

Veys 'calm, collected' in face of recall controversy

By Jane Johnson

Omaha Mayor Al Veys said he will continue to operate a policy of open government, despite talk of his recall. Veys said a mayor has to be calm, cool and collected in times of controversy.

Although Veys said he has no idea who started the recall idea, he is sure it stemmed from the controversy over the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

"If I had allowed the commission to go on as they were, there wouldn't be any controversy," Veys said.

Trouble began when Veys recently appointed a chairman and vice chairman to the committee, he said. Veys said he told the commission it would have to meet in public.

The Omaha city charter states that all boards of commission to the mayor are to conduct open public

meetings. This includes commissions regarding public business and affairs, Veys said.

"I have tried to be cooperative in every area with these ladies," Veys said. "The women wanted to be independent and under the city charter. They can't do that."

Veys said he thinks programs about rape, battered women and abused children were good as sponsored by the commission.

"All I wanted to know was what they were doing and for them to keep me informed on their operations," Veys said.

He said the commission wanted to operate independent of city government and give no real reports on its transactions.

Veys said the commission intervened into the educa-

tion field, trying to institute programs in the schools that "raised his eyebrows" when he found out about them.

"The reaction I have heard around the city for open government has been favorable," Veys said. "I have no idea if the recall is a threat or not, yet."

Anyone who thinks the mayor or a city council member is not fulfilling a position can file a petition to remove the official from office after he has served for six months. If a mayor is terminated in this manner, the city council would appoint a new mayor.

Veys said he thinks before anyone is recalled he should be allowed to express his views to the person who is recalling him.

"The accusations made against me now are that I am trying to gag the commission," Veys said. "This is the opposite of what I want. How can I be gagging a group when I have invited them to hold public meetings? I want open government. If people don't want open government with everything made public, then they must not want good government."

Hampton: philosophical opposition

A philosophical opposition to government control of business is one of the reasons for City Councilman Joseph Hampton's proposed revision of the municipal code, he said.

Hampton said he wants to change the code so none of

its discrimination provisions are any stricter than the state and federal statutes.

He said he did not know exactly what categories are covered in the code, but some of the areas in question are disability, receipt of public assistance, marital status, sex and age.

He said he is concerned that giving expanded rights to citizens may restrict the rights of employers and property owners, he said at Monday night's public hearing on the proposed amendment to the discrimination section.

The main reason he became interested in amending the municipal code, was because of confusion about which discrimination guidelines to follow and because of the time it takes (one to two years average) to resolve a discrimination complaint.

At Monday's hearing, 42 persons testified against the proposed amendments which would weaken the existing provisions against discrimination.

Hampton said he had the city's legal department study the laws and come up with a proposal to draft a local law with discrimination standards no stricter than state and federal laws. The proposal did not include some of the areas included in state and federal law, Hampton said.

The proposal was sent back to the city attorney's office for further study, he said. The issue comes up before the city council again Nov. 14.

Moot court board picks six seniors

Six UNL Law School seniors will compete in the regional moot court competition at Creighton University Thursday through Saturday, according to Bob Henderson, chairman of the court board.

The six are; Bill Wright, Anna Anthony, Scott Robertson, Jim Sherrets, Cliff Mesner and Steve Guenzel.

Moot court is a law school program designed to give future lawyers experience in brief writing and oral argument.

The moot court program selects contestants who compete in yearly contests on a state and regional level. If the team is successful at the regional competition, it will go to the national competition, Henderson said.

Members of the moot court are chosen on the basis of grades, Henderson said. UNL's moot court has 17 junior members and 16 senior members, he said.

All contestants have worked on an appellate court brief that they will present to a panel of judges.

Wright and Anthony will conduct an oral argument before the judges and answer their questions, Henderson said.

The six contestants were chosen by the moot court from a total group entered in UNL's competition. The brief was then reworked by the new team and oral arguments were prepared for the regional contest.

The case is a hypothetical labor problem concerning a law firm that has broken up. The contestants will argue whether the attorneys are subject to labor laws or not, Henderson said.

All the teams have worked on the same problem, Henderson said. Winners will be selected on the basis of the oral argument and the brief.

The judges will most likely be attorneys from the Omaha area, he said.

The UNL team will argue its case on Thursday and Friday, Henderson said. Times will be posted at Creighton.

Competing in the regional competition will be Big 8 Law schools and other law schools in the area, he said. The moot court regional winners will compete in the national competition, Henderson said.

Conference issue is world hunger

Dieters will not be the only people dealing with hunger Nov. 11. The Governor's Conference on Food and Hunger Issues plans to help Nebraskans learn more about fighting hunger in the world.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland will speak at the conference sponsored by CROP (the Community Hunger Appeal of Church World Service).

The conference, at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, will feature other speakers such as representatives from the United Nations, UNL, and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE).

The purpose of the conference is to study ways Nebraskans who are generally dependent on agriculture can fight hunger in and outside the United States, according to John Cutler, CROP staff member.

The conference which will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. will continue until 8 p.m. with lunch and dinner provided, Cutler said.

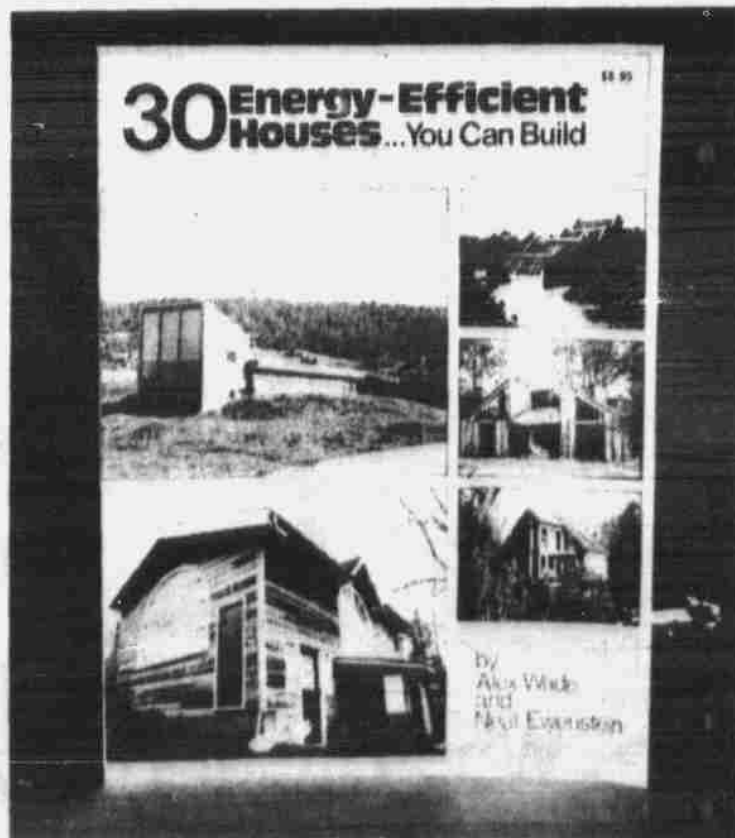
A \$5 registration fee will be charged to cover the meal costs, he said.

ON MONDAY, YOU CAN MEET ALEX WADE

And just who is Alex Wade?

He has been an architect for over 20 years and is well known for his sensible, eye-catching houses. But even more importantly is his latest book, **30 Energy-Efficient Houses... You Can Build**. It's all about how to build tomorrow's house—today. How to build a house that is energy efficient, solar heated, uses every inch of space well, is designed for the people who plan to live there, is elegantly simple, and yet doesn't cost a small fortune.

Stop in Monday, between 8:30 and 10:30 and talk to Alex Wade about his book and his own studio-house that he designed and built for \$1,500.



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Curtain: 8:30 p.m. Nov 4,5,6,11,12,13,

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