

# Lincoln's new socialist group claims left is right

By Mary Louise Knapp

Providing information about alternative forms of government and economic systems is the main goal of the Young Socialist Alliance which recently formed a Lincoln chapter, said Mary Nell Bockman, a member of the organization.

Bockman said that growing disillusionment with American government and economics is leading people to consider socialism as an acceptable alternative.

"Socialism isn't a dirty word in the United States anymore," she said.

Bockman said interest in the YSA on the UNL campus has been "overwhelming."

"There's never been a group on campus that called themselves 'socialists' before," she said. "Everyone on campus seems to want to talk politics with us."

The Lincoln chapter of the YSA, formed two months ago, has five registered members and several members who are unregistered. The group is composed of students and non-students, Bockman said.

### Marxism class

The YSA conducts a six-part class on the philosophy of Marxism on Saturday afternoons in the East Union, in addition to its regular Sunday meetings in the Nebraska Union.

"I think this class fills a real need," Bockman said. "There is so much confusion about what Marxism really is."

The YSA, along with groups such as Nebraskans for Peace and the Women's Resource Center, conducted a vigil and demonstration against the Reagan administration Saturday during Vice President George Bush's speech at Pershing Auditorium.

Jeff Hamill, local YSA coordinator, said a feeling of alienation from American government and the desire for change is no longer limited to a small group of activists as it was during the 1960s.

Hamill said that with the Reagan administration's stringent economic politics threatening the futures of the poor, workers and the middle class, more and more people are willing to take the lead in social struggles.

"There's a lot of talk about America moving to the right," Bockman said. "That's not true. Reagan is not representing what the people really want. The people from the far right have become more vocal, which is causing the traditional conservatives to move farther left and look at the situation."

Bockman said most Americans feel that their lives can only get worse, especially economically, under Reagan's policies. Americans feel their security and civil rights are being threatened by the government, he said.

"The far right, Moral Majority types are the enemies of freedom," she said. "They

are not the majority. They're trying to impose their views on the vast majority, which will have nothing to do with it.

"The government encourages this stuff," she added.

Hamill said that on the surface, political activism does not seem to have increased perceptively over the last five years. But there is a deepening anger toward party politics and politicians in America today," he said.

"People don't trust the Democrats or the Republicans," he said. "They think politicians are all crooks."

Bockman added that the Socialist Workers Party has had more success in getting on political ballots lately because "people will sign anything that doesn't say 'Republican' or 'Democrat.'"

### Reject socialism

Bockman said many people reject socialism because they associate socialism and communism with totalitarian governments such as the Soviet Union's.

Socialism, as explained by Karl Marx, is in no way related to the sort of government that the Soviet Union has, she said.

A socialistic system is based on the needs of its members and the productive capacity of each person, not on private capital or a state, she said.

Bockman explained that the Soviet Union's socialistic government degenerated into a totalitarian state because of hard-

ships suffered by the people after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and because the Soviet Union had a history of autocratic regimes.

The United States, on the other hand, would not let a socialistic system slip into totalitarianism because of its strong democratic traditions, she said.

The present government is posing a greater threat to the freedom of the American people, she said, through domestic spying by agencies such as the CIA and FBI.

The YSA brought the CIA, FBI and INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) to trial in March, accusing them of spying on and harassing members of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

A decision on the lawsuit will be handed down in about two months, Bockman said.

Bockman said the lawsuit, filed in 1973, has forced the government to hand over tens of thousands of documents which prove that wiretaps, burglaries and other illegal techniques were used against members of the party.

During its 40-year investigation of the Socialist Workers Party and the YSA, the government could discover no illegal activity by either group, Bockman said.

A panel discussion on the lawsuit will be Nov. 30 in the Lincoln YWCA, Bockman said. State senators, government officials and the attorney for the Young Socialist Alliance will be present, she said.

## Sadie Hawkins dance tonight

The annual Sadie Hawkins Day dance and skit presentation will be tonight at 7:30 in the East Union Great Plains Room. Skits run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The band Shootin' from the Hip plays from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Skits are performed by Lil' Abner and Daisy May candidates from residence halls and Greek houses, said Jeff Lauber of the University Program Council. Each candidate has his group help him perform a skit in competition for the title of Lil' Abner or Daisy May, he said. The winners will be announced during a break at the dance

later in the evening, and Lil' Abner and Daisy May will receive a marriage license certifying their matrimony.

Lauber said the annual East Campus event is open to all residence halls and Greek houses. There are four candidates this year, fewer than in the past. Persons wanting to participate may sign up as late as Friday, he said.

The skit performances are free to the public. There is a fee of \$2 for students, \$2.50 for non-students and \$3 for couples for admission to the dance.

## Motorcycle stolen from parking lot

A motorcycle worth \$650 was taken from a UNL parking lot sometime between last Thursday and Tuesday, UNL police said.

The 1980 blue Honda Passport was taken from the Area 23 lot west of Harper-Schramm-Smith Residence Halls. Victoria Wilcox, 20, of Smith Hall, owns the Honda.

In other police reports, someone took

down a fire extinguisher from a Selleck Quadrangle third floor wall and sprayed its contents on the floor and walls.

Because the chemical contents cause a cloud of gas, people first thought it was a fire, police said, but an alarm wasn't turned in.

The cost of cleanup and refilling the fire extinguisher wasn't estimated.

The act constitutes criminal mischief.

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