

## Hansen says clarify facts

# Two regents say meeting of boards is needed

By Jim Faddis

Two members of the NU Board of Regents agreed Wednesday that they would like to meet with the UNL Publications Board to discuss the Publications Board's reasoning concerning the James Coe letter disclosure.

The Publications Board said Tuesday it would like to meet with the regents to discuss the Publications Board's actions in relation to the Coe case.

Coe's letter, sent to spring 1980 Daily Nebraskan Editor in chief Rocky Strunk, was received by present Editor in chief Randy Essex. Strunk had been fired for an unrelated act of plagiarism.

Coe's letter concerned his donation of 1,300 Krugerrands to the NU Foundation. Objections were raised to Coe's donation by some people who said it represented racism in South Africa.

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

The Publications Board investigated the disclosure finding that Brown and Essex used "poor judgment" in the handling of the letter and sent a letter of regret to Coe.

### Reaffirm findings

The Publications Board reaffirmed those findings

Tuesday after the regents had asked them to consider further action in the matter.

Regent Ed Schwartzkopf of Lincoln said Wednesday he would like to meet with the Publications Board to know how it decided that Brown and Essex used "poor judgment," but not take disciplinary action against the two.

Essex's actions after reading the letter showed bad judgment, Schwartzkopf said.

"It is difficult for me to see how the Publications Board can condone Essex's passing of the letter," he said.

Schwartzkopf said Essex "violated a trust" and if it would have happened in the business world, more disciplinary action would have been taken.

"The regents and the Publications Board should not be a mile apart in this. We are all reasonable people, and if we all have the same facts, we should both come to a reasonably close decision," Schwartzkopf said.

### Find facts

Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha also said the regents need to meet with the Publications Board to know "the facts as they have found them."

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff, who voted against the resolution requesting the Publications Board take more action, said he is disturbed some people are attempting to bring the question of free speech into the regents' action.

The regents' resolution said that after reviewing the Publications Board handling of the case, the regents may decide to amend the UNL by-laws concerning membership, duties and responsibilities of the Publications Board.

Brown and Essex have said this constitutes a threat to the First Amendment rights of the Daily Nebraskan.

Although he is against the regents' resolution, Simmons said the regents were just seeing if the Publications Board had handled its authority correctly and not trying to restrict free speech.

Simmons said he was satisfied with the Publications Board action.

"As long as they reviewed the matter and came to a decision, I am satisfied with their decision," Simmons said.

# Marsh, Fowler regret women's program cuts

By Mary Kempkes

As UNL administrators know, last year was just not a good time to ask legislators for money.

And Senators Shirley Marsh and Steve Fowler apologized for cuts to UNL and women's programs Wednesday night at a candidate forum sponsored by NOVA's Business and Professional Women's Club.

Sen. Fowler said, "I think we put ourselves one year back by vetoing (the UNL budget) last year. If we hadn't vetoed 14 percent last year, we wouldn't be looking at 18 percent this year."

Jerry Sellentin, Fowler's opponent in the 27th District, said, "I don't think the University should apologize for asking for an 18 percent increase."

### Candidates present

The forum, attended by about 200 at the Lincoln Hilton, included State Legislature candidates Fowler, Sellentin, Marsh and her opponent LaVon Crosby of the 29th District. Also included in a separate forum were Lancaster County Commissioner's Board candidates Jan Gauger, the incumbent, and Mrs. Carolyn Clark.

Legislative candidates were asked 11 questions about women's issues and later answered other questions from the audience.

Leaders of the sponsoring group asked about funding for several projects, day care and sexual assault counseling centers, that were cut or denied additional funding last year. Senators Fowler and Marsh consistently maintained they had supported these projects which were later cut by a veto from Gov. Charles Thone.

All candidates said they supported the Equal Rights Amendment and a separate Nebraska amendment guaranteeing women's rights to equal pay.

### Catch up

Mrs. Crosby said, "I think the State should get caught up. This is 1980. I think a woman should get paid just as much as a man."

Sen. Fowler referred to a state study that showed 79.5 percent of women and 40 percent of men state employees earned less than \$10,000 a year. Other studies comparing jobs of equal skill are misleading, he said, since only jobs of the same title are compared. Jobs given different names, one for women employees and one for men, requiring the same skills hide pay disparities, he said.

Sellentin agreed. Nebraska needs a standard pay scale, he said, by which state-employee pay can be compared to that in private industries.

Sen. Marsh said, "Last year, the appropriations committee said we need to adjust beginning salaries. The Governor vetoed it. When you adjust beginning salaries, you adjust all the way up the ladder."

### Female crowd

Sellentin, personnel manager for Bryan Memorial Hospital, drew laughter and boos from the mostly-female crowd when asked about differences in state office maternity leave time.

He said, "At Bryan, pregnancy is treated just as any other disability."

Sellentin quickly withdrew the statement and said he had not meant to imply pregnancy was a handicap.

Campaign contributions again were a source of curiosity from the crowd and each candidate explained their policy on special interest donations.

Sen. Marsh said her largest campaign donation was \$300, which she said came from her mother's friend.

### Education record

Fowler's largest donation was \$2,000 from the Nebraska Education Association and said they supported him because of his previous record on education.

"It would be naive to say they give you money just because they like you."

Sellentin, whose largest cash donation was \$1,000 and a \$1,888 in-kind-services donation from the State Republican Committee, took donations from 15 special interest groups in the primary including one from General Motors. He said if he could do it over, he would not accept their donation.

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Photo by Jon Natvig

Those afflicted with hayfever, take note. The first freeze is almost here. This particular ragweed plant enjoys the last rays of an autumn afternoon sun before fading to black with the first signs of Jack Frost.

# Coe's attorney instructed to sue Pub Board, editor

By Steve Miller

Mrs. James Coe said Wednesday a Lincoln attorney has been instructed to sue the UNL Publications Board and Daily Nebraskan Editor in chief Randy Essex.

James Coe was unavailable for comment.

Coe had indicated earlier that he would drop the lawsuits if the Publications Board fired Essex and dismissed board member Hubert Brown.

The Publications Board, after investigating the letter disclosure incident, reprimanded Essex and Brown and sent the Coes a letter of regret.

A letter that Coe sent to spring 1980 Editor in chief Rocky Strunk was received by Essex after Strunk had been fired for an unrelated act of plagiarism.

The letter concerning Coe's donation of 1,300 Krugerrands to the NU Foundation was given by Essex to Brown who gave it to Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers.

Chambers then released the letter to the media claiming the letter contained racial implications.

"They all think it's a laughing matter up there (UNL)," Mrs. Coe said. "We've heard through the grapevine that Essex and Brown think it's a big joke. It's not."

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