

Friends of the arts plan coordinating role

by Carolyn Hull

University Friends of the Arts (UFA), who only last year were struggling for recognition as a campus student activity, now play an important part in coordinating fine arts at the University, according to one member.

"We wanted to be an all-campus group where faculty, students and staff all would have equal voting privileges. We found there were no channels for dealing with a group of that nature," said Bill Wallis, UFA president.

A new constitution has been written for the group, which Wallis hopes will be approved by the ASUN senate. The constitution will be presented at the fall organizational meeting Monday in the Nebraska Union.

The new cultural affairs committee also will be explained. "On a practical level, University Friends of the Arts has been charged with making a go of the performing artists series arranged by President Varner through the cultural affairs committee," Wallis said.

UFA is co-sponsoring guest artists with the Union in an effort to bring good performers to the campus for a major concert and discussions in living units.

"We want to offer exciting entertainment and make it

readily available by taking it to living units. We also could have a social event that gives students from different campus groups a common event," Wallis said. "Arts can be fun," he added.

The first visitor this year will be Carol Rosenberger, whom Wallis called "a brilliant young pianist." She will be on campus Oct. 10-12. Also scheduled are Cathy Berberian, vocalist, and mimist Toni Attel.

"Forces at UNL have been working toward the arts, but in a disorganized and isolated manner," Wallis said.

University Friends of the Arts are coordinating their efforts with others through the newly formed cultural affairs committee. The committee is designed to build a fine arts program for the University by combining efforts of all resources available to strengthen cultural affairs that have been struggling individually.

"We need student membership to feed in new ideas, and to help us communicate more effectively. There is a nonsensical idea that the only place faculty and students can meet is in a classroom. The artistic community is a melting pot where everyone is needed," Wallis said.

Community members outside the University may belong as associate members with all privileges except voting and holding office.

"We can look to a bright future of the arts here. I believe they are an essential part of undergraduate and graduate education and that we should begin to expect within four or five years to have a performing series of perhaps 10 or 12 major artists ranging from pop to classical and a facility for their concerts. UFA's efforts now are to build an appreciation and audience for that time," Wallis said.

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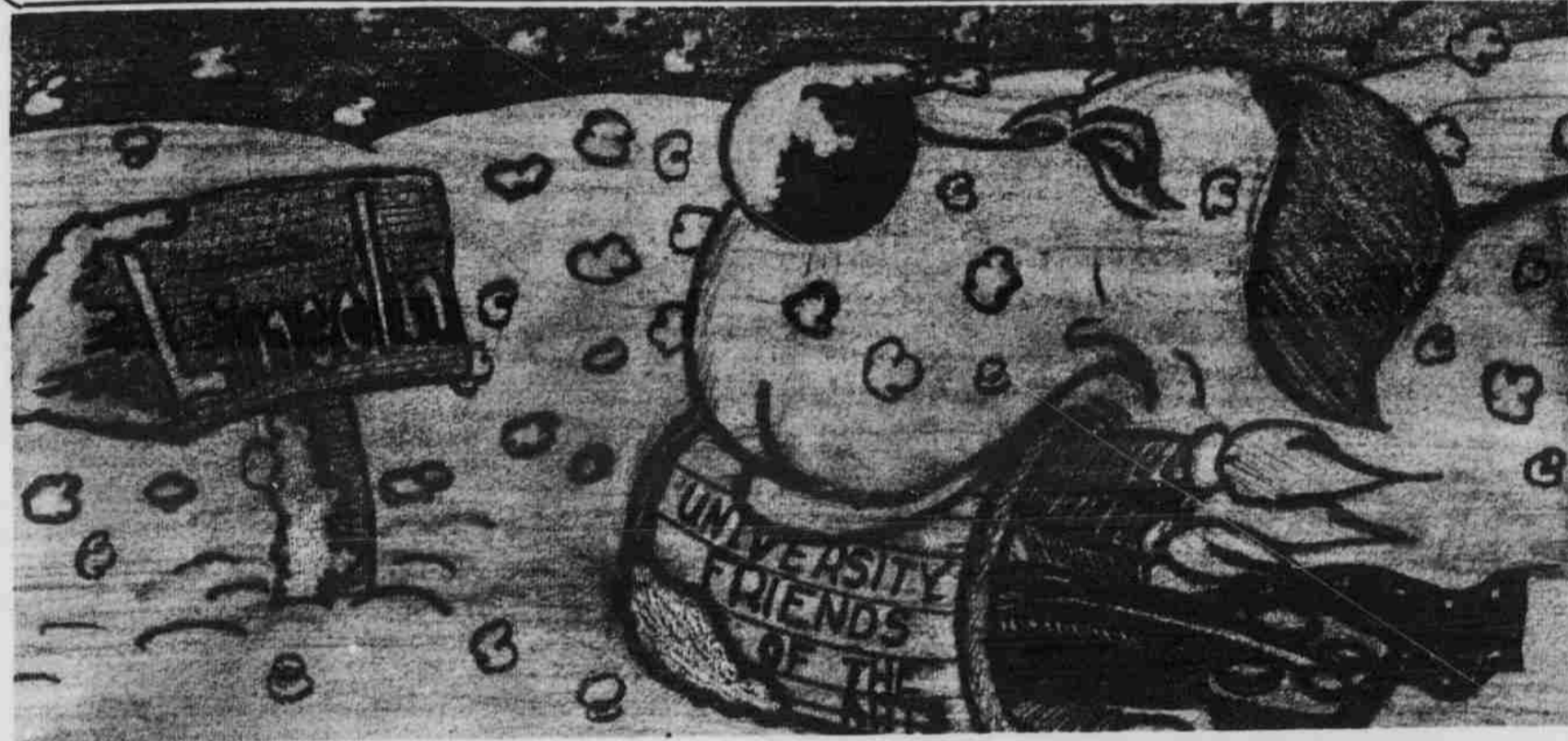
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