

Social issues also fall within ASUN realm Mockler says

By Milli King

Editor's Note: This is the second of a four-part series on past ASUN presidents.

ASUN is one of few associations students can belong to and voice opinions on issues pertaining to them, said Rick Mockler, 1981-82 ASUN president.

Mockler is the current editor of the *California Prisoner* newspaper in San Francisco, Calif., and an advocate for prisoners and their families.

The students during his term thought political and social issues should not be addressed by ASUN, he said. But he said world issues should be addressed by ASUN.

"Students are members of a larger community," said Mockler. "ASUN should represent all aspects of society."

Simply getting an open forum to debate social concerns was a frustration during his term, Mockler said. Recruiting students to actively write state representatives also was a struggle, he said.

Mockler said he faced hardships as a student regent, both sitting on the NU Board of Regents and in the student arena.

When acting as student regent, the ASUN president is the only student advocating solely for students without

a vote, Mockler said. Mockler said discussing important issues with board members, who have years of knowledge about UNL, was a tough challenge for someone serving only one year.

Without the formal power to vote, the student regent essentially is powerless, Mockler said.

The student regent has power only to communicate, persuade, argue and advocate, he said.

Because of ASUN, Mockler said, he gained a deeper appreciation for the university as a whole and came to realize the fine quality of education at UNL.

Mockler said being ASUN president forced him to listen carefully to many individual opinions with an open mind. His presidency also cultivated his organizational skills, he said.

ASUN senators should honestly represent student opinion on all issues, Mockler said. It's important to advocate in the media on a regular basis as well, he said.

Mockler said he encourages the 1984-85 ASUN president not to hold back. The presidents who have been most effective have been the most outspoken, he said.

"The only way students will make a difference is to make concerns known," Mockler said.

Economics...

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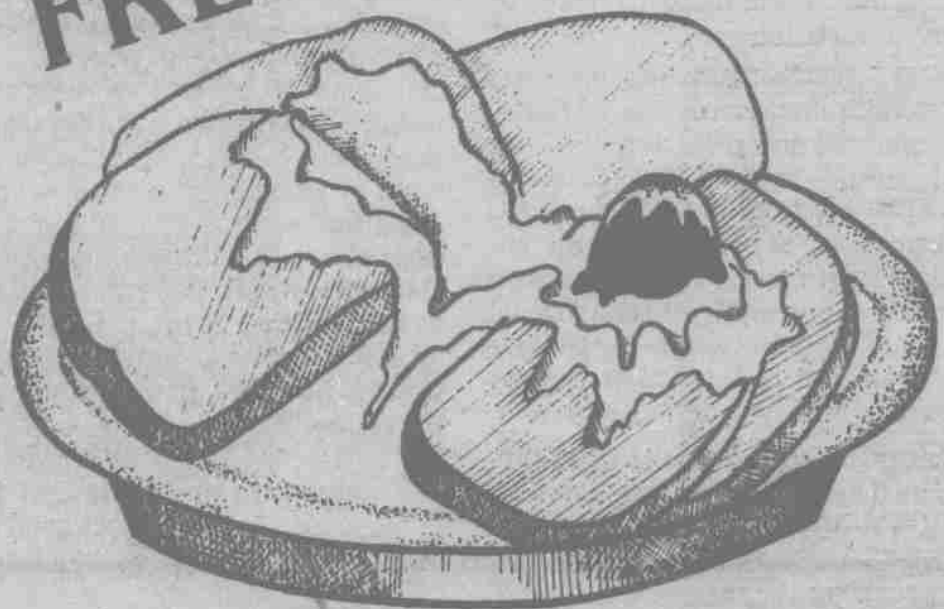
Millie Katz, a UNL internship coordinator, said international economics and businesses have created a greater need for economics graduates.

These new jobs require graduates to have a broader background of skills, such as language, writing, computers, finance and accounting, Katz said. Students also must get practical experience through an internship, she said.

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