

Award to prisoner possible

By Wes Albers

South Vietnamese political prisoner Nguyen Long could be considered for an honorary degree if a UNL college or department proposed it, according to Prof. David McGill, chairman of the Faculty Senate's Honorary Degrees Committee.

"We have given honorary degrees to scholars from other countries before," McGill said Wednesday.

"Offhand I can see no reason why he could not be considered if the case were documented and presented to the committee."

Long, a 65-year-old lawyer, was imprisoned by the South Vietnamese government for his vigorous defense of political prisoners.

In a speech Feb. 21 at the Nebraska Union, journalist Don Luce suggested UNL give Long an honorary degree to demonstrate concern for South Vietnamese political prisoners.

McGill said honorary degrees are given for "contributions of a scholarly nature" such as research, teaching excellence or artistic creativity.

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RHA president lists year's achievements

By Charles Johnson

Only one candidate is in the running to succeed Carolyn Grice as Residence Hall Assoc. (RHA) president. Tim Evensen, who this year chaired a committee to develop a plan for differentiated housing at UNL, has filed for RHA president.

Elections for president and vice president will be held Tuesday. Voting will be in cafeteria lines in each residence hall complex during lunch and dinner.

Vice presidential candidates are Mona Kujath and Pat Hofferber.

In an interview Monday, Grice said the basic purpose of RHA is to serve the student living in residence halls. Its major function is as a policy making body that tries to strengthen hall government, she said.

Among RHA's major accomplishments this year, Grice included: opening communication channels with administrators and the housing office, strengthening residence hall governments and bringing in speakers with an academic emphasis.

"I'm proudest of the communication with the administration," she said. "We've been able to make ourselves heard and get more done."

Evensen disagreed. "I don't think it (communication) is adequate at all," he said.

He said he wants to increase communication to all residents of each complex as well as the administration, "because with more communication going out to residents and returning to RHA, it can do a better job."

Grice said, "The lawsuit is still the most talked about thing we've done." She referred to a suit filed with ASUN, against the Board of Regents challenging current visitation and alcohol policies in residence halls.

She also said work was being done on a new insurance program and a policy on pets in residence halls. RHA also is working on a handbook to tell new students what various halls are like before they move onto campus.

Grice said she would like residence hall governments have a stronger role in determining what happens in halls. She favors both an academic and social program emphasis.

She said a proposed \$75 increase in UNL housing rates next year could decrease the number of students in the halls. The regents should reach a decision on the rate increase at their meeting Saturday.

"We know it (the rate increase) couldn't be avoided, but I'd say the dorms will only start off with about 85% occupancy next year. They aren't going to lose everybody, but they'll probably lose everyone they have this year," Grice said.

She added that she hopes the Differentiated Housing Task Force which proposes a variety of alcohol and visitation policies and special academic interest areas in the residence halls will be passed by the Regents.

"If they don't liberalize, they're going to lose quite a few students," she said.

Evensen, the task force chairman, agrees that differentiated housing is the key to increased occupancy.

"That's going to be decided Saturday by the regents," he said. "Increased rates are going to hurt us, and that could be really compounded on Saturday if nothing happens."

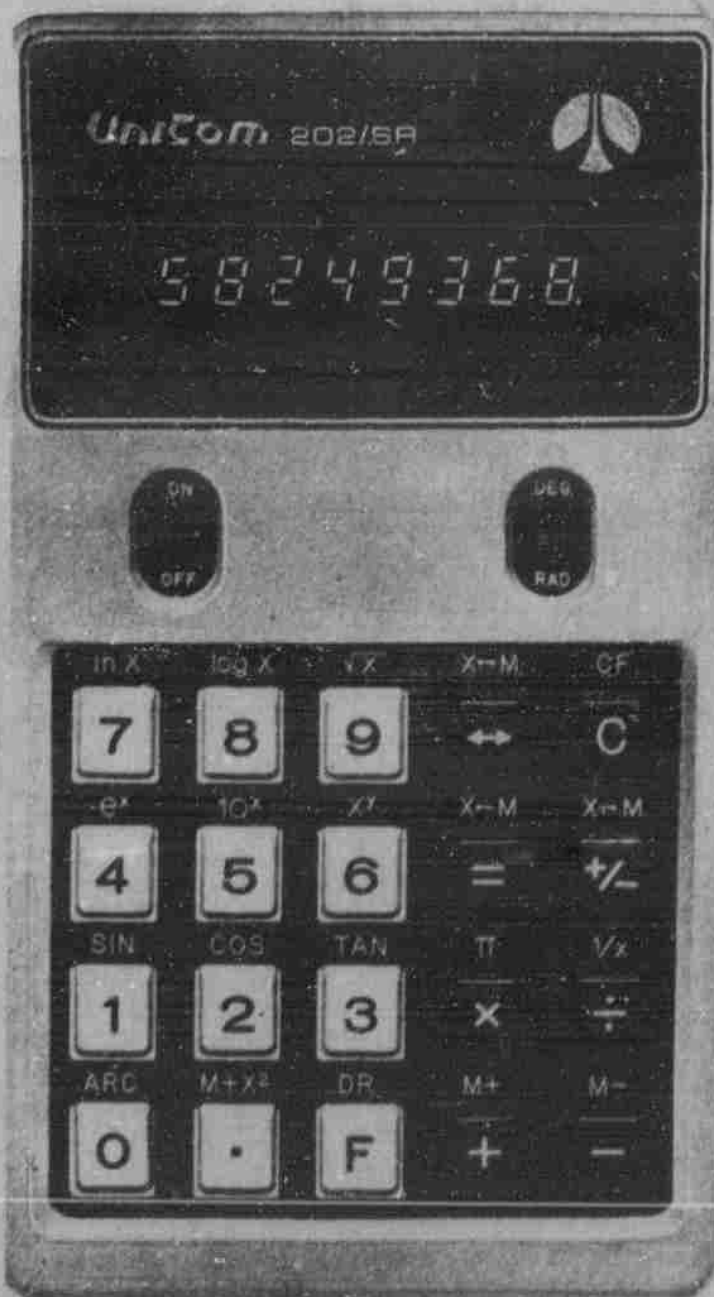
He credited the decrease in occupancy to "money and social regulations."

"This year, they're going hand in hand in pushing people out of the dorms," he said.

Residents also are dissatisfied with other things, such as maintenance, according to Evensen.

Evensen, now RHA representative for Schramm Hall, also is an ASUN senatorial candidate. He said he would like to be a link between the residence halls and the ASUN, if he is elected to both positions. The Differentiated Housing Task Force he chaired is a subcommittee of the Council on Student Life.

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