

## Symphony plans given green light

By Andy Riggs

The Cultural Affairs Committee has decided to continue with plans to have the St. Louis Symphony in concert at the University.

According to Ron Bowlin, UNL coordinator for cultural affairs, the committee decided to have the symphony here after its Performing Arts Series had sold out.

The committee has had trouble finding enough money to support its programs and planned to cancel the St. Louis Symphony in order to keep from incurring a financial setback. It had previously counted on \$8,000 in student fee money for its programs that did not materialize.

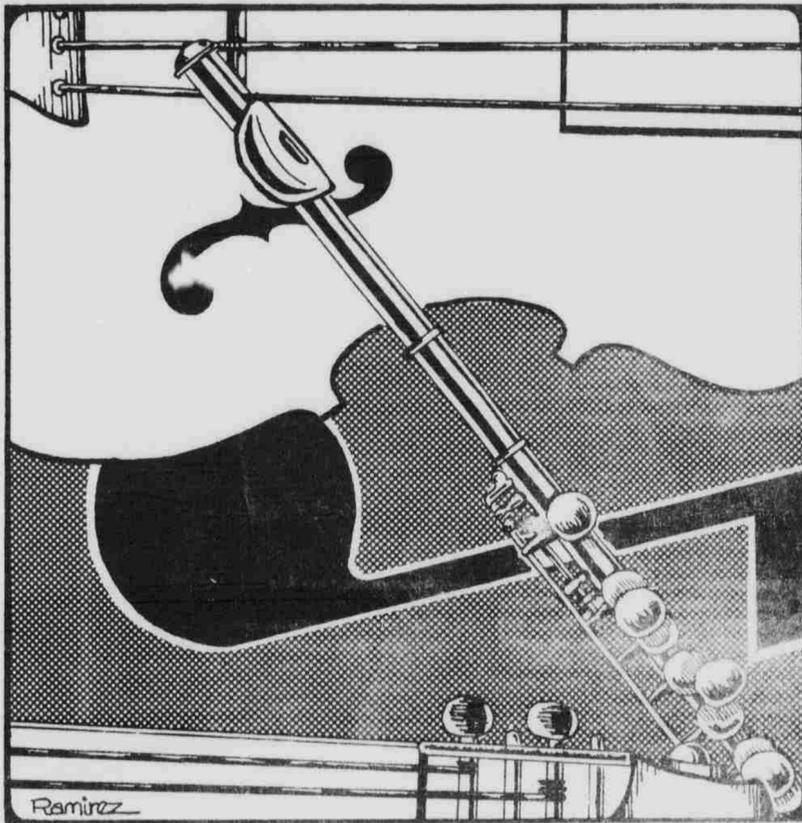
"We were always sure that we wanted to have the symphony return to play here. It was just a matter of money," Bowlin said. "Now that the Performing Arts Series has sold out, we won't have to spend money on the publicity as we had planned."

Melvin George, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, advised the committee to go ahead with the concert, and try to make up the money in other ways, according to Bowlin.

Bowlin said some money would be given to the committee from a chili feed sponsored by Farmhouse Fraternity and Delta Gamma Sorority, and that the committee would ask the Convocations Committee for some additional funds. Also, the ticket prices will be increased.

"I want to stress that the additional money will probably not be enough to keep the ticket prices down. We cannot afford to sell tickets for the same prices as last year," Bowlin said.

The St. Louis Symphony cost about \$11,000 to bring to Lincoln last year.



## New program cuts red tape for veterans

By Charles Wieser

Veterans who either are uncertain about their benefits or think they are getting the run around while attempting to receive benefits should go to UNL's new counseling and referral service for veterans, according to Velmo Holm, a veterans' program counselor.

Holm said the Veteran Special Talent Search (VSTS) program was updated this semester to better aid veterans who are unemployed, underemployed or handicapped.

"Our program was specifically started to help disadvantaged veterans continue their college education, but we now concern ourselves with other veteran benefits," he said.

"We're now helping veterans with housing loans, explaining the length of

their hospital benefits, dental care and also helping them to enter technical and vocational colleges."

Holm said that VSTS will serve as a catalyst for other Lincoln agencies working with veterans.

"We've informed local agencies such as the Red Cross, Indian Center, Salvation Army and the Lincoln Action Program of our existence and have asked what they're now doing for veterans," Holm said.

He said direct communication with local agencies will help cut the red tape for many veterans. "We refer the individual to the specific person in an agency who will know best how to handle his problem," Holm said.

Delores Tucker, director of Lincoln Action's alcoholism program, said she has referred 10 veterans to VSTS.

"I feel they'll (VSTS) be able to work more effectively with the people I referred because our program depends on the family of each individual as being a lever to work with," she said.

The 10 veterans she referred to VSTS were single, she said.

Holm said a need for VSTS was recognized after the Vietnam era statistics showed veteran benefits not being equal to the cost of living and the failure of veterans to attend college.

He stressed that veterans can collect benefits on either a full-time or a part-time basis and that a veteran who is incarcerated, whether in an alcoholic ward or prison, is still entitled to receive benefits after his release.

Holm said that a veteran taking six hours credit is able to collect \$110

monthly, and he receives \$220 monthly, if taking 12 hours credit.

"If a man's married and working in a factory, he may want to pick up some hours in night school, but is unaware that he is qualified to receive financial help. It's important that he realizes he can still keep his job and receive \$110 a month while attending night classes," he said.

VSTS is financed by a grant from the U.S. Office of Education. This year NU was given \$40,000 for Veteran Education.

Eligible veterans originally were only those who served after 1955. This has changed. "We'll accept anybody who comes in," he said.

"The problem is getting people to know we exist. Not many people are aware that we're even here," Holm said.

## Non academic employees face unionizing possibility

By Peter Anderson

An effort is being made to unionize all nonacademic employees on the UNL campuses, according to Bob Kessler, head of operations in Nebraska for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

This includes personnel who work in maintenance, service, custodial and clerical positions who are not now represented by a collective bargaining agent, he said.

Kessler explained that to be recognized as the bargaining agent, 30 per cent of the personnel involved must sign cards recognizing the union as their agent to bargain for salaries and benefits.

This would constitute petitioning the Court of Industrial Relations to hold an election to decide whether the union would be certified as a collective bargaining representative, he said.

The union hopes to set up two

separate bargaining units—one for maintenance, service, dietary and custodial personnel—another made up of persons from clerical positions, Kessler said.

Jack Lemon, president of the union's Local 1827 in Lincoln, estimates that about 700 persons on the UNL campus would be eligible to join the union.

He said better working conditions, insurance and retirement benefits are some areas where employees could be helped.

There was a possibility of administration groups against organizing the union, Lemon said. However, one administrator told him, "The only way workers are going to get anywhere is by organizing."

"The administration realizes that we are on campus canvassing for signatures, and they are not blocking us" but are keeping a neutral position, Lemon said.

