

Law college letter opposes Legal Services cuts

By Kim Hachiya

The Student Bar Association at the UNL College of Law has sent a letter opposing President Ronald Reagan's cuts in the federal Legal Services Corp. budget to the Nebraska congressional delegation.

Andy Toft, UNL association president said Reagan's proposal to cut from \$100 million to \$200 million from the \$321 million program would leave it "a virtual shell of a program which won't do that much good for anybody." The entire program would be eliminated by 1982.

"Reagan has a very strong desire to cut this out of the budget," Toft said. "When he was governor of California, he tried to do the same thing."

"We felt as law students that Legal Services provides very important services to the poor people of this country. Without Legal Services, they will be over a barrel."

Toft said many disputes which poor people get involved in may involve landlords or others who are unable to afford to hire some legal help.

"We all know that with legal help in court, you're just out of luck," he said.

Toft said students from other law schools had contact-

Official predicts enrollment to drop slightly in 10 years

Enrollment at UNL will decline slightly in the next 10 years, said UNL's director of institutional research and planning.

Harry Allen said Tuesday he expects high school graduating classes to continue to decline in size, resulting in fewer entering freshmen.

"The decline will not be large, about 5 percent," Allen said.

The Reagan administration's proposed cuts in student loans also may affect enrollment, Allen said.

"The cuts might increase enrollment here," he said, "because students who might have gone to a more expensive institution might come here instead."

However, loan cuts could also prevent students from attending UNL, he said.

Allen said he is not sure how many older students will return to school in the next 10 years.

"I don't expect any growth at UNL at all," Allen added. Currently, 24,128 students are enrolled at UNL.

ed the UNL SBA asking for their support. He said the letter was sent to the Nebraska senatorial and congressional delegations in an effort to give them some indication of what the sentiments are in Nebraska.

Tony Leffert, junior class president at the UNL College of Law, said the group is aligning itself with the American Bar Association which is lobbying to keep the budget intact.

"Indigent people have the right to legal services. The total amount of the Legal Services budget is insignificant when compared to the increases in defense spending Reagan has planned," Leffert said.

Toft said he did not know why Reagan is so opposed to the Legal Services concept. Some people in the Reagan administration have said lawyers oppose the cuts because Legal Service guarantees them jobs; that if Legal Services is cut, other lawyers will pick up indigent cases for free and that Legal Services lawyers litigate against the government.

Continued on Page 9



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Former Husker football teammates Andra Franklin and John Noonan take time from an equipment check where they were issued new shoes. The two were drafted by the Miami Dolphins. For more on the pro draft, see Page 14.

Sexual harassment often unrecognized at UNL

By Beth Headrick

Editor's Note: This story was written as an assignment for a depth reporting class in the UNL School of Journalism. In addition to the story, this report contains some analysis based on numerous interviews.

Recognizing what sexual harassment is, realizing that it isn't necessary to grin and bear it, and developing ways to fight it and still protect the victims are problems at UNL.

The fact that few cases are reported to the UNL Affirmative Action office does not downplay the problem, but points to it.

Brad Munn, UNL affirmative action officer, said that in the five years he has been at UNL, he has worked on only 10 to 12 cases.

But of 17 sexual harassment victims interviewed for this article, not one had sought help from Munn, and only three had complained at all. Of the three, one woman went straight to the professor who had harassed her and the other two talked to faculty members.

Cases are not reported for a variety of reasons. Women feel the system puts the victim too far out on a limb, or that they will lose more than the harasser. Women often feel they are to blame for what happened to them.

One faculty member observed in an interview that "the types of students who speak out aren't the types who are harassable."

This points to the major problem of recognition.

Sexual harassment can be subtle, and for many it takes time to recognize it and time to realize they don't have to take it. But by then it may be too late to take action against the harasser.

Among the women interviewed was this typical case:

A male professor called one UNL student up to his office, leaned over walking past her, put his hand on her cheek and kissed her on the mouth.

The 20-year-old sorority woman said, "I was surprised and confused. A thousand things go through your mind, like: 'Did I lead him on? Why me? Is this harassment? How should I react? Is it worth telling someone or is it an innocent little thing?' I tried to calm myself and I probably did, too much."

She never filed a complaint. Sexual harassment and rape have parallel dynamics. In both cases the victim is treated as a sexual object and is made to feel guilty.

"Women are conditioned to ignore sexual harassment," said Marcee Metzger, coordinator of the UNL Women's Resource Center. "And they allow themselves to be blamed."

Problem alive and well

When Phyllis Schlafly, leader of the movement to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment, testified last week before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee that only women who are not "virtuous" are sexually harassed, she epitomized an attitude that keeps sexual harassment alive and well. The idea that the woman asks for it, either by dress or manner, supports a system that oppresses women and also keeps them from doing anything about it.

Simply stated, most women feel defeated before they begin, and just learn to live with it.

As another student said, "It didn't seem worth it. When he (a professor) made sexual comments to me I felt sick. It bothered me for a few days, but I can't see how it affected my work directly. I just went on with it and tried to forget it."

Later in the interview she added, "I think there's this mechanism women have

where they deny that it's happening or that it's important. It's standard procedure to cope for women; you pretend it's not happening."

There has been no survey at UNL to see how prevalent these cases are. But a survey at the University of California at Berkeley, in 1974 found that one of five women had been sexually harassed on campus.

Harassment surveys

That survey also marked the beginning of an awareness that the problem existed to a greater extent than most people there had thought, said Diane Clemens, affirmative action officer at Berkeley.

Munn said he's waiting for the results of a survey taken at Arizona State University. He wants to use a similar survey at UNL. It is a 19-page questionnaire given to faculty, staff and students. A spokesperson at Arizona State said the results are now being analyzed. The findings will be available next fall.

Metzger said she would like the Women's Resource Center to co-sponsor a survey. If a survey were taken, she said, people would become more aware of the problem. Women come into the center often, she said, complaining of sexual harassment.

Metzger said she would like to conduct workshops on sexual harassment before a survey is done to educate people on the issue.

"Most women don't know all the forms sexual harassment can take," she said.

Procedure criticized

The procedure that is set up to handle sexual harassment at UNL isn't good, Metzger said. If the chancellor and others in power would take an interest in the issue and give their support to some kind of investigative committee outside of affirmative action, women would feel more comfortable in making complaints,

she said.

Sexual harassment is against the law under both Title IX and Title VII.

Title IX is the federal statute requiring schools receiving federal funds to provide equal education for women. Guidelines were issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on November 10, 1980, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex. The guidelines state that Title VII prohibits sexual harassment of employees.

Because of the legal ramifications of sexual harassment, UNL set up its own policy against sexual harassment, effective July 1, 1980.

The guideline says: "The University of Nebraska-Lincoln affirms that all women and men—administrators, faculty, staff and students—are to be treated fairly and equally, with dignity and respect. Any form of sexual harassment contradicts the policies of the University and will be treated as discrimination on the basis of sex."

Continued on Page 10

inside thursday

A Risky Game: UNL Health Center director says the "Quarters" drinking game has resulted in some students swallowing the coins. . . . Page 3
Mondo Radio: Omaha FM station Z-92's eccentric disc jockeys Otis Twelve and Diver Dan Doomey ride the Nebraska airwaves with their offbeat philosophy. . . . Page 12
First Team Dream: After three years of waiting, Nebraska quarterback Mark Mauer hopes to realize his dream of becoming a Husker starter. . . . Page 14