

Pot dealers' assoc. lauds 'high' joint standards

Editor's note—The following letter reportedly was sent to Lincoln State Sen. Roland Luedtke and the Judiciary Committee, although Luedtke said Thursday afternoon he had not yet received a copy.

Dear Senator Luedtke and members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Nebraska Assoc. of Marijuana Wholesalers and Retailers (NAMWR) wishes to make its first entry into legislative politics since its inception in 1972. First, however, we should like to describe our organization and its purposes. We are a nonprofit, unincorporated (for understandable reasons) association of small businessmen, organized to defend our interest in the free enterprise system. We feel our business is a true service to our thousands of customers in the Nebraska area, and hope to always maintain our quality "high" standards which we have established. Marijuana Dealers International has just granted our state association recognition as one of its fastest growing chapters, and last year's smoker was

termed "a hit" by some and a "rip roaring success" by others.

With that brief description of our group, we would like to outline our stand on some of the legislative issues. First, we feel our sector of private business has been the object of more than its fair share of regulation. We feel the government regulation of business can only have a detrimental effect on the free enterprise system. However, we do find some merit in your recently introduced legislation making it a crime to sell products represented as controlled substances, when they are in fact, not controlled substances (or 'drugs' as we in the business call them). It will, to some extent, eliminate the fly-by-night dealers who often give legitimate business persons such as ourselves a bad reputation. We have long been in favor of efforts to weed out these people. However, it seems that, in part, your decision is based on a practice which is the end result of over regulation by government. We are, of course, referring to the government practice of employing persons

falsely representing themselves as consumers of our product, who then proceed to help enforce the this practice, frequently selling these government agents substances which do not meet our normally high standards.

Now, whether yet another government regulation will do the job is debatable, in our opinion. Perhaps this problem could be dealt with in a more general consumer protection act.

ridiculously over-stringent constraints on our industry. Our dealers have often tried to put a lid on

We hope you will understand and empathize with our plight—the plight of the small businessperson trying to keep his head above the high water of government intervention. Perhaps alternative legislation could be worked out in an evening joint session of your committee and our organization.

Legislative Committee (NAMWR)

P.S. We would like to extend to all of you an invitation to attend our second annual association awards banquet and smoker. More details will be forthcoming.

Little done,
little to do
by ASUN

guest
opinion

By David Howlett

Although the ASUN Senate has supported liberalizing the visitation and alcohol policies in student housing, little, if anything, has been accomplished.

Basically, nothing happens when the ASUN Senate convenes Wednesday evenings because there is little, if anything, it can do. At present they are ineffective and powerless.

A student government that draws its mandate from 12½ per cent of the student body has no support, thus no power.

This is an endless circle. A lackluster year for ASUN causes a poor voter turnout, promoting even poorer results the following year in terms of dedicated senators and committee workers.

Until ASUN is able to involve a majority of students in its projects and services, we will not benefit from the student-financed government.

ASUN Senate will not be able to involve large numbers of students until it is reorganized to better represent the student and his needs.

As ASUN Senate is now set up, senators are elected from colleges. But how many students feel a close association with their college? How many students know their ASUN representatives from their college?

Perhaps it would be better to elect senators from living units. It would be more likely that a larger number of students in a residence hall would know their representatives. A similar

situation would exist among those in Greek houses. In addition, off-campus representatives with the same problems and concerns of other off-campus students would find like rapport.

Since the ASUN Senate has done little to foster change, students need to come together and promote change.

We need to redefine the goals and purposes and usefulness of ASUN Senate in order for it to re-establish its power base.

It should not be overlooked that there have been several good programs for which ASUN administrations have been responsible. Among those are the Student Legal Services Center, which has made free legal advice available to UNL students. In addition the Associated Students Koop (ASK) and the book exchange also represent useful programs. These programs have helped students and have won their support.

But it's not enough to be content with these programs. The University has a responsibility for students. It is not enough to merely offer a degree. Rather, the University affects the life of the student in innumerable ways. It is time the University recognizes this. And it is time students take the responsibility for receiving their fair share.

We, the students are power. We need to band together for positive student action.

I propose a student gathering to discuss possible changes in the present structure of ASUN. This meeting will be in the Nebraska Union (the room will be posted), at 2 p.m. Sunday. Let us hope that a meaningful dialog occurs with a new direction being taken.

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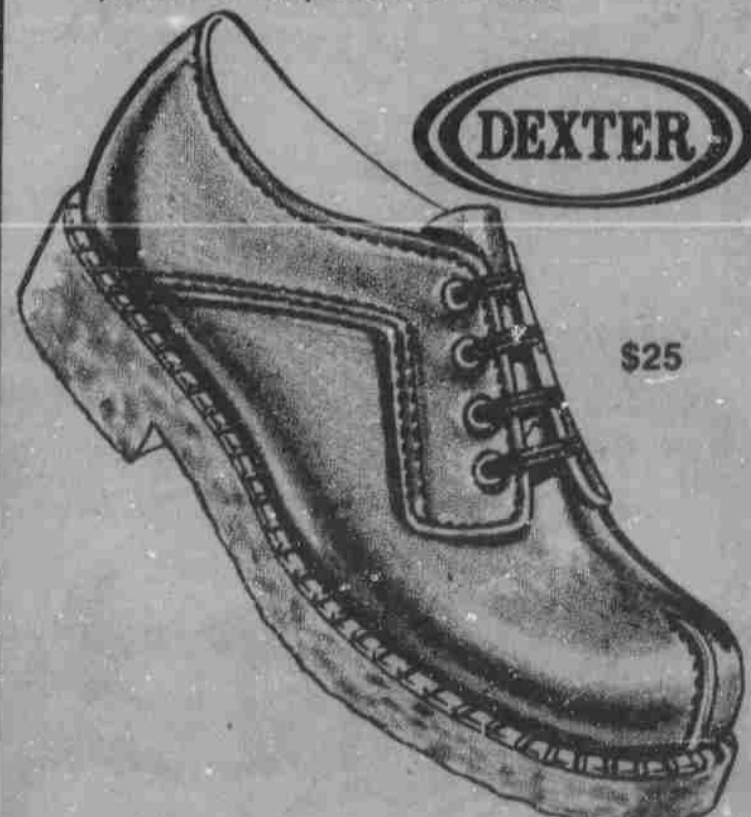
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