Grand Island; Lory Garnick, Ord; Kay Giles, Lincoln; Meg Hall, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Susan Holyoke, Lincoln; Nancy Lee O'Connor, Fairmont; Elaine Kay Oellermann, Grant; Diane Peterman, Dallas, Tex.; Marlene Timmermann, Papillion.

Juniors: Jane Ann Bruning, Bruning; Louise E. Hall, Lincoln; Susan Jackson, Omaha; Kerry Madison, Omaha; Sandra Thompson, Flsb.

Sophomores: Deborah Ann Danberg, Omaha; Carol M. Erenbach, Omaha; Carolyn Lou Janda, Lincoln; Jo Ann Owen, Sidney; Connie Paranti, Cedar Rapids, Mich.; Judy Roberts Zaiman, Omaha.

Freshman: Mary Lee DeWulf, Atlantic, Iowa; Robin L. Darst, Omaha; Barbara J. Phillips, Omaha; Nancy I. Quinlan, Lincoln; Teresa Ann Richter, Kearney; Amy Schmidt, Papillion.



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Food cooperative plans expanded action

A "Liberation Center," which would house a food co-op, a clothing co-op, community newspaper, information center and free food and clothing programs, is a proposal of people involved with the People's Food Cooperative, according to one of its organizers.

The food co-op, now located in St. Mark's-on-the-Campus at 13th and R Streets is trying to locate a house to rent so it can expand its services. According to Dennis Berkheim, the co-op has been very successful and now has weekly distribution of fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, bread and butter.

In the planning stages is the distribution of meats, dairy products, canned goods and organic staples.

"The People's Food Cooperative is an effort of the people to form a food distribution organization which brings community members into more personal contact with each other, rather than isolation," Berkheim said. "We make use of relationships of cooperation, trust and love rather than selfishness, suspicion and exploitation."

The proposed Liberation Center "will be a place where people can come, relax, read, listen to music, refresh themselves and find justice in Lincoln," Berkheim said.

He mentioned that although the co-op is successful it is possible for it to become too big. Berkheim suggested that a co-op should limit its membership to somewhere between 100-300 families in order to retain a sense of community.

"In a city like Lincoln several small co-ops would make possible a decentralization and rotation of power and management," Berkheim said.

"We aim at providing ourselves with what we need at the lowest cost without imposing profit-making middlemen. This allows us to make our own decisions about food, taking this power away from giant control-hungry institutions."

Every member is expected to contribute a small amount of labor to help the co-op run smoothly. All jobs, including distributors, buyers, bookkeepers and a coordinator, are rotated on a monthly basis. Berkheim said members work a maximum of one hour per week.

Produce is purchased from wholesalers and farmers every week.

The co-op sponsors a pot luck supper every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the lounge of St. Mark's-on-the-campus. Interested people may bring food to share and find out about the co-op.

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SUN. - 2pm
EAST CAMPUS UNION
SUN. - 8pm

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