

## ASUN will co-sponsor gay discrimination panel

By Melinda Norris

Recognizing the presence of a lesbian population at UNL, the ASUN Senate Wednesday agreed to co-sponsor a panel presentation on gay discrimination and support a gay rights ordinance to the Lincoln City Council.

Voting 24-3, with one abstention, the senate acknowledged the civil rights of gays and denounced housing and job discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

Introduced by Sens. Tim Rinne and Jan

Deeds, the bill asked ASUN to join the Women's Resource Center and Affirmative Action in sponsoring a panel presentation on gay discrimination Oct. 8. The panel will include Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln and UNL professor of psychology James Cole.

The bill further requested the senate to support letters to the Lincoln City Council, the Human Rights Commission and Mayor Helen Boosalis requesting lesbians be protected under the Lincoln Human Rights Ordinance when the issue is presented at the City Council meeting Nov. 17.

"A person should not be discriminated against just because of who they sleep with," Deeds said. "Anyone who discriminates on this basis has a 'narrow-minded view,'" Deeds said.

Sen. Jim Emanuel agreed about gays' human rights, but requested that groups who oppose gays also be present at the panel presentation.

"To make a creditable presentation and for ASUN to have its name stamped on it, it should be set up with both sides of the story," Emanuel said.

Stating his church considers lesbian activity a sin, Emanuel asked ASUN to invite opposition groups to the presentation. Without equal time, Emanuel said, the presentation would be just a "gay rights rap group."

Sen. Karie Keown, citing herself as one of the most conservative members on the senate, said, "gays aren't what we read in the papers. They're human beings."

Keown said she is in favor of "any type of human rights issue that comes to the board."

## Union atmosphere provides sanctuary for few transients

By Tricia Waters

The man moved slowly through the Nebraska Union, carrying a stick from some unknown tree. Union workers noticed that each day the man carried a new twig, from a different tree or of a different size. They called him "Twiggy."

Eventually, the man moved on and workers never saw him again.

Like other transients who loiter in the union, the man fit right in to the constant shuffle of people.

But transients who harass others and require campus police to be called, don't fit in, two union officials said.

Union director Daryl Swanson said transients have caused a few problems on campus over the years.

"We understand why our building attracts them," he said. "We're a shelter. The hustle and bustle of our daily activities tends to disguise them. They can be here and not be hassled."

Frank Kuhn, assistant director of union operations, agreed.

"A different person probably fits into the union because of the different kinds of students," Kuhn said. "They're less threatened in an environment like this than they are in any other public buildings."

### Attend summer school

Kuhn said several people idly stayed around the union this summer. He said some of them were college students passing through who were interested in seeing what the university's union is like.

Union officials run into legal difficulties trying to remove undesirable people from the union, Swanson said. People who panhandle can be threatened with arrest if they don't leave, but many people aren't fazed by threats, he said.

Because the union is a public building, the people must do something illegal or appear dangerous before police can remove them, Swanson said.

Kuhn said sometimes transients simply talk to themselves or talk to students, occasionally "bumming" cigarettes or dimes, he said. At other times, the transients threaten cashiers and other workers. That's when officials call campus police.

"Sometimes you can talk to the person," Kuhn said. "Sometimes we think the person may be so far gone or potentially dangerous that we call campus security right away."

### No problem lately

Sgt. Richard Gammel of UNL police said police officers haven't picked up many transients lately. But he said transients are a continuous problem.

"We run into a lot of transients during the summertime," he said.

When police pick up someone who's acting strangely, they first run a check to determine whether the person is wanted by police, Gammel said.

Police turn over a dangerous person to the Lincoln Regional Center, where they make emergency committals, he said. The center handles the person from there by evaluating his mental condition and treating him, Gammel said.

Someone who isn't dangerous, but needs food or shelter, is referred to city agencies where they can get help, he said.

Swanson said he is concerned mainly that students and others are able to use the union and not be hassled by others.

"People can stay here for a long time if they behave themselves and don't interfere with other people's use of the facilities," he said.

Kuhn agreed and added that student and employee safety is the main concern when officials consider removing transients.

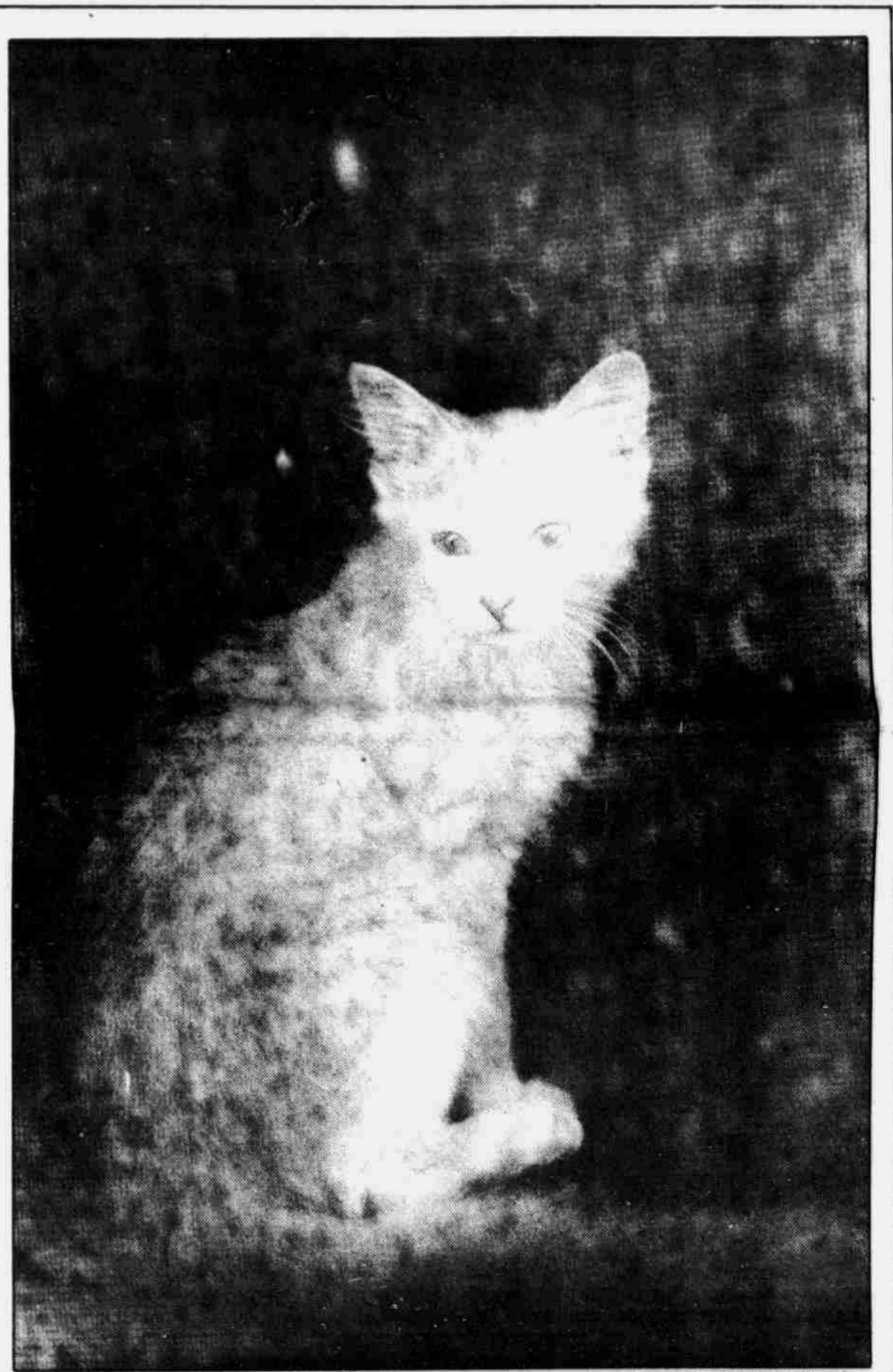


Photo by Mark Billingsley

On a rainy day, Cody the cat found a perch on the dry side of the screen.

## Task force to consider uses for radial corridor

By Patty Pryor

A committee appointed to study possible uses of land bought by the city for the defeated Northeast Radial will hold its first meeting Wednesday.

The 17-member Radial Reuse Task Force, appointed by the city council from approximately 50 nominees, will look for a development plan concerning land west of 27th Street to the downtown area, said Dallas McGee, neighborhood planning and development coordinator.

In addition, the advisory committee will monitor the implementation of a plan prepared by a previous task force, which deals with 50 acres of land east of 27th and Fair streets to 48th and Fremont streets, McGee said.

The plan, adopted in the fall of 1980, calls for private redevelopment of a linear park system, industrial development north of the parks, and expansion of residential areas to the south, he said.

This area east of 27th Street was bought for \$1.2 million, according to McGee.

Neither McGee nor various members of the committee know if the current task force will look at the same types of suggestions and possibilities adopted by the first committee.

"The task force is just preparing a format now, which will outline a step-by-step process," McGee said.

It will be important to incorporate any adopted plan into the context of the surrounding neighborhoods, he added.

Both Leon Satterfield and Gordon Scholz, members of the current task force, were also members of the previous committee.

Satterfield, a member of the English Dept. at Nebraska Wesleyan University, is representing the University Place Community Organization on the task force.

Satterfield said it was too early to make any comparisons between the two committees.

"I really don't know the feelings of the new committee," he said, "and any kind of format hasn't been decided yet."

Scholz, a member of the Department of Community and Regional Planning in the UNL School of Architecture, chaired the previous committee but is acting only as a citizen-at-large on the current committee.

Scholz, too, said it was premature to discuss any specific proposals.

"I'm not that familiar with the specific settings of the land," he said, "but I assume some basic ideas will be considered, such as residential and commercial development."

Scholz did say, however, that the charge to the committee does not include the option of re-opening the radial issue.

"It's explicitly stated that we are not to consider a through road in any proposals," he said.

The committee will consider such transportation items as bicycle paths, mass transportation routes and parking solutions, Scholz said.

Jim Kreizinger is another citizen-at-large committee member.

He agreed that the emphasis of committee work would be on reviewing options other than another radial proposal.

"I think there's a pretty general consensus that the radial is a dead issue," he said.

Continued on Page 8

## inside friday

Jazz it Up: A Musical exercise method called Jazzercise catches on big in Lincoln . . . . . Page 9

Third Time a Charm: Penn State football fans are confident the third-ranked Nittany Lions will defeat Nebraska this weekend in Lincoln . . . . . Page 10

Sexy Soaps: Columnist Patti Gallagher explores the popularity of daytime drama General Hospital. . . . Page 12