

Students contest hitching decision



A UNL student group is attempting to challenge, through a change in city law, a crackdown on hitchhiking instituted earlier this summer by Lincoln police.

In a public letter in July, Police Chief Joe Carroll said the department would begin strict enforcement of a city ordinance prohibiting hitchhiking.

Previously, the department issued warning tickets for first offense hitchhiking.

Official traffic citations, which require a court appearance, are now being given

to violators.

Police say traffic problems and other dangers created by hitchhiking forced the tighter policy.

As a result of the stricter enforcement, a 20-man citizen group has been formed which hopes to alter the city ordinance.

According to Larry Molczyk, a group organizer, the proposed changes will be finished up this week.

The proposal, Molczyk said, would prohibit hitchhiking on 10th, 16th and P Streets, as well as in downtown and other

business districts where traffic is heavy.

The proposal also includes an education campaign to alert the public to safety rules which should be followed when hitchhiking. The group plans to present their proposal to the city council early this month.

Lt. Mel Dorn reported that hitchhiking arrests are up 50 per cent since the crackdown was announced.

"We've tried warnings before and were unable to control the problem," he said.

ASUN submits student fee plan

by Bart Becker

The status of a proposal which could potentially place responsibility for allocating student fee monies primarily in the hands of student-dominated groups appeared indefinite earlier this week.

The uncertain state of much of the proposal seems to be a result of confusion among some of those involved with it.

The new proposals outlined in an ASUN document suggest fee monies be funneled by ASUN. This, the document contends, would "provide a means for student determination of the use of student fee monies." In addition it would insure that the monies are used as intended, the document continues.

ASUN currently is allocated \$1.60 from each student's fees each year, netting \$39,000 annually for student government.

Under the proposal, ASUN would assume responsibility for allocating all student fees except those earmarked for student health services. That would leave approximately \$650,000 yearly which would be channeled through ASUN.

ASUN president Bruce Beecher indicated earlier this week that he would "try to move" the proposal through channels. A different proposal was presented to the Board of Regents at its August meeting, but regents asked that more work be done on the administrative end of the proposal, according to Beecher.

That proposal has been effectively dormant since that time due to individual absences. Both Beecher and UNL Chancellor James Zumberge have been gone for the past few weeks.

John Stevens, assistant to the chancellor, said no action is planned on the greater part of the proposal. However, Stevens said that after the August regents' meeting, the board showed major concern for the status of student health services. A task force to work on student health organizational problems will be set up in the near future, he said.

Virginia Trotter, vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs, will head the fact-finding task force. Its composition will likely be

Turn to page 7



Costs force Union price hike

"We don't feel good about raising the prices, but we don't apologize either. If our costs rise, then we must ask more for the food," Nebraska Union Director Al Bennett said earlier this week after the Union raised food prices.

"The Union cannot enter into a contract that is expected to show a loss," according to Bennett "and only good management held the food service down to a minor loss last year."

In July the Union Board asked for a price increase for this school year. The Union administration approved the request and this fall a 5 to 6 per cent overall hike in food prices went into effect.

Prices were raised on most meat items, Bob Richeson, director of Union food services said, because of rising beef costs.

Richeson added: "A big jump in freight costs this year also raised food prices. We knew about July 1 that we would have to raise them. We faced a marked increase in costs and we had to raise them (Union food prices)."

Bennett said the Union can change its prices in spite of the federal price freeze, but was "trying to keep prices down anyway."

This is the Union's first price change in two years. "The board is reluctant to pass

any increases so we only pass down what we have to. We have to assume a very honest role of a fair price, otherwise the food will price itself out of the menu. We had to drop pork almost completely a few years ago, because of this," Bennett explained.

Prices in the Union will probably continue to rise. Minimum wage and Social Security benefits for Union employees are both expected to increase this fall, he said.

Does the food service ever show any profit at the end of the year? Richeson explained that food service tries to maintain a profit of one-half to one per cent. That profit goes into the budget for the whole Union, he noted.

Another factor in rising costs is what Bennett called "the rip-off factor." The magazine rack this fall was moved from the north entrance to the south entrance of the Union.

The sole reason for this, according to Bennett is that \$8,000 worth of merchandise was shoplifted last year. Eventually the south desk will handle magazine information, and ticket sales for all community events.

The Union board is considering setting up a free literature distribution point at the site of the old magazine rack, Bennett said.