

## Fees board to discuss five groups

Financing for the Rodeo Club, Chess Club, Water Polo Club, Bar-M and the Alumni Association will be discussed at a meeting of the Fees Allocation Board today at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Students may express views about the financing of these groups at that time.



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## German-Russian impact studied

By Martha Bohling

"Being and remaining what they are" is one of the main contributions that German-Russian people have made to the Nebraska plains, according to Roger Welsch, UNL assistant professor of English.

He said the German-Russians have added to the diversity of America, and he compared the ethnic group to one of the squares of material in a patchwork quilt.

"The one square by itself doesn't mean much," he said, "but taken together they're beautiful."

Welsch also said that the German-Russian people had an impact on the plains by providing a counterpoint to hasty change and by strengthening the independence of the United States with their own independence.

### Lectures on impact

Welsch spoke Wednesday night in the first of a three-series lecture on the impact of the German-Russians on Nebraska's history and culture.

His lectures are in connection with a series sponsored by the National Humanities Series Midwest Center in Madison, Wis.

Lectures are being prepared in each state about the influence of some ethnic group on the state's culture, and the lectures will be recorded and distributed to radio stations on a weekly basis, Welsch said.

"The history of German-Russians is powerful and dramatic," Welsch said.

He explained that they left Germany in the 18th century and moved to Russia, where they were sponsored by Katherine the Great, who was herself German.

### Opportunity to own land

Two reasons for the move were the chance for

religious freedom and, most important, the opportunity to own their own land.

Times were good in Russia for the first 100 years, after which alteration of conditions and the onset of the Russo-Japanese war forced them out of Russia, and brought them in droves to America and the Plains, where their labor was needed for the rail yards and sugar beet fields, Welsch said.

"In Lincoln, members of this ethnic group soon made up a substantial proportion of the city," Welsch said. "The 'North Bottoms' just north of UNL and the 'South Bottoms,' just south of the railroad yards, still retain some of their ethnic flavor."

Welsch's mother was from the North Bottoms and his father from the South Bottoms.

### Many intermarriages

There were many intermarriages between the North and South Bottoms, Welsch said, and they all had something of a "Romeo and Juliet flavor to them."

He explained that there was a great deal of factionalism in the German-Russian communities, and that the Tenth St. viaduct was the dividing line for fighting among the teenage boys in Lincoln.

Because of the two world wars and the resulting hatred of Germans, there was a time when people were forced to deny their heritage, and because of that much of it was lost, Welsch said.

Now, Welsch said, the "one-time curse of German-Russian heritage has become a source of pride."

Welsch said that "ten years ago you couldn't have gotten 100 people in a town to admit they were German, let alone go to a meeting about it."

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## calendar

### Monday

10 a.m.—Women's Action Group-News Conference—Nebraska Union 243

11:45 a.m.—Engineers for Christ—Union Pewter Room

3 p.m.—Career Action Commission—Union Harvest Room C

6 p.m.—Towne Club—Union Harvest Room AB

6 p.m.—Volunteer Bureau-Tax Assistance—Union 225 G

6:30 p.m.—Kappa Alpha Psi—Union 232

7 p.m.—Delta Sigma Pi—Union 243.

7 p.m.—Table Tennis Club—Union Conference Rooms

7 p.m.—Fees Allocation Board—Union 216

7:15 p.m.—Pi Kappa Alpha—Union 343

7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors—Union 225 B-C

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