

City Council hears homosexual views

By Jeff Goodwin

The Lincoln City Council heard testimony Monday night on a proposed amendment to the Lincoln City Charter that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

If approved by the city council, the proposal will be placed on the May ballot.

The hearing, conducted before an overflow crowd that spilled into the hall, was interrupted for 15 minutes when police were forced to clear the council chambers because of a bomb threat.

Cheryl Long, representing the Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights, supported the amendment.

"Change is always difficult but we should not be surprised or intimidated by the opposition to this ordinance within the community," Long said.

"Employment and housing are among the most important needs in our society," she said. "This amendment would protect those rights."

Long said she thought there was "clearly" discrimination against gays in Lincoln.

"I think it is due to a misunderstanding of what homosexuality is," she said.

Long urged the council to come out in favor of the amendment, in addition to putting it on the ballot.

John Butler spoke against the amendment.

"Homosexuality is a conduct," Butler said. "It's a choice that is made voluntarily. The harmful and irreparable conduct of some can have a lasting impression."

Butler said he was approached by a homosexual as a teenager and, 23 years later, he is still bothered by it.

Dr. Paul Cameron, chairman of the Committee to Oppose Special Rights for Homosexuals, also opposed the amendment.

"Discrimination is something human beings always do," Cameron said. "Right now human beings in our culture have exactly the same rights. If people chose to discriminate against homosexuals it's their right under the Constitution. As a heterosexual, that doesn't bother me."

Corrections

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly reported in a Monday story that the Moslem Students Association attended a rally denouncing U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

The story should have said the Moslem Student Society attended the rally. The two groups have opposing views: The association is pro-Khomeini and the society is anti-Khomeini.

In a different Monday Daily Nebraskan story, a headline said that the STUPID II party charged that false testimony was given at an Electoral Commission hearing. Mike Frost, presidential candidate of the STUPID II party, said he was making the charge as an individual, not as a member of his party.

Regent. . .

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Miller said retention of capable faculty members is an important issue for the university.

"I have no magic answer," Miller said. "It's a problem that's being grappled with monthly, even weekly, and I certainly regard that (faculty retention) as a major concern."

Miller said that as a life-long newspaperman he is in a good position to see Nebraska's needs and problems.

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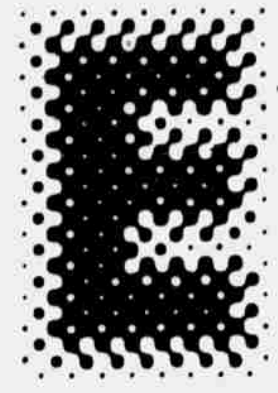
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