



UNL gets tough on bad checks

Anyone who wrote an insufficient funds or a no account check to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln could have disregarded the letter UNL sent him and waited until registration or graduation to pay the check. If he didn't want to re-register or graduate, it might not have been necessary to pay for it—ever.

But that's in the past, according to Ronald Gierhan, assistant in student affairs. Now if someone writes a bad check and disregards the notice sent by UNL through certified mail the check will be sent to the county attorney for collection after 15 days, Gierhan said.

Bad checks are a very real problem for the Nebraska Union, according to Gierhan, but few bad checks are written for tuition or housing payment to the University.

Betty Vodenal, head cashier for the Union, said about 300 bad checks, averaging \$15 each, are written to the Union each year. Larry Emmons, business officer for the Union, said that on the average, the Union holds \$1,000 worth of bad checks.

Emmons said all but \$200-300 of the \$1,000 is recovered, but the real cost is in the service of holding checks and notifying people. Only about one per cent of all checks written each year are bad, Emmons said,

and of those only about three of the checks are forgeries.

Gierhan said that under the previous policy the University had no immediate recourse if the check was not paid. He said such was the case with the relatively small checks written to the Union. If a bad check was for a large amount—for example those written for tuition or housing payments—immediate action could be taken. The student was asked to appear before the Student Tribunal.

But, Gierhan added, even in these cases, the student could just walk away. If he quit school there was little the University could do.

"Students here are adults. Let's treat them that way instead of having a sanctuary where they can get away with something," Gierhan said.

He added the UNL will continue to contact students before sending the check to the county attorney. He said the school has a responsibility to notify the student, but not to wait indefinitely for payment.

"We were really protecting the student and creating an unreal world here (at UNL)," Gierhan said. "If he wrote a bad check to Brandeis, or Miller and Paine or any other store, the check would be sent to the county attorney."

DeCamp welcomes changes to abortion bill

by Steve Arvanette

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh said he expects some amendments will be offered when his bill to modify Nebraska's abortion law comes before a Unicameral committee for public hearing. The senator introduced LB286 after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling Monday that declared abortion laws similar to Nebraska's statute as unconstitutional.

Particular areas where DeCamp would recommend amendments include dropping from the bill a provision which requires consent from a woman's husband before an abortion could be performed. He said he also would approve lowering the age when a woman could receive an abortion without parental approval from 18 to

16 years old.

Under DeCamp's current bill, a woman could receive an abortion within the first three months of pregnancy with her husband's permission, if she lives with him. A woman under 18 years old would require approval of her parent or guardian.

After the first three months of pregnancy, DeCamp's bill would allow an abortion when two other physicians concur with the woman's doctor that continuation of the pregnancy might result in the woman's death, or serious harm to her physical or mental health.

If an abortion is performed for any other reason, the abortionist could be convicted of a felony and fined from \$2,000 to \$30,000, or imprisoned one

to 10 years. DeCamp's bill calls for a prison term from 10 to 50 years if the woman dies during a criminal abortion.

"At the public hearing of this bill I will introduce amendments which, if implemented, could eliminate almost all abortions and make every baby conceived a wanted baby," DeCamp said in a prepared statement.

When asked to elaborate on the comment DeCamp would only say "that's the mystery." He added that an explanation would be made later.

A copy of the court's decision was received Wednesday by the Nebraska Attorney General's office. James Duggan, assistant attorney general, termed the ruling a "far reaching opinion affecting nearly everyone."

ASUN senators blast library, Daily Nebraskan

by Sara Schwieder

ASUN came out for peace and alcohol on campus Wednesday, but leveled some criticism at Love Library and the Daily Nebraskan.

According to a poll taken by ASUN and the Residence Hall Association (RHA), more than 90 per cent of UNL students favor alcohol in University living units.

Based on the poll results, ASUN directed that a proposal be written legalizing alcohol in University residences. The measure will be presented to the NU Board of Regents for approval.

More than half of all University residents said they favored "the unrestricted consumption of alcohol in campus living units," while 37 per cent favored liquor in restricted areas. About eight per cent of Greeks and co-op members said they did not favor alcohol at any time on University property, while 12 per cent of dormitory residents said they did not favor alcohol on campus.

Of the 37 per cent favoring "restricted" alcohol consumption on campus, most preferred that alcohol be allowed in student rooms and designated party areas with the permission of the proper authorities. Approximately 35 per cent of Greeks and co-op members answered the survey questionnaire, while 49 per cent of the dormitory residents responded.

The Senate also approved ASUN President Bruce Beecher's proposal that classes be suspended next Monday afternoon, "to show the University's commitment to peace." Beecher said a convocation of students, faculty and administration might take part in discussions or programs to "show our relief" at the cease-fire announced by President Nixon Tuesday. The proposal will be submitted to NU President D.B. Verner for approval.

In other action, ASUN approved a \$2,400 management study to be conducted on the UNL libraries. The study will be done by a consulting firm, and will evaluate library service, policies and management, Beecher told the Senate. Money for the project will be taken from the contingency fund of the ASUN budget.

"This is something useful to all members of the student body," Beecher said. "The library is a very real problem that students are faced with."

Some of the senators wondered if the administration would follow its recommendations when the study was complete.

"If a committee of students with no expertise came up with the survey, the administration might take it lightly," Beecher said. "But a professional survey—I don't see how they could ignore it. This report is not going to be cast aside."

In other action, the Senate seemed disturbed at Vice President Michelle Gagne's announcement that ASUN will buy a full-page advertisement every week for 15 weeks to be published in the Daily Nebraskan. The first advertisement appeared Wednesday. Each advertisement will cost about \$136, Gagne said.

"A number of things at ASUN have . . . not been covered at the depth that we need," Gagne said. "Our programs are not publicized well enough, and students are not well enough informed about our actions."

ASUN Sen. Bill Freudenburg said he thinks the Senate should have been consulted on the matter, while other senators wanted to know why ASUN wasn't getting adequate publicity.

"I think it's a reflection on ASUN, that our news is not newsworthy," ASUN Sen. Marcia Hale said.

"It's a wrong policy that student governments must advertise in the student newspaper," according to Sen. Ron Frank. "We're elected representatives and our actions should be reported. It would be a good idea to invite the editorial staff to answer our questions on the coverage ASUN has been getting." The Senate approved Frank's suggestion, and The Daily Nebraskan editors will be asked to speak to the Senate on the ASUN coverage.

Other actions included:

—Approval of the Electoral Commission report. The report recommended that ASUN elections be held on March 14—two weeks before spring vacation—so that new senators could start work over the break.



ASUN Sen. Ron Frank . . . invites Daily Nebraskan editors to explain ASUN coverage.