

## Activist Gregory weaves tales about social justice

By Debbie Hemminger

Dick Gregory, international social activist and comedian, said he "hopes like hell . . . that you never ask me back to this place, under these kind of conditions."

Gregory told a crowd of 800 spectators in the Nebraska Union that he cannot understand that as a football player, he could get anything he wants, but since he's concerned with the social issues, his speech could not be financed with student funds.

Gregory's speech was co-sponsored by the Coalition of Black Women and the Union Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee. Money for the speech came from a \$1,650 grant to the coalition from the Nebraska Committee on Humanities and voluntary donations to Talks and Topics. No student fees were spent for the program.

Amid shouts of "Right on," from the audience, Gregory said that if students at UNL do not realize what the system is doing to them, and fight back, they will regret it. Students ought to be able to look back on their institution and say that it was humanistic, he said.

Maintaining his self-proclaimed reputation as "one of the funniest comedians in America," Gregory began his string of anecdotes by saying he is followed everywhere by the FBI and CIA. But, he added, he got back at them when he flew with Frontier to Lincoln. If only Nebraska had a blizzard, he lamented.

"AMERICA IS MORALLY and spiritually bankrupt," Gregory said at an afternoon press conference, adding that the hope of America lies in the young people now in high school and college. He said that age group is just beginning to realize that alcohol and drugs are only a form of government manipulation.

Gregory said he has been fasting since May 6, only drinking fruit juices, until production of nuclear energy stops. Gregory commented repeatedly in his speech that this year has been strange for him. He said he's been arrested "everytime I walk down the street."



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Dick Gregory

Gregory was recently arrested while protesting the closing of a hospital in the poor section of St. Louis, Mo. People have been protesting for three weeks, he said, predicting that with enough pressure, the hospital will reopen.

Gregory told the audience that on his first fast, during the Vietnam war, he lost 173 pounds. People who eat continuously say without food "folks" will die, he said, explaining that another time, he told a judge sentencing him that he would not eat or drink while jailed. The

judge, said a man cannot live four minutes without air, four days without water and four weeks without food. He then sentenced Gregory to 20 days imprisonment.

IN ANOTHER tale, Gregory said a sheriff up for reelection begged Gregory not to die, and continually worried about his health. After the sixth day, the judge decided to let him go. Gregory said he replied that the doctors who decided on the durability of mankind had failed to take into account prayers.

Gregory said if there is a force inside of people, it will open with prayers, quenching any thirst.

And if Christ came today, he would be put to the electric chair and everybody would wear electric chairs around their necks, instead of crosses, Gregory predicted. Christ's persecution was capital punishment, he explained.

Noting an improvement in black-white relations in America, Gregory said that as long as decent people keep working, race relations will continue to improve.

## Faculty hears union idea

Collective bargaining through labor unions will be discussed at a faculty forum Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Robert S. Haller, UNL professor of English and president of the American Association of University Professors, said the meeting will be "purely informational," giving faculty a chance to discuss and ask questions about labor negotiations through bargaining units.

William Nathan, a Temple University professor of mathematics and former AAUP president, will speak concerning Temple's experiences with collective bargaining.

Haller said Temple, which is in Philadelphia, is like UNL in that it offers a full graduate program. Haller added that Temple, like UNL, is governed by a board of regents and is subject to the authority of a state legislature.

Haller said Nathan will discuss how bargaining would affect students, as well as faculty.

The forum coincides with a vote Wednesday and Thursday by UNO faculty as to whether it will organize a bargaining unit.

Haller said results of the UNO election probably will result in a decision by UNL faculty concerning collective bargaining.

## Federal research grants reflect faculty effort - Young

By Kent Warneke

UNL faculty members have seen the number of competitive federal research grants more than double in the last three years, but according to Chancellor Roy Young that number is only half of what he would like to see.

"The increased effort of our faculty in the past years has had the major impact on the increasing of grants, but with our current faculty, we should have double the figures we have now," Young said.

A report from the National Science Foundation showed that UNL is ranked 102nd among colleges and universities in the amount of federal funds received during 1977, receiving \$14.6 million.

Nevertheless, Young indicated that while the ranking indicates the need for improvement, more important is the increase that UNL has received and what the money is going for.

"There is a direct effect on quality of education on both undergraduate and graduate students with every federal grant we receive," he said.

According to Young, competitive research grants compose the majority of grants received, which are based on the ability of a UNL instructor or graduate student to develop a proposal which would require federal assistance.

The technical soundness of the proposed work, the evaluation of the individual's capacity for the work and the actual work involved are included in the proposal, he added.

"When members of our faculty receive a federal grant, it means that they are in the forefront of their profession. And with the money they receive to increase their knowledge, the students under the individual will receive the benefits of this."

Chancellor Young added that the kind of recognition and support received from a federal grant is critical for a graduate student in continuing his education.

According to the National Science Foundation report, most of the increase in federal grants at UNL have been in chemistry, physics, agriculture and the biological sciences.

"Our engineering department has also increased—not to the extent of some other areas—but we have received a few grants that are very significant," Young said.

He added that if one area improves in the future it should be the energy field.

The facilities and atmosphere for scholarship at UNL are present and a great deal of improvement has been seen, but there is room for more improvement, he said.

"In terms of receiving grants applied for, we have had a good success ratio, which is a compliment to our faculty. And we are going to keep encouraging more faculty members to apply for grants continuously throughout the year."

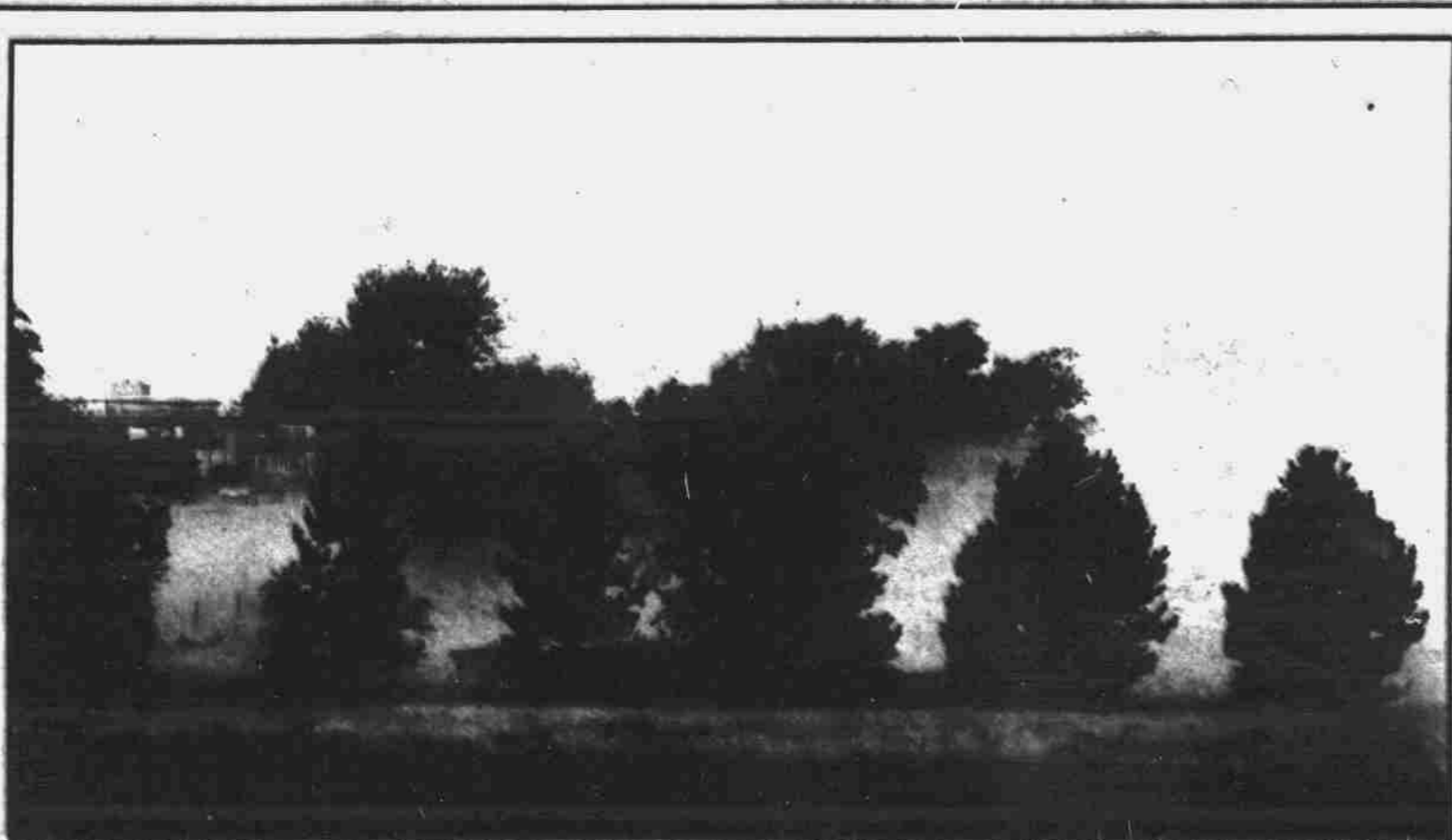


Photo by Mitch Hedrick

Autumn, misty mornings  
fall upon Lincoln

The long, clear and hot summer days and nights are now part of the past as short, cool and sometimes misty autumn days and nights are here to stay until the seasons turn.

## inside wednesday

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