

## Investigative findings reaffirmed by Pub Board

By Patti Gallagher

A resolution reaffirming the findings in the investigation of the Jame Coe letter disclosure was passed unanimously and will be sent to the NU Board of Regents, the UNL Publications Board decided Tuesday night.

In addition, the board decided to arrange a meeting between the regents' executive committee and the Publications Board. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong, who attended the meeting, said that a "face to face discussion" between the two bodies would be helpful to redefine roles and increase communication.

The resolution followed a resolution passed by the regents at their Friday meeting, which said the Publications Board did not act in a responsible manner in handling the letter disclosure. The regents requested that further action be taken by the Publications Board on the incident, to be reviewed at its next meeting, Oct. 17.

The letter, sent to 1980 spring Daily Nebraskan Editor in Chief Rocky Strunk in Coe, was received by present Editor in Chief Randy Essex. Essex assumed his present position on April 31, after Strunk was fired for an unrelated act of plagiarism.

The letter concerned Coe's donation of 1,300 gold Krugerrands to the NU Foundation. The donation, presently worth about \$840,000, raised objections by some people that the coins represent the racist condition of South Africa.

Essex gave the letter to Publications Board member Hubert Brown, who gave it to State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha. Chambers then released the letter to the media.

### Committee appointed

On August 26, the Publications Board appointed a committee to investigate the letter disclosure, upon the request of Vice Chancellor Armstrong. The committee concluded that Essex and Brown used "poor judgement" in the transfer of the letter, and sent a "letter of regret" to Coe.

The regents, however, said in their resolution that the matter "far exceeds poor judgement" and that the Publications Board, as the Daily Nebraskan publishers, failed to take appropriate action in the matter.

The regents requested that the board send a letter of apology to Coe, "reconsider the seriousness of the im-

proper actions" of Brown and Essex, and respond to the regents as to further deliberations.

The resolution also said that upon receiving the Publications Board's response, the regents may recommend to amend the UNL by-laws concerning the "membership, duties, and responsibilities of the board."

According to several board members and those testifying at the meeting, the action by the regents threatens freedom of the press.

"The regents are not talking about Hubert and I anymore," Essex said. "They are talking about what they want the Daily Nebraskan to be."

### Damage freedom of press

A restructuring of the Publications Board "will severely damage the freedom of the press of this campus," he said.

Brown said the regents' resolution is "only to be the beginning of the end of freedom of speech here."

Brown also said further action was unwarranted by the regents because of an earlier investigation in the matter. The Publications Board investigated the incident

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## Policies to change for student groups

By Patti Gallagher

All student organization's will be affected by several policy changes outlined by ASUN's Constitution Committee.

The changes, according to committee member Tim McAllister, involved the constitution process, forming of new organizations and disciplinary actions.

The changes include:

-giving power to the Constitution Committee disciplining student organizations for violations of by-laws. McAllister said the committee will review all violations, determine an appropriate punishment and send their recommendations to the ASUN Senate for approval.

In the past, McAllister said, no specific group was designated to handle discipline.

-holding new groups in probationary status for six months from the time it submits its constitution. McAllister said previously groups were considered "official" as soon as the Senate approved its constitution. The new policy will make it more difficult for organizations to fold, he said.

-a new deadline for submitting a constitution. The deadline, now at the end of the semester, previously gave groups a 60-day limit.

-a formal review of the contents of constitutions by the Senate. McAllister said that previously constitutions before ASUN for approval merely received a rubber stamping. The policy change will allow the Senate to determine if the organization has set goals in the best interest of UNL students, he said.

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Photo by Mark Billingsley

Although screens don't always keep rain out, they can keep rain off, as Angie Smith (front left), Sandy Massey (behind) and Janice Pigaga find Tuesday. The screens, from Howell Theater, are enroute to Studio 12 in the Kozer building.

## Chambers says:

# UNL free speech guarantees nonexistent

By Mary Louise Knapp

The "guarantees of free speech and free press" do not exist at UNL, and students should take action to restore them, Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha said Tuesday.

In a noon speech at the UNL College of Law, Chambers discussed a resolution by the NU Board of Regents which said that the UNL Publications Board did not act responsibly in handling the disclosure of a letter from James Coe of Arizona to spring 1980 Editor in chief Rocky H.A. Strunk.

The resolution says, in part, that the Publications Board should send a written apology to Coe for the "improper" handling of the letter and that the regents may decide to amend the NU by-laws concerning the duties and responsibilities of the board and change the board's membership.

Chambers said that students are being "manhandled" and "bludgeoned" because "the officials know that they have nothing but pliant lumps of clay here."

"During the 1960's, when the students were trying to do some things, a board of regents would never have dared vote the resolution that they did the other day," he said.

Chambers said that if the Daily Nebraskan were put under administrative control, students would have no means of expressing their ideas.

"Do you understand the importance of being able to express yourself freely on every public question?" he asked the audience.

"I am the one who released this letter that they are all so upset about," Chambers said. "But Coe doesn't bother me, and the regents don't bother me."

Chambers said that he considers the letter written by Coe to Strunk a public issue, and not a private matter.

"If that letter had been mailed to him (Strunk) at his home address then there would be a very clear issue of invasion of his privacy, and violation of federal laws relating to the mails, but when it is addressed to him as editor of a newspaper and sent to the newspaper office, and he (Coe) has sent similar stuff to that newspaper to be published, its public," Chambers said.

"When a letter is sent to an agency, it is the property of that agency. Public people, as the law has said, are public property, and when I think something is the public's business, I expose it," he said.

"You find this bunch of old people who are cowardly, and not that successful in what they do trying to bring down a strong fist to crush students. That kind of thing creates contempt in me," he said.

Concerning the Regent's consideration of changing the membership of the Publications Board, Chambers said "I guess that means putting people on it who will do just what the regents tell them to do."

Chambers said the resolution passed by the regents was "only the beginning step" in an effort to take away the independence of the Daily Nebraskan, and, by extension, the students.

"If you're the editor of a newspaper on a college campus which is as backward as this one and you don't get any support from the students and the regents are going to come down on your case, and maybe the Publications Board is going to do the same thing, there is an inhibiting effect on what you can do as an editor.

"Certain articles may not be written. What you've written will be edited in such a way as to be sure not to offend any one. Certain editorials will not appear, letters to the editor will be chopped up so that the

regents are not dissatisfied and you'll end up with a sterile piece of newspaper which might be good to use in the bathroom or to wrap up fish, but certainly not to convey opinion or to generate controversy."

Chambers said that Coe's gift of 1,300 gold Krugerrands to the NU Foundation was not without strings.

"He's had University officials hopping back and forth since he gave them. . . from the way the regents are acting, he could still take them back," he said.

## inside wednesday

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