

# Student Court decision on Watters' suit delayed

By Mary Kempkes

The UNL Student Court, a judicial arm of ASUN, Thursday delayed action on a decision concerning their jurisdiction in a suit filed by Willie Watters against Daily Nebraskan Editor in Chief Randy Essex.

Scott Cook, chief justice of the court, announced at 7:30 p.m. that court members had not made up their minds. The members would remain in the Student Union where the hearing was held until a decision was reached, he said, but would not announce it until 9 a.m. Tuesday in the ASUN office.

Watters filed suit in the court against Essex, charging defamation of his character and a denial of his First Amendment rights because Essex had refused to print a letter he had written. Essex filed a movement asking for dismissal because he said the court lacked jurisdiction in the case.

Jurisdiction arguments centered on the newspaper's acceptance of student fees, the ASUN constitution and a state Supreme Court case.

Todd Adams, Watter's lawyer, said the court had jurisdiction by virtue of section three of the ASUN constitution which states the court can hear cases pertaining to organizations within the university community. The Daily Nebraskan is a student organization, he said, because it receives funds from UNL.

Essex pointed out that only 7 percent of the newspaper's funds come from voluntary student Fund A fees.

Adams also referred to a Nebraska Supreme Court decision in which the court mentioned that university officials should have limited supervision over the student newspaper to ensure "reasonable representation of student complaints and opinions."

The Daily Nebraskan is not a private newspaper, Adams said, and it is wrong to keep students from pub-

lishing letters just because they are critical of the staff. Essex said the university does have a regulatory body over the newspaper, the Publications Board. The board has met and discussed the issue, Essex said, but no action was taken.

The ASUN constitution has a clause that prohibits action in conflict with university rules and regulations, including those of the regents, Essex said.

"My basic point is that the Board of Regents in the 1918 guidelines for student press states the editorial policy of the Daily Nebraskan is solely in the hands of the editors," he said.

The guidelines also state that editors should not be fired because of student protest regarding editorial policy. Watters has asked the board to consider impeachment proceedings against Essex. Essex maintained that since he was not selected or approved by ASUN for his position, they have no impeachment jurisdiction.

# RHA approves visitation hour modification plan

By Betsy Miller

A proposal to modify the procedures used to change visitation hours in halls was approved by the UNL Residence Hall Association at their Thursday night meeting in Selleck Quadrangle.

The plan, proposed by Harper Representative John Folda, will now be submitted for admittance on the Board of Regents' agenda. The regents have final approval on the proposal.

Currently, to change floor hours in residence halls from eight to 14 hours, there must be unanimous/floor approval and parents of all minors on the floor must express their consent, according to Folda.

The new plan calls for 90 percent floor approval, and all students who are opposed

to the change can be moved to other eight hour visitation floors in campus halls when spots become available. Folda said.

Also, although parents of floor members will be sent notices by UNL housing officials that hours may be changed, replies are not needed. However, more than four negative responses from parents would halt the change process, he said.

RHA Advisor Richard McKinnon said that RHA could have the issue on the regents' December agenda if they sent it to the regents' secretary soon.

Also at the meeting, Smith Representative Ane Jensen presented the by-laws for the RHA Judiciary Board to the association. Jensen served on the committee which deals with RHA's J-Board.

According to the by-laws, the board will consist of no more than 26 members.

Student members will account for 23 of the board positions, while the remaining three spots will consist of the board's chairperson, one residence director and one student assistant.

The student members will be nominated by their residence hall and appointed by RHA, according to the by-laws.

Fedde, Burr Men, Burr Women, International House and Love Hall shall contribute one student member, while all other halls will send two to the board, the by-laws state.

Board chairperson will be chosen by the RHA president with RHA's advice and consent. The student assistant staff member will be drawn from a pool of 11 S.A.'s nominated by residence directors.

The residence director will be selected from the pool of 11 R.D.s, according to the by-laws.

In other action, a standing rule proposed as an addition to RHA by-laws by Abel Representative Dave Edwards was defeated.

The rule would have limited all RHA meetings to 90 minutes, and all business the association did not finish would be deferred to the next meeting.

Parliamentarian Scott Driml explained that under current parliamentary procedure, a motion to adjourn can be given at any time during a meeting.

The standing rule could not be binding like other laws and could be ignored if the meeting was lasting longer than 90 minutes, Driml said.



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Hope you have been having fun with us.  
Thanks For All The Great Years.*

## 14th ANNIVERSARY SALE

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144 N. 14

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## ETV to feature 'great teachers'

Great teachers from all campuses of the NU system will be featured Nov. 7 at 9 p.m. on "What's NU?," broadcast over all stations of the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

The 30-minute program will center on NU faculty members discussing what it takes to be a "great teacher."

Members of the discussion will include John Janovy, professor and director of UNL's Biological Field Station in the School of Life Sciences, David R. McGill, professor of agronomy and assistant to the vice chancellor of the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Edward A. Holyoke, professor of anatomy at the NU Medical Center.

"What's NU?" is a weekly program showing how NU touches the lives of Nebraskans.

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