

Senate tables resignation resolution

By Gail Stork

The two-part resolution calling for the resignation of Miles Tommeraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance and limiting the private concerns of administrators in general was tabled by the Faculty Senate Tuesday.

Senator Michael Steinman, who introduced the resolution at the senate's September meeting, said he wanted to show the potential for conflict of interest in Tommeraasen's case, not make a charge.

Faculty Senate members expressed different reasons for tabling the resolution.

Senator Donald Haack explained that the board of directors of Security Mutual Insurance Co., of which Tommeraasen is a member, is made up of policy holders, not stockholders.

He said it is different from a stock company in that NU is a part owner of the firm by holding a policy. By being on the board, Tommeraasen is not responsible to stockholders, but for policy decisions.

Senator Michael Turner said he felt the Senate would be applying a different standard for faculty than administrators if the resolution was passed.

He said the Senate would be exposing the faculty to a possible loss of consulting opportunities. He said he would regret seeing that chance evaporate.

According to Senator James Lake, there is nothing in the NU Board of Regent's bylaws dealing with the "appearance or potential" for conflict of interest.

Senator Desmond Wheeler said he would need some examples of Tommeraasen's involvement in insurance decisions before he could support the resolution.

Two lawyers and the Board of Regents concluded that Tommeraasen was clear of a conflict of interest last year, said Senator Thomas Iwans. He said it was inappropriate for the senate to raise the same question with no evidence.

A motion to refer the question to the senate's professional conduct committee for further study was made by Senator William Alschwede. He contended the Senate didn't have enough information to make a decision.

But Senator Birk Adams said "referring the question to a committee will point the finger of guilt where none exists."

A report by the senate's rules and bylaws committee also was presented. William Campbell, committee chairman, said getting senators more involved in Faculty Senate business could be accomplished by placing all senators not currently on committees, on the senate's committee on committees. It is responsible for making Faculty Senate committee nominations.

Wheeler opposed, saying that such action "smacked of elitism." Campbell pointed out that while it seems like a powerplay, the senators are a representative group.

Reports from the convocations committee, university libraries committee, committee on committees and the rules and bylaws committee also were presented to the senate.

UNL students build credit through Master Charge, Visa

By George Wright

Rip-off or godsend, the credit card is climbing in popularity among UNL students.

When the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) established credit card use on the UNL campus with Master Charge January, 1973, \$600,000 was charged the first year, according to Bob Lovitt, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance.

During the 1976 calendar year, more than \$1.5 million in services and fees were charged at UNL, ranging from tuition to football tickets.

Lovitt said the credit card program is working well on campus. The number of bad checks has been reduced by credit card use, he said.

Billie Kent, consumer credit officer of Master Charge and VISA at NBC, said many young people have difficulty getting loans, and credit cards help by establishing credit.

In August 13,000 application forms for credit cards were sent out by NBC to freshman students at UNL and Kearney State College, Kent said. More than 750 of those students applied for credit, he said.

Three requirements

There are three requirements when applying for VISA and Master Charge credit cards, Kent said. Students must be employed and earn \$200 per month, must be 19 years old and must have a credit reference.

Students may have their parents co-sign the application, he said.

NBC is happy with the student program and has had few collection problems, he said.

Students issued cards receive a \$300 credit limit the first year, Kent said. The figure was established in 1973 when tuition and fees were averaging \$290.

State law allows a yearly interest of 18 percent on overdue accounts, Kent said.

Of an estimated half million Master Charge and VISA charge accounts in Nebraska, only 30 percent are paid in full each month, Kent said.

The 70 percent which do not pay each month were penalized when Master Charge and VISA changed the rates in June, 1976.

Interest charges

In order to raise more income, the interest charged on overdue accounts began from the day of purchase instead of the day the charge ticket was received at the main office, Kent said.

Besides interest on overdue accounts, the credit companies receive five percent from retailers who accept the charge cards.

The university is exempt from five percent charge since it is a state organization, Kent said.

The monthly volume of charges and the size of the amount charged on the ticket affect the five percent retailers charge. If a business does a large volume of credit business, it may only be charged one percent, Kent said.

Manager of the Nebraska Bookstore, John Wehr said the charge paid by the bookstore fluctuates from two and one half to five percent.

During September, 17 percent of Nebraska Bookstore's business was charged. Wehr said during the Christmas season as much as 25 percent of the transactions are charged.

He said the credit card business during the last two years has doubled at the bookstore.

Ten percent of the books and supplies bought from the Union bookstores were charged during the first four weeks of

school, according to Union sales records. That compares to nine percent charged during the same period last year.

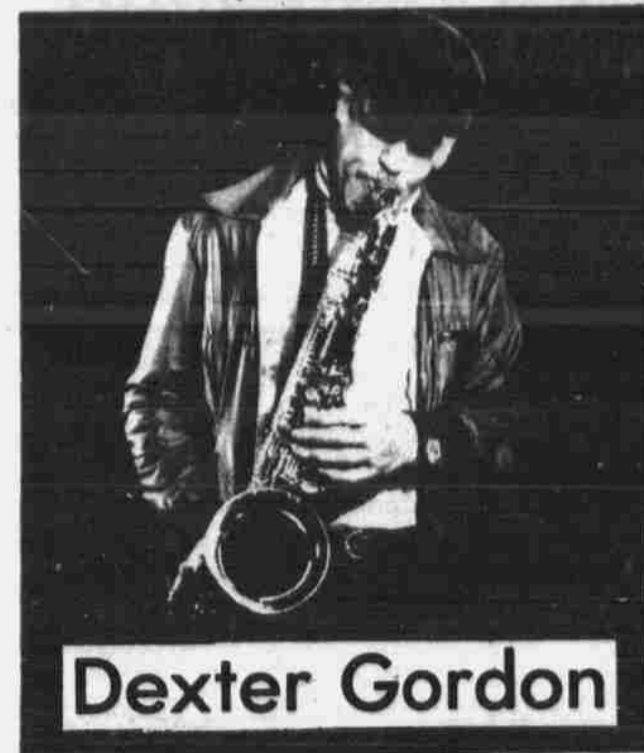
When parking permits were issued last month, \$5,559 of the \$193,655 spent by students were charged.

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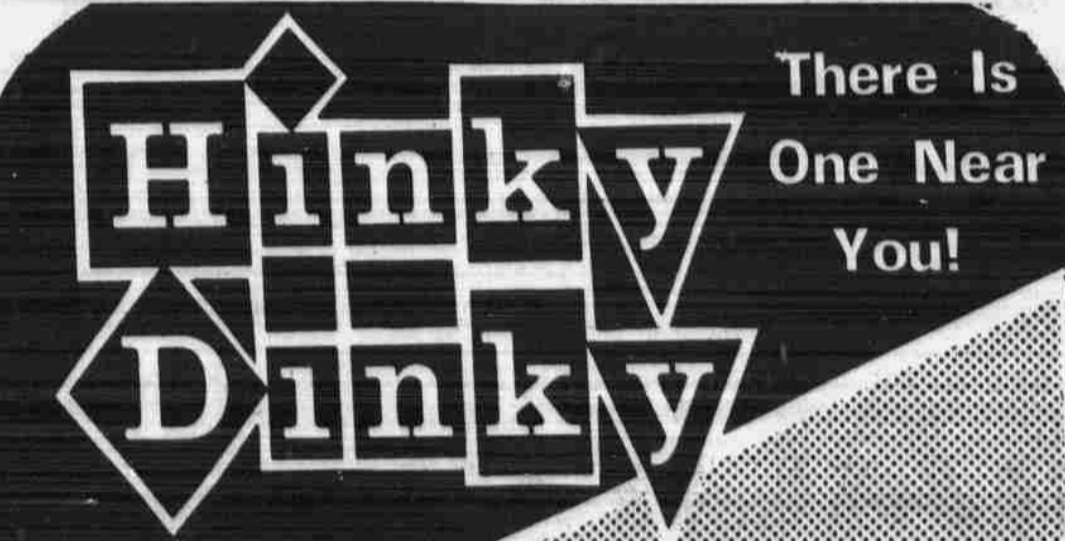
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