

# daily nebraskan

## 7-member panel urges civil rights for gays, lesbians

By Melinda Norris

The religious, psychological and political aspects of homosexuality were analyzed by a seven-member panel Thursday evening in an effort to rouse support for a lesbian/gay rights amendment to the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights Ordinance. The amendment will be recommended to the Lincoln City Council Nov. 14.

Entitled "Civil Rights for Lesbians and Gay Men," the presentation brought together a variety of panelists, including state Sen. Steve Fowler, the Rev. Ben Roe of the United Methodist Church and Scott Stebelman of the Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights.

About 60 people heard the panelists discount myths, disclose homosexual discrimination and stress the civil rights of lesbians and gays in a 55-minute discussion followed by a question-and-answer session.

"Homosexuality is a distinct minority group," began Professor James Cole, director of the clinical psychology training program at UNL.

"It (homosexuality) is something that has been in existence and continues to exist very significantly in our society," he said.

Mary Kay Reed, assistant professor of psychology at Nebraska Wesleyan University, explained homosexuality as an "adoptive means of expressing sexuality."

"There is no perfect or most adoptive means of maturing," she said. "There are many different ways. There are also a variety of adopted means of expressing sexuality."

Reed listed celibacy, heterosexuality and bisexuality as other means.



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A panel discusses civil rights for gay men and lesbians Thursday night in the Nebraska Union Rostrum. Included in the presentation were James Cole, the Rev. Ben Roe, Mary Kay Reed, moderator Dick Kurtenbach, state Sen. Steve Fowler, D. Alicen and Scott Stebelman.

Taking the issue from a minister's point of view, Roe said, "The importance of the person is the most important part."

A person has the need for the basic security of living, such as income and housing, and has the need to be accepted into the community, Roe said.

Roe said that "mainline" denominations, except the Catholic Church, support homosexuals.

Agreeing with United Methodist Church policy state-

ment, Roe said, "All persons are equally valuable in the sight of God."

Fowler expressed the realities of getting a civil rights amendment passed by the city council.

Groundwork has to be done on changing the public's attitude, and political action must be taken, Fowler said.

"This translates into workers, money and votes," Fowler said. "This is a long term fight, several years. It may not just happen in a few months."

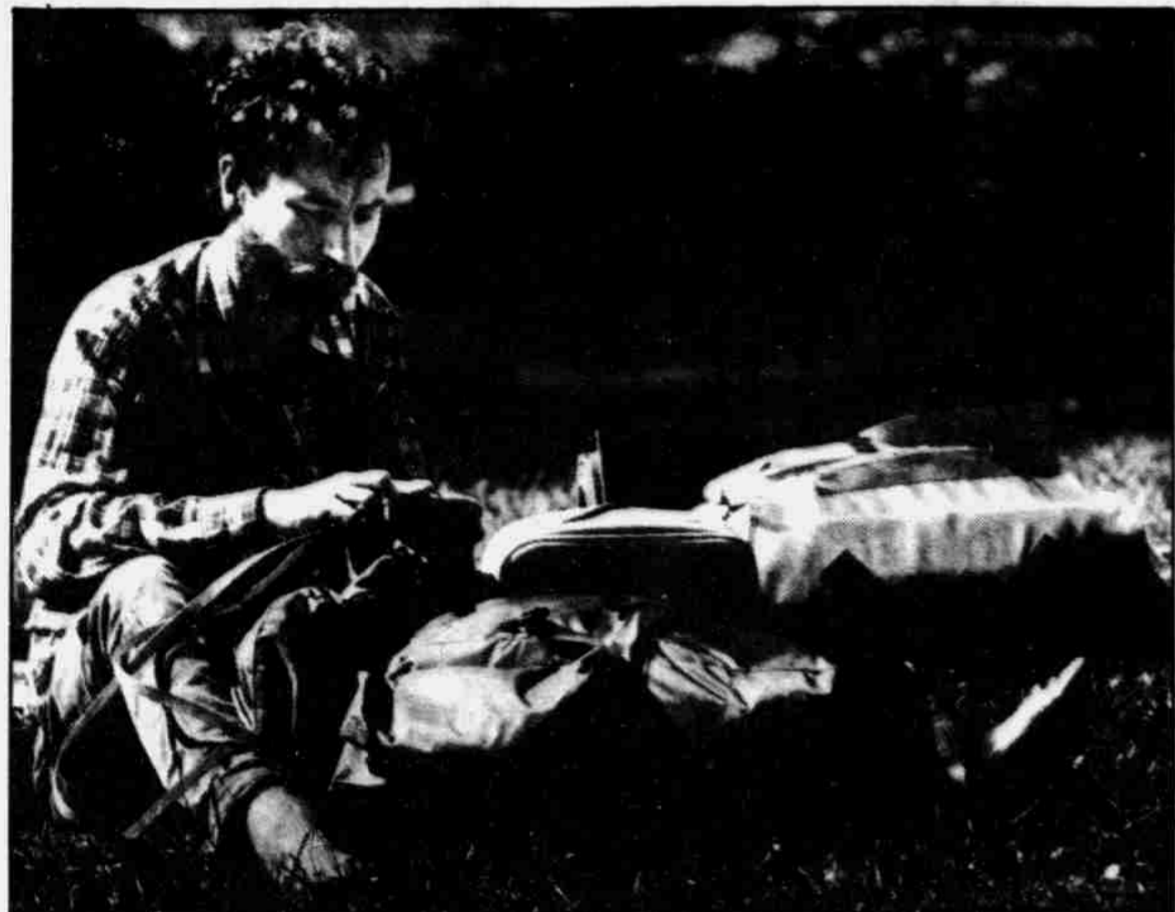


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Reinhardt Fenstel relaxes on the grass outside of Selleck Quadrangle. A native of Berlin, West Germany, Fenstel and a friend are touring the United States by bus.

## Germans visit Nebraska

By Tricia Waters

The man sat on a pad eating his lunch and drinking milk. When he finished, he put some things in his backpack propped on the grass beside him.

He was camped out for awhile Thursday on the grass south of Selleck Quadrangle, taking it easy for a few hours. He and a friend arrived on the bus Wednesday night. His friend was exploring the city.

Speaking English with a heavy German accent, Reinhardt Fenstel, 25, of the West German sector of Berlin, sat in the sun outside Selleck Quadrangle and told of his two-week trip from New York. He and his friend, Jurgen Knuppel, 26, of Berlin, are traveling across the United States.

The men are traveling by bus and have already visited New York, Michigan, Chicago and Lincoln. In another day, they will continue on their way to Cheyenne, Wyo., Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

They plan to spend a few days in each city, then go to New Orleans and eventually, Florida.

Fenstel said he has found traveling is expensive in the United States compared to in Europe. Staying in YMCA's can get expensive, he said.

In Chicago, Fenstel saw the *Chicago Tribune's* account of the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

"I was shocked by the assassination," he said.

He said the paper's praise of Sadat was a nice tribute to the man.

Fenstel has traveled around Europe but had never seen the United States. He said he likes traveling in France because of the people.

When the travelers return to Berlin, Fenstel will look for a job in automotive engineering. He recently graduated from the University of Berlin. Knuppel is studying electronics in Berlin.

"It's the last chance for me to make a large trip," Fenstel said. When he begins working, he won't have time to travel as he has in the past, he said.

Fenstel said life in the United States seems a little more difficult than it is in Berlin. He said people have a harder time finding a job in the United States.

## Senate moves some meetings to Cultural Center

By Melinda Norris

Over protests that a procedural change would cater to minority interests and damage the continuity of ASUN Senate meetings, the senate voted 19-6-3 in favor of holding its second meeting of the month at the Cultural Center, 1012 N. 16th St.

Introducing the bill to the floor, Sen. Teresa Zeilinger said the policy change would make the senate "more visible to minority students."

"To a lot of students, the Cultural Center is a student union," she said. "All of us are white students, mostly upper middle class. We are not representing them (minorities) very well."

By moving one meeting a month to the Cultural Center, the senate will give other students a chance to get involved, she said.

"We will not lead them by the hand and get them in-

involved," Zeilinger said, "but give them an opportunity to see what's going on."

Holding senate meetings at the Cultural Center results from an observation made by Sen. Tim Rinne at the Sept. 23 meeting. After the senate confirmed about 50 appointments to various committees, commissions and senatorial positions, Rinne noted that all appointees were Caucasian. He asked whether the senate could involve minority students.

While agreeing that the senate should involve more minority students, Sen. Tracy Thompson said holding senate meetings in the Cultural Center would be the "easy way out."

"We need to go out and get people involved," she said, "but Wednesdays are not the time. Not when we are voting on legislation."

"What people are going to sit through parliamentary procedure for two and a half hours?"

Thompson challenged the senators to visit the Cultural Center and meet its leaders.

"The unions are facilities for all students," Thompson said. "They can easily come in and see a meeting."

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