

CFA cuts Unions' budget request

By Kathy Stokebrand

The Union Board and the Union director came before the Committee for Fees Allocation Tuesday night and requested \$600,000 of Fund B student fees but were tentatively allocated \$592,663 for 1980-81.

The committee recommended that the board anticipate saving \$5,000 more (\$20,000 as opposed to \$15,000) from personnel vacancies in 1980-81. In the past few years the savings incurred by the union for open positions has averaged about \$40,000, said CFA member Bob Knuth.

The board projected a profit of \$2,337 for 1980-81. It was requested by the committee that the unions have a zero profit budget objective and remove the income from some area of the budget.

Union Director Daryl Swanson said the committee was "splitting hairs" in its recommendation and should recognize the effort that went into the budget request to maintain it at the same level for three years.

The budget did not address the utilities problem the unions will face in 1980-81. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong said he directed the board and Swanson not to include it because the problem "has so many variables that it would be an injustice to the union to try to include the issue in the budget."

If the utility bill for the unions was included in the budget Armstrong estimated fees per student per semester would increase by \$5.87.

The unions' meeting room space usage alone is about 50 percent student and 50 percent non-student, according to past Union Board President John Kreuzer.

"This facility differs from the health center, which basically serves only students," he added.

Last year the Legislature decided to eliminate state financing for the unions' utilities. Options available to the unions are to: 1) persuade the Legislature to reconsider its decision 2) raise student fees 3) reduce and/or eliminate services 4) charge the university for its non-student usage or 5) some combination of 2, 3 and 4.

Swanson said the utility bill for 1980-81 will be about \$255,000. He estimated from past records that the university could be billed \$240,000 for its use of space and services by the administration, staff, and faculty.

Plans for installing meters for the first time in the unions are in the designing stages but the money for the project has been allocated, Swanson said.

The Deli, Swanson said, lost approximately \$9,000 since its opening a year ago, but he added it "is being evaluated. It is not a fast food operation, which concerns us."

The unions' five-year plan recommends the addition of a hard-dip ice cream line to the Deli. This would require changing the present counter system at the Deli by adding a more efficient serving counter that would include ice cream, Kreuzer said.

Larry Brandt, executive food service manager, said the Deli is the type of operation that will meet the need for

manual personalized service during the slow hours.

Total food services for the unions are operating at a \$92,000 loss, Swanson said.

"The only way to break even is with a new Crib," he said. Renovation of the Crib received first priority in the unions' five-year plan and should begin in the summer of 1981, Swanson said.

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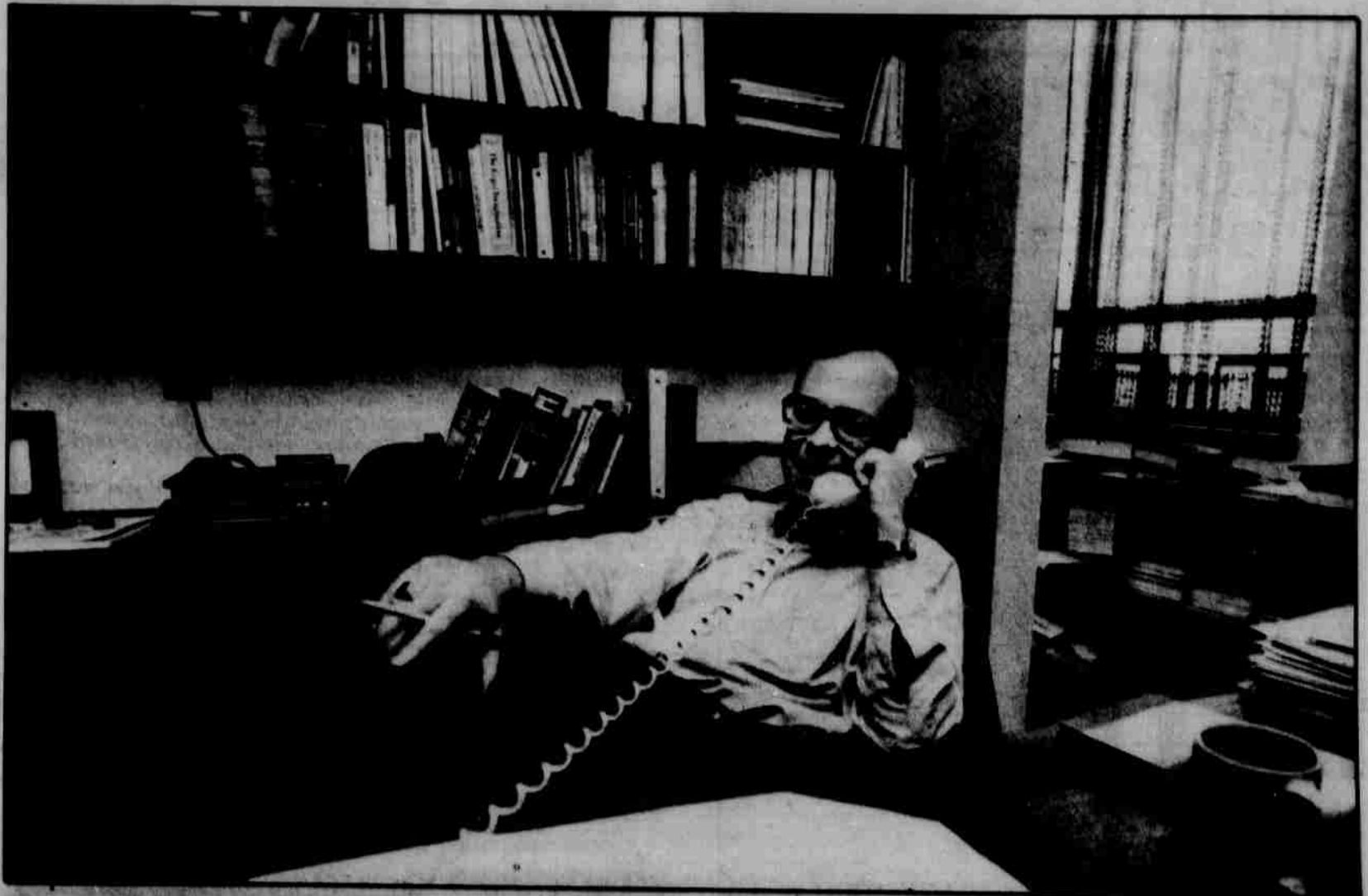


Photo by Mark Billingsley

John Strong

APU asks foundation to return gold coins

The African People's Union called Wednesday for the NU Foundation to return the 1,300 South African gold kruggerands it accepted from an NU alumnus.

"Either it was an absolute act of political ignorance or it is an outrageous policy of aiding and abetting the South African government doctrine of genocide against black people," an APU statement said.

NU can not afford to be ignorant of the prevailing conditions in Africa and President Carter's effort in sending Muhammad Ali to Africa to encourage black athletes not to participate in the Summer Olympics is one indication that the United States is becoming aware of the oppressions in Africa, the release said.

Comparing the situation in Iran with that in Africa, the APU said there is no crisis yet in Africa, but returning the coins would be a symbolic step in averting one.

Law faculty meets to back Strong

By Michelle Carr

Members of the UNL Law College faculty met last week to pledge their support of John Strong, dean of the law college, and to encourage him to stay at UNL, according to two law professors.

Strong was interviewed last weekend for the position of dean of the Oregon Law School. Strong said he will make an announcement Friday concerning his interview. He would not comment on earlier reports that he would have to make a decision about the job on Wednesday.

John Gradwohl, a UNL law professor, said the faculty

members gathered last Thursday to discuss the possibility of Strong leaving.

According to Gradwohl, the faculty met to "try to encourage him to stay and to help him make the decision to stay."

UNL Law Professor Stephen Kalish said the faculty met because it had heard that Strong was considering the job in Oregon.

Strong said he went to Oregon because he was invited. He added that he had worked as professor and associate dean of the University of Oregon law college for eight years before coming to UNL.

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Religious groups unaware or unruffled by suit

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Two UNL sophomores said they intend to file a petition today asking the ASUN Student Court to revoke the charters of four student organizations that sponsored Christian activist Josh McDowell's UNL visit last week.

Scott Persson said he and his roommate, Randall Lambrecht, hope to have their petition filed by today.

ASUN President Bud Cuca confirmed that Persson told him the petition would charge the organizations with violating the university's religion policy.

The policy forbids the use of university facilities for any organized event featuring religious worship or testimony. Revocation of the groups' campus charters would deny them recognition as student organizations and the benefits of that status, Cuca said.

Members of the four organizations to be named in the petition seemed to be either unaware of or unruffled by the pending petition.

Groups unaware

Kirk Conger, a member of Campus Crusade for Christ and coordinator of McDowell's Lincoln visit, said "the only thing I know is what I read in the paper."

He said that he and members of the Baptist Student Union, Campus Crusade, Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship and the Navigators-UNL have not met officially to discuss what the groups would do if petitioned.

Sue Ewert, Inter-varsity president, said that organiza-

tion has taken a "wait-and-see" attitude. If a petition is filed, the plaintiffs won't get far because the religion policy is too vague, she added.

"We'd like to see the rules clarified so we can know how far we can go and can't go," she said.

Brett Yohn, staff director of the Baptist Student Union, said no university official has contacted the four groups.

Yohn added the would-be plaintiffs would have a difficult time substantiating their charge in Student Court.

Philosophy, too

"There is a difference between church and state and church and religious thought," Yohn said. If a lecturer is prevented from giving his view of life, Yohn said, that would eliminate philosophy and social science professors as well as religious lecturers.

Yohn said that three years ago the Baptist group consulted an attorney to determine the feasibility of overturning the university's religion policy.

The attorney told the group it would need \$10,000 to sue the university and have the policy changed, since the case might have to be carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Yohn said.

"I'm sure that if they kicked us off, we'd have no problem raising \$10,000," he said, referring to ramifications of having the groups' student charters revoked. He estimated there are about 400 students in the Christian groups.

"The general stance of the Christian groups is that we want to cooperate with the university," Yohn said. "We don't want to fight a rule that we can get around."

He said the campus Christian groups have been "getting around" the policy for several years by not advertising any sort of religious event and not talking to people about Christ unless they talked first.

Joe Eisenberg, a former UNL student who filed a petition with the Student Court five years ago after McDowell's last visit, said he will be advising Persson if the need arises.

"I want to prepare him for the consequences," Eisenberg said. He met with strong opposition after filing his petition five years ago, he added.

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