

Class votes out male members

By Michelle Carr

Two UNL students were voted out of a women's poetry class because they were men, according to a teacher, a class member and one of the excluded students.

The incident occurred Aug. 29 during an evening class of English 253A entitled Women and Poetry taught by Linnea Johnson.

Johnson said the women class members were surprised that two men were taking the class. She said the decision to vote "arose out of the class."

However, Holly Pfeiffer, a sophomore class member, said that Johnson suggested the vote. Pfeiffer said that Johnson told the class that since it was a women's course, the class should decide and vote.

Because the course requires the students to write and read their own poems, Pfeiffer said some of the women felt they would be inhibited if men were in the class.

As a result of the vote, Wordie Wright, a senior from Lincoln, is taking the poetry class independently, which he termed unfair as a paying student. He said he will be excluded from individual instruction and class interaction because he is taking the class independently. His grade will be determined on the poems he turns in at the end of the semester, he said, instead of being graded gradually as students usually are.

WRIGHT SAID THE incident is "reverse discrimination." He said he argued with the women's reasoning but they didn't listen.

Johnson said the incident was not discriminatory. The situation was "not wanting men, it is wanting all women," she said.

John Robinson, English department chairman and Gerry Brookes, vice-chairman, said they were not aware of the situation. Both said that the English department follows UNL by-laws which state no one can be discriminated against regardless of race, age or sex.

Brookes said that a teacher could not prohibit any student from taking a class without violating this policy.

Wright said he agreed to take the class independently because he had to accept the vote or drop the class. He said he refuses to drop the class because "I'm not going to take this lying down."

Continued on Page 18

Faculty labor unions increase benefits, salaries

Temple professor William Nathan

By Rich Jurgens

Collective bargaining was discussed at a faculty forum Wednesday, the same day UNO's election on bargaining began.

Robert Haller, UNL professor of English and president of the American Association of University Professors, said it was no coincidence that a UNL faculty forum was organized on the opening day of UNO's election on whether to form a faculty union. He said AAUP wanted to have the meeting before any results were known at UNO.

Haller said the results of UNO's decision on whether to form a faculty labor union probably would lead UNL professors to consider the same type of program.

William Nathan, a Temple University professor of mathematics and a former AAUP president, spoke to the group on the way Philadelphia's Temple University's faculty labor union was developed. If UNL professors decide to vote on collective bargaining, they would probably model it after Temple's system.

"Both sides approach collective bargaining with some

fear," Nathan said.

If collective bargaining is passed, the administration and faculty should work together in forming agreements, he said. Legal and professional help or "hired guns" as Nathan called them, should be kept out of negotiations, if possible.

"Those who are not living under it (collective bargaining) should not be involved in decision making," he said.

Collective bargaining can obtain fringe benefits for faculty, he said, but the main reason collective bargaining was established at Temple was for salary increases.

He said the salaries at Temple now range from \$13,500 for an instructor per academic year to \$30,000 for a full professor.

As for benefits in collective bargaining for students, Nathan said he hasn't yet seen any effects.

Nathan said Temple has a 67 percent membership in its AAUP chapter and that most of the remaining faculty, "was too cheap to pay their dues, and yet get the benefits anyway."

Photo by Mark Billingsley



Photo by Jerry McBride

How 'bout them?

A Nebraska City "Joanny Appleseed" collects the fruits of his labor. The apples will be sold later in local stores. Looks like he's got enough apples here to keep the AMA away for a year.

Grad instructor studies body language of jurors

By Val Swinton

When jury selection begins in the Erwin Charles Simants murder trial in Lincoln, UNL graduate student and instructor David Suggs will sit with the defense attorneys.

As prospective jurors are questioned, Suggs will watch their eyes, their facial expressions, the way they sit and the way they hold their hands. Suggs said he may learn more from those observations than from the answers of prospective jurors.

Suggs is an expert in kinetics—body language—and paralinguistics, pitch, tone and the inflection of speech. These traits, Suggs said, reveal people's true feeling more what they say.

Suggs thinks kinetics and paralinguistics are valuable in jury selection because when questioned about a case, jurors don't always say what they mean.

Before a jury trial begins, the judge and the prosecution and defense attorneys are allowed to question prospective jurors. Suggs contends that it is an important part of the trial.

"Somehow you try to find the people that are good for you and bring them in the jury," he explained.

Limitations in getting information out of jurors make that easier said than done, Suggs said. There are time limitations, he added, because if questioning drags on too long, jurors get impatient with the attorney.

LIMITATIONS also are imposed by the judge who has the power to prohibit questions he feels are legally irrelevant.

"So you can't ask a lot of questions you'd like to, to get the information you want," Suggs said.

And even if attorneys could ask all the

questions they want, they are not guaranteed an honest answer. Jurors often conform to the group, Suggs said.

The first jurors to be questioned may set a precedent so that "people questioned later modify their answers so they don't appear out of the ordinary," he added.

Also, jurors may not give truthful answers if those answers are socially unacceptable, Suggs said.

So while the defense attorneys note answers from the 200 prospective jurors in the Simants case, Suggs will make note of eye contact, facial cues, body posture and hand movements.

Suggs said he begins with the baseline rating given a potential juror. These ratings are based on non-threatening questions, such as family background, job experience and even hobbies.

"SINCE THE QUESTIONS are non-threatening, if a person shows anxiety or negative feelings, it's probably going to be because he has some negative feelings toward the attorney as an individual," Suggs said.

Continued on Page 18

inside thursday

Going it alone: Financially independent students talk money. . . . Page 7
Kid stuff: New George Burns movie same old song and dance. . . . Page 14
Lone lady: Woman golfer no longer token on male team. . . . Page 16