

One case this year

Court seeks greater workload

By Randy Wright

Members of what is perhaps the least used but one of the most influential branches of ASUN see their experience as valuable, but would like to see more action, according to ASUN Student Court Chief Justice Don Armbrust.

The court is the decision making branch of the student body, but has made only one decision this year. Armbrust said the court's power is broad enough to rule on any conflicts involving unfair treatment of a student by any student organization.

"We have the power to hand down decisions on anything that involves the rights of students," Armbrust said. In a conflict involving administrative policy or personnel, Armbrust said, the court's decision would not be the final word, but "we could make a recommendation and the administration would probably listen."

Five justices

The court's five justices are chosen by an ASUN committee, according to Mary Johnson, a 20-year-old political science major and one of two female justices.

Johnson, who plans to enter law school, said the experience has been valuable.

"I learned a lot about the court procedures," she said. Regarding the court's only case so far this school year, involving the disqualification of Gary Brantz's Homecoming Queen candidacy,

Johnson said she was "really surprised that the members of the court were able to set aside their biases and make a decision based on the facts."

"The whole problem with the Brantz case," she said, "was that not enough people know anything about the ASUN constitution." That includes the ASUN president, she said.

The right decision

Johnson credited the court with properly interpreting the constitution and making the right decision.

Another justice, senior microbiology major Dennis Kime, said the court has given him "a real feeling of the major campus events."

Kime said the Brantz decision showed that the Student Court has something to offer.

"I think it's important to make a contribution like that," he said.

Kime said he was disappointed in the decision by Kenneth Bader, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, not to allow the announcement of the court's decision, that Brantz be named Homecoming Queen, at the Nebraska-Oklahoma football game.

"If the decisions we make aren't going to have any effect," Kime said, "then maybe we really don't have any power." But Kime said he viewed the incident as the exception rather than the rule.

Delay asked on rate hike

ASUN President Ron Clingenpeel objected to the proposed 13 per cent increase in UNL residence hall rates at the ASUN Senate meeting Wednesday night, suggesting that a decision on the rates by the N.U. Board of Regents be delayed until the February regents meeting.

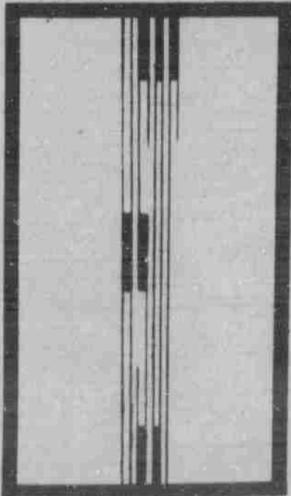
Clingenpeel said UNL Housing Director Richard Armstrong had told him a decision on the rates was needed at this Saturday's regents meeting so that any increase would be included on the new contracts. Those contracts have a Feb. 10 printer's deadline which must be met for them to be sent to students before spring break, according to Armstrong.

However, Clingenpeel said he has not had time to determine student opinion on the proposal which would increase rates from \$1,095 currently to \$1,235 for the 1975-76 school year. He requested that students bring letters stating their opinions to him before Friday afternoon.

He said he is in favor of an increase if it is justified, but the information he has received is not enough to convince him a 13 per cent increase is justified. The residence halls won't be able to maintain the anticipated 86 per cent occupancy rate with such an increase, he said.

Sen. Art Alexander said he felt little harm would be done if the regents' decision was delayed and the contracts were sent out after spring break.

Sen. Jim Macomber agreed. "There are very few deadlines at this university that are sacred," he said.



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