

# Numbers show Strike Day success

By Lisa Brown

The number of Lincoln women who participated in Women's Strike Day activities indicates its success, according to organizers of several activities.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) urged women not to work or spend money Wednesday, to show their importance to the nation's economic system.

Lincoln's activities, centering on the theme "Aware But at Work," included a League of Women Voters breakfast, a brown bag luncheon at the UNL Women's

Resource Center, an information booth in the Nebraska Union and five workshops sponsored by Planned Parenthood. A rally at KFMQ radio headquarters also was held in support of Ann Perkinson, a disc jockey who said she was fired Monday morning for announcing special women's programming without authorization from Station Manager Steve Agnew.

Judy Papik, a representative of the Women's Resource Center, said activities on campus were a success judging by the number of "interested people."

The center sponsored a booth in the union where information and badges saying "Aware But at Work" were distributed. The booth ran out of badges early in the morning and duplicates were made, she said.

Annette Marquez, president of the League of Women Voters, said she was pleased that about 60 women came to the breakfast, where Perkinson and Mayor Helen Boosalis spoke.

She said she thought most of the women present were working women, but noted the presence of many students. The league office already had given out more than 2,000 badges, and was still receiving requests at noon, Marquez said.

At the breakfast, Boosalis announced her intentions to appoint a Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

"I hope you will continue as you have... that is the only way we will make this kind of city, state and country it has the potential of being," Boosalis said.

"If 1974 was the year of the woman, you ain't seen nothing yet," she said.

Other speakers included City Councilwoman Sue Bailey, County Commissioner Jan Gauger and Marquez. All supported Women's Strike Day.

According to Marquez, "This is a day for sisters to think about each other."

About 20 people registered for four daytime Planned Parenthood workshops—"Body Awareness," "Women and Masturbation," "Self Help for Women" and "Menopause," said representative Kathy Allen.

About 30 persons registered for the evening workshop, "Woman's Sexuality," she said.



Ann Perkinson

Photo by Tom Kirk



Photo by Steve Boerner

Lincoln women protested KFMQ's firing of Ann Perkinson on Women's Strike Day Wednesday.

## KFMQ official: woman's firing 'not feminist issue'

The firing of KFMQ disc jockey Ann Perkinson "isn't a feminist issue," according to Larry Morpew, the station's program director.

Morpew said he told Perkinson "three or four" hours prior to her dismissal early Tuesday morning not to announce her decision to strike or play women's music on her midnight to 6 a.m. program in recognition of Wednesday's Women's Strike Day.

The station, in its periodically aired explanation of Perkinson's dismissal, says, "The announcer (Perkinson) was dismissed not because of support for women's causes, but because of repeated failure to follow station programming policy and for not getting approval to promote a piece of special programming. It was not the special program there was an objection to, but the fact that the idea had not been approved and researched."

### Good idea

"Ann's idea of special programming for women was an excellent one," Morpew said. "The problem is that the program was not approved before she announced it."

Perkinson said she asked Morpew to allow her to play only women's music during her shift Wednesday morning.

Instead, the station management approved and aired 20-minute music sweeps of women artists each hour during the strike. Morpew said the station had been trying to include more women's programming in the last six weeks and would continue to do so.

Morpew said he does not intend to rehire Perkinson and said he is looking for a woman to replace her, "if I can find a female who is competent and has the ability to work and communicate with me."

Perkinson, who is a junior theater major at UNL, said she had no radio experience before she started at KFMQ last June.

"I have worked so hard to blend music... a real highly concentrated effort," she said. "They (KFMQ management) know it and I think they resent it."

### Paranoid

She said Morpew "kept me in a state of paranoia and in fear of the Establishment."

Perkinson said station manager Steve Agnew would not talk with her or allow her to defend herself after she was accused of breaking the station's format.

But Morpew said Agnew's "office door is always open to any personnel who wish to speak to him."

Perkinson said she intends to fight for her job. She solicited the support of those attending a breakfast sponsored by the League of Women Voters Wednesday, many of whom attended a rally in her support at KFMQ.

Following the breakfast, about 30 women walked to the KFMQ offices to protest Perkinson's dismissal. Judy Papik, Women's Resource Center representative, said some of them spoke with Agnew and Morpew.

### Showed file

One of the men offered to let the women read Perkinson's personnel file, so she did, Papik said.

Perkinson said allowing others to read her file may be an infringement of her rights and said she is seeking legal advice.

Perkinson also spoke with about 30 persons at a brown bag luncheon sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Speakers included several women employed at the station and Kate Morpew, wife of the KFMQ Program Director.

The University Women's Action Group decided to coordinate efforts in Perkinson's behalf.

Women volunteered for a committee to study both sides of the dispute and take

necessary steps to reinstate Perkinson at KFMQ.

A boycott of KFMQ sponsors also was suggested and Perkinson said she would make a list of sponsors available to the center.

### Denied claim

Jeff Taylor, also a KFMQ disc jockey, denied he told Perkinson he was quitting his job in support of her, as Perkinson has claimed.

"The reason I'm quitting is that I'm going to Colorado," Taylor said Wednesday. "The (KFMQ) management knew I was leaving before the termination of Ann's employment. I feel that I have been treated fairly."

Taylor, who has worked at KFMQ for one year, is leaving the station Sunday and will work at a ski lodge in Colorado.

According to Taylor, he is sympathetic with Perkinson's cause, "in a way."

"I supported her to an extent," he said. "She does good work. However, she swam upstream and did make a few waves."

Taylor, who said he has been a program director before, said he understood the position (KFMQ program director Larry) Morpew took.

"The situation doesn't deserve the notoriety it is receiving," he said.

## Budget cut lobby planned by ASUN

By George Miller

ASUN's Governmental Liaison Committee plans a major lobbying effort against cuts in the UNL budget during the current special session of the Legislature, according to Jeff Searcy, committee chairman.

Searcy said the committee will encourage students to write their state senators and request opposition to budget cuts.

Writing letters to senators is the most effective way to contact them because the lawmakers usually are very busy and hard to contact in person, he said.

Searcy said students should write a letter to their respective senators explaining what university budget cuts would mean to UNL students.

Gov. J. James Exon has proposed a three per cent cut in all state agencies, including NU, as a solution to ease the state's cashflow problems.

Searcy said budget cuts could lead to a reduction of winter custodial care and maintenance in UNL buildings, delay in opening of the new field house, a freeze in employee hirings, a freeze on out-of-state travel by university administrators or complete shut-down of the campus

for one week this winter to conserve energy.

University employees probably would not be fired to save money because the university then would have to pay unemployment compensation, Searcy said.

Searcy said if the legislature approves a three per cent UNL budget cut, his committee will lobby to allow the NU administration to decide where cuts should be made.

The administration should select where cuts should be made "not because of the Legislature's ignorance, but because the administration knows the problem better," Searcy said.

He also said committee members will meet with members of the Unicameral's Appropriations Committee this week, and will speak at the committee's hearings today and tomorrow.

However, he said his committee does not expect to meet with most of the senators until Monday, Nov. 3, when they return to Lincoln for floor debate on proposed budget measures.

The committee contains from 15 to 20 members and is "growing more and more," Searcy said, adding that about one-third

of the ASUN senators also are helping with the lobbying effort.

He said the university budget is so complex that committee members have been meeting with UNL administrators for several weeks to learn about it.

Miles Tommaraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance, said committee members become very fascinated by the workings of the university budget once they study it closely.

"It's complicated, but it's interesting," Tommaraasen said. "They get taken up in it after a while."

He said he expected the ASUN lobbying effort to be valuable because legislators usually know what university officials will say when they present the legislature with requests.

However, students who contact their own state senators usually attract more of their attention because the students or their parents are usually personally acquainted with the senators, Tommaraasen said.

However, Tommaraasen said it will be the latter part of next week before the university can tell what action the Legislature will take concerning possible budget cuts.

## Committee drafts letter to Exon

Continued from p.1

The committee adopted Utica Sen. Douglas Bereuter's motion to send a letter to Exon asking him to tell the committee whether budget cuts during the special session will result in deficit requests in January.

Some agencies offered solutions to the cash flow problem without taking a budget cut.

State colleges' spokesmen said they would be willing to use non-state funds until December.

Even some agencies who agreed to accept the three per cent cut without option to decide where cuts will be taken drew criticism from the committee.

Sen. Clark suggested that perhaps there was padding in the Library Commission budget after spokesman Rod Wagner said the commission could accept the cut even if it did not choose which programs would be affected.

The state's district courts have no other alternative than to ask for a deficit appropriation if their budget is cut, said Ed Garrison, a courts spokesman.

He said the courts have no control over their spending since it is directly related to case loads.