

RHA suit occupies Grice's free time



Carolyn Grice

By Tam Mehuron

"As of late I'm coming off as a radical student, but I'm not really that extreme," said Residence Hall Association (RHA) President Carolyn Grice.

Grice was referring to the lawsuit recently filed by RHA against UNL concerning the visitation and alcohol proposals. "Basically I think we (RHA) offered them two sound proposals", she said. "The regents defeat didn't make any sense to me."

RHA wasn't represented when ASUN President Ann Henry presented the proposals to the student senate, she said. They were defeated in June with no discussion, she said.

Following the defeat, RHA officers met periodically over the summer to examine possible alternatives. According to Grice, the officers "decided that the lawsuit wouldn't hurt."

She said RHA is trying to show that "we're responsible students asking for self-determination through the lawsuit." Although the lawsuit will take more time, she said RHA preferred this course over the alternative of mass violations, because the latter might produce an undesirable, although immediate, effect.

If RHA loses the lawsuit, the only alternative is to return to the summer proposals. However, if RHA wins, residence halls will be able to determine visitation hours, she said.

When asked how long the lawsuit could last, she said it "could take quite a while."

With the tension and responsibility of being RHA president, Grice said that she is often tempted to take her frustrations out on people, but instead vents her emotions on the piano. "Music has to be my all-time favorite activity—it helps to relax me."

Concerning the boycott of extended RHA hours on home football game Saturdays, Grice said, "What we wanted to do was show parents that we don't have open house privileges all the time in hopes that the parents would then complain to the regents."

Grice said the biggest problem was the dormitories'

inconsistencies in handling the boycott because of the lack of communication. "Not all the halls understood what we wanted," she said.

Two accomplishments of the boycott dealt with the students' education regarding specific housing policy and the positive response of some parents in agreeing to write to the regents, she said.

RHA has a three-pronged approach towards the proposals, which include educating students, parents, and the Legislature—"we're still working on that one," she said.

Concerning RHA's effectiveness, she said the residence halls should start making the demands RHA has then "RHA would be great."

"The residence halls are waiting for RHA to lead them—I won't do this," she said.

She specified the RHA programming and communication committees as having the most potential for providing dorm unity. "If we could have a massive effort of all the hall residents to instill pride in their dorms, RHA could realize more of its potential."

Grice said she would like to see the residence halls become stronger, but wants to continue working with the Greek houses. She said her next goal is to broaden relations with the Inter-Fraternity and Panhellenic Councils and promote understanding and cooperation between Greeks and residence hall members.

Majoring in early childhood development and reading, she said that the university is about "10 years behind in everything, particularly in minority relations." There is an inadequate number of minority faculty, which only puts more stress on student racial problems, she said.

"It's difficult for the minority student to adapt to the university," Grice said, saying that her adjustment was much smoother because she got involved in campus activities.

However, she views her success in student leadership as an optimistic sign. "It's worked for me, so why can't it work for others?"

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