

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, December 14, 1983

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 82 No. 74

UNL faculty members debate merits of joining national professors' union

By Christopher Galen

The potential advantages and disadvantages of a union for UNL's faculty were discussed during an all-campus faculty meeting Tuesday in the Nebraska Union.

The hearing, sponsored by the UNL Faculty Senate, featured speeches by Jerry Petr, associate professor of economics, Thomas Zorn, assistant professor of finance, and Donald Uerling, assistant professor in the educational administration department.

Petr spoke in favor of approving the American Association of University Professors as the collective bargaining union for UNL's faculty.

"Might not your interests be better served if you organized yourselves?" Petr asked the audience of about 50.

Petr pointed to the declining level of pay UNL professors receive, and said that faculty salaries are in the lowest fifth of total salaries among comparable public institutions.

Besides a better position from which to bargain, UNL professors also would have a stronger voice to influence key academic issues if they unionized, Petr said.

"The objective of excellence at UNL remains a deeply held commitment," he said.

Because the AAUP is active on more than 700

university campuses, it could better serve the needs of the faculty it represents, all of whom have certain common interests, Petr said.

He said eight years ago a similar situation left the UNL faculty without a union.

"I don't see the improvement which we all sought. Nor do I see that time is on our side," Petr said. He concluded by asking "If not now, when?"

Zorn spoke against faculty unionization, saying that unions do not necessarily give organizations of great deal of bargaining power.

"For the majority of the faculty, the union is not going to do much good," Zorn said.

The greatest power of unions is the threat of a strike, which may work for auto workers but would not work for UNL. If the UNL faculty were to strike, the state would end up saving money instead of losing money, Zorn said. Unions also reduce bargaining effectiveness, he said.

"You're simply adding another layer of bureaucracy between us and the decision makers," he said.

The people of Nebraska also would be opposed to the idea of a faculty union, and would not side with UNL professors if they formed a union, Zorn said.

"I think that it is better to threaten unionism than it is to have unions," he said.

Uerling spoke on the scope and implications of collective bargaining, addressing the legal and constitutional issues relating to faculty unionization.



Staff photo by Dave Trout

Hello Dolly

This blushing bride is one of the many dolls in display through today in the main lobby of the First National Bank Building, 13th and M streets. The dolls will be given to charity and distributed to needy children for Christmas. Story on Page 5.

Drive seeks soap and socks for needy

By Jill Nygren

Doris Stonuey understands needy people's problems and does something to meet those needs. Her concern grows from her own family's misfortunes.

Stonuey, 2600 N. 35th St., said her husband died from an immunity deficiency while the family lived in California. The deficiency, caused by contaminated drinking water, also afflicted her son, daughter and herself.

Despite this tragedy, Stonuey is optimistic in the help she can offer others.

"Instead of always looking at the bad," she said, "we try to help others."

Stonuey and her 23-year-old daughter, Judith, have sponsored and organized an annual Christmas charity drive for four years.

The theme of this year's drive, "Soap and Socks" means working to distribute donated soap, laundry

detergent, shampoo and socks to various Lincoln charities. The Salvation Army and People's City Mission help distribute items to shut-ins and other needy Lincoln citizens.

The Stonuey's have used the "Soap and Socks" theme for two years. According to charity organization estimates, Lincoln citizens last year donated more than 500 socks and 500 soap products.

The first campaign was for canned food and gift certificates from local restaurants. The following year Stonuey and her daughter asked for pointsettias.

Because of the success of last year's "Soap and Socks" campaign, Stonuey said the theme probably will remain the same during the next few years.

Stonuey said the "Soap and Socks" drive has had positive reactions from charity organizations and shut-ins who received gifts.

"The Salvation Army really appreciates it," she

said. "They get toys, toys and more toys, but nothing to give adults."

The Stonuey's charity drive always has been aimed at adult and family needs, she said.

The idea for "Soaps and Socks" came to Stonuey "out of the air" last year.

"It's simple and easy to give," she said. "And it's something real useful and practical."

Steve Janovec, executive director of the City Mission, said the Mission will distribute the gift-wrapped items to people who come to the mission during the holidays.

Stonuey said the Salvation Army and St. Patrick's and First Baptist churches also will distribute the gifts near Christmas time.

People can donate soap or socks to the Santas at the First National Bank on 13th and M streets and at many churches and grocery stores across the city.

On the UNL campus, students can drop donations in a box at the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.



Staff photo by Craig Anderson

The Living Christmas Tree Choir of the Capitol City Christian Church, 7800 Holdrege St., sang traditional and religious Christmas songs Sunday in its third holiday season concert. The choir, which includes adults, 40 children and a bell choir of eight, performs on a 19-foot high tree, which was built by church volunteers. The tree was decorated by a mile-long string of Christmas lights.

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