



NUPIRG Director Margy Meister

Photo by Bob Pearson

## Landscaping at east campus enters another building phase

Another phase toward completion of the proposed East Campus landscape project began this summer, according to Richard Sutton, UNL assistant professor of horticulture.

Before any sidewalk construction or grading begins on the area south of the East Union, the steam tunnels running under the surface must be repaired, Sutton said. The tunnels, have not been touched for 40 years, and repairs are needed before an underground irrigation system can be installed. A private contractor is making repairs on the tunnels this week.

Sutton said the main deterrent at the moment is lack of funding. Although the project cost for the final landscape is around \$40,000, grant applications to the

NU Foundation are pending, and many materials, including trees, are being donated to the project, he said.

Another problem is one of identification. The landscape needs a name, Sutton explained, and interest in the project would increase if one were picked soon.

The idea for the landscaping originated when designs made by Sutton's students were presented to UNL administrators last fall. Although the administration reacted positively to the plans, noted Sutton, there are no funds available for East Campus landscaping.

Jay Schluckebier, assistant director of the UNL Grounds Department, said plans are prepared, and his department hopes to begin work on the landscape this fall.

## NUPIRG asked to study energy alternative barriers

By Scott Behm

This summer, the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group director Margy Meister feels may have been its biggest project yet.

According to Meister, the National Sun Day Committee in Washington D.C. allocated grants to organizations in each state to do a study called "Barriers To Alternative Energy Technology Development."

The Nebraska grant was received by the Midwest Energy Alternative which has commissioned NUPIRG to do the research, Meister said. MEA found itself understaffed and agreed to pay NUPIRG \$900 for its services, Meister explained.

Dennis Keim, MEA member, served as project consultant, and former NUPIRG director Don Macke coordinated the actual research.

A 50-page report detailing the various

barriers to alternate energy technology in Nebraska has been submitted by NUPIRG to the Sun Day office in Washington, said Meister, and hopefully every state will be able to present the same type of findings.

"The Sun Day Committee wants to see if there are any common barriers to alternate energy development, and if so, attempt to develop legislation that may help dissolve those barriers or find ways to work around them," Meister explained.

When the Sun Day findings are completed, the report will be presented to President Carter for consideration in the 1980-81 federal budget.

"We're proud of this type of work, and we hope the opportunity arises for us (NUPIRG) to do more," said Meister.

"This is what NUPIRG is all about, and we hope that things like this will generate more interest and support on campus this year."

## Tenant-landlord service's goal is to help students find housing

An ASUN research contract to the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group has resulted in the creation of a tenant-landlord service, according to the director of NUPIRG.

The service provides information such as lists of available rental property, sizes of the property and amounts of damage deposits, said Margy Meister.

The service is free to landlords who wish to list their property and also to prospective tenants, Meister said.

The service also provides a list of persons who want roommates, she added.

A \$1000 contract with ASUN provided the financial base for the research and the development of the service, Meister said.

"The basic part of the research was to form contacts with landlords, especially with those who rent many apartments, such as realty companies," she said.

NUPIRG does not rate the rental units, she said, because it does not have the time or staff to check on each unit prior to listing.

"We're not making a blacklist of landlords," she said. "If in the future a landlord gives his tenants a lot of problems, NUPIRG may refuse the listing or warn students about it."

Besides the apartment listings, booklets providing legal and generic information about leases, deposits and tenant-landlord

responsibilities will be provided soon, she said.

Currently, there are about 25 listings of rental units, Meister said, and about 15 to 25 students use it daily.

Meister said the tenant-landlord study was one of three NUPIRG did for ASUN this summer.

Former NUPIRG director Don Macke, was paid \$70 a week for 10 weeks to research the three studies, Meister said.

Macke studied the university budget, including various methods of budget maintenance, and organizational charts outlining the hierarchical structure of the university during the ten-week period, Meister said.

Four interns worked in the NUPIRG media and consumer divisions, Meister said, each receiving from one to three credits.

"Summer internship is valuable," said Meister. "There's less traffic than during the school year, and more can get done in one day."

Meister also noted that reorganization of all NUPIRG files is under way, and that both students and the public are encouraged to utilize the free service, including all files on energy, consumer tips, and the resource library of the Nebraska Publisher's Clearing House for information on any topic.

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