

# ASUN supports Indian burial rights bill

By Ryan Steeves  
Staff Reporter

Legislation aimed at protecting human remains and graves received endorsement from student leaders at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wednesday night.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska passed a bill that supports LB340, which is being considered by the Nebraska Legislature.

The bill requires ASUN to send copies of ASUN's bill, Senate Bill 65, to each state senator. It also encourages UNL students to write their state senators in support of LB340.

Some senators who supported the bill said burial remains are sacred among all people. Sen. Brian Svoboda of the College of Arts and Sciences called the protection of remains and graves a First Amendment issue.

Svoboda, sponsor of the bill, said those who remove remains infringe on people's religious freedom rights. No one has the right to disturb remains, he said, regardless of the deceased's culture or race.

"This is not a minority issue," Svoboda said. "This is an issue that affects us all."

LB340, sponsored by State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, would require the Nebraska State Historical Society to return all identifiable skeletal remains in its collection to the Pawnee tribe of Oklahoma for reburial.

The bill also would regulate the use of all unmarked burial sites in Ne-

braska and create a set time for scientific study. After this time, the remains would have to be reburied.

James Botsford, an attorney who spoke in favor of the ASUN bill, called LB340 a matter of human dignity and justice. Botsford, who runs the Indian Law Office in Walthill, said many older graves, Indian and pioneer alike, are often "ransacked in the name of science."

"Those old graves that are not (considered) modern graves are subject to what we've been calling a finders and keepers rationale," he said.

Botsford said the historical society has no right "poking around" in others' graves. He called James Hanson, director of the historical society, an "Indian fighter" because of his opposition to LB340.

Hanson has said he opposes certain parts of the bill because they would be detrimental to the study of Great Plains history.

Svoboda said those who oppose LB340 because they believe the remains have scientific and educational value have valid arguments. But those arguments do not supersede burial rights.

Those who study the remains can use past studies for their "body of knowledge," Svoboda said.

"They have studied burial remains exhaustively," he said.

Sen. Chip Dreesen of the College of Arts and Sciences said science and education concerns are not more important than human rights.

"To me, it's just too heavy a price

to pay over individual rights," Dreesen said.

Other cultural groups would not want their ancestors exhumed, he said. Groups such as American Indians should not be singled out, he said.

"I just thought that's insane -- that they're a group of people that can be subjected to this and we can't," he said.

Four senators voted against Senate Bill 65.

Sen. Nancy Chapek of the College of Agriculture said she voted no because the burial remains controversy is not a student issue.

Sen. Bill Munn of the College of Journalism, who also voted against the bill, said senators should not endorse LB340 because state senators still could amend it.

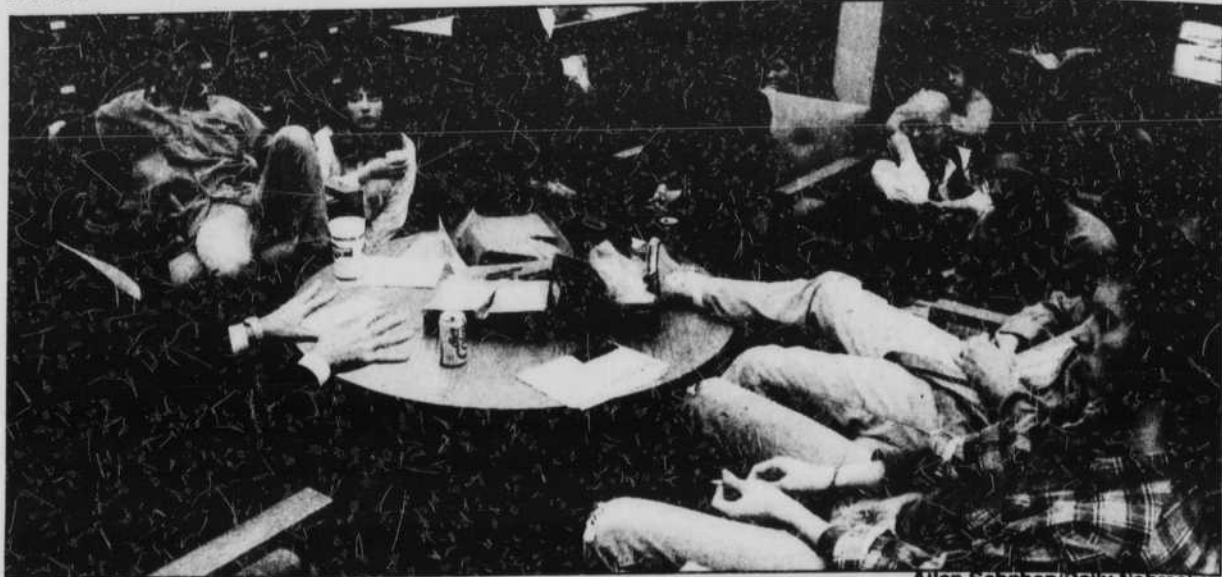
Munn said state Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly plans to introduce amendments to the bill when it comes to the

floor of the Legislature.

But an amendment to Svoboda's bill states that ASUN endorses LB340 in its current form.

Sens. Jill Durbin and Phil Gosch of the College of Arts and Sciences also voted against the bill.

LB340 is expected to reach the floor of the Legislature this week or next.



Concerned Students for COLAGE listen to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen Wednesday in the ASUN office.

## COLAGE fund denial discussed

COLAGE from Page 1

Discussion about COLAGE at the Feb. 15 ASUN meeting. Protestor Sheila Bollish said Thomlison's statement, "I assume we're all Christians here" was a "flagrant violation of First Amendment rights."

Discussion became heated when Thomlison, a general studies senator, entered the office. Thomlison said his decision to introduce the amendment to deny COLAGE funding was based in part on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that homosexuals do not have minority status.

Group member Jeff Beaty said the court had ruled that sodomy is not protected by law, not that homosexuals don't have constitutional rights.

Thomlison said the ruling influenced his decision because homosexuals practice sodomy, which is illegal in 24 states.

"I think what the members of the organization (COLAGE) practice, by definition of what the organization stands for, is perhaps wrong from a moral standpoint," Thomlison said.

Several students disagreed with Thomlison's statement, saying that sodomy and homosexuality are not the same issue.

Bowman said Thomlison's remark was prejudiced. The point of COLAGE, he said, is to educate people about homosexuality, which should be allowed at UNL.

After receiving a phone call from Jorgensen, Griesen came to the office to speak with the protestors. Griesen said he has not received the ASUN allocation bills yet or made a decision on the issue.

Bowman asked Griesen if the university is committed to homosexuality education. Griesen said the university has an obligation to present a program of speakers which is ideologically balanced. In the last three years, the University Program Council has sponsored events and programs aimed at reducing homophobia, he said.

Griesen said the COLAGE issue does not center on morality, but rather on who is responsible for funding such a group. In 1978, he said, the NU Board of Regents decided to stop funding special interest groups, because every group felt it had a right to student fees.

The regents decided only three organizations should receive student fee money -- the Daily Nebraskan, ASUN and UPC. UPC receives a budget each year, and ASUN approves funding to specific programs within UPC.

The legitimate debate, Griesen said, is whether or not gay and lesbian groups should have equal status with other minority groups that receive UPC money.

Griesen said if he finds that ASUN senators blocked the funding based

on their personal preferences instead of legitimate programming concerns, he would make his own decision based on programming concerns.

But Griesen said his usual reflex is to support student government decisions.

"I am loathe to not accept student government recommendations, because I really believe in student government," Griesen said.

Petersen arrived around 4:30 p.m. and spoke with the protestors for about an hour. They questioned Petersen about why homosexuals are not recognized as a legitimate minority.

There are many cultures and minorities on campus who do not receive money from the university, Petersen said. For example, he said, Malaysian students are a minority and they are probably discriminated against more openly than homosexuals because people can visually tell they are a minority.

But the protestors said homosexuals who are open about their sexuality in public also are discriminated against.

Petersen said financing COLAGE would set a precedent for funding other special interest groups. Bowman and Eckersley disagreed, saying that Petersen is continuing homophobia by not giving money to COLAGE.

"Homophobia comes from ignorance," Eckersley said, "and you are promoting the ignorance by not allowing funding."

## High school students may be offended

PROTEST from Page 1

tor for Early Warning!. She said he told her there would be no such incidents.

"Some of the less liberal (high) schools might be put off," Howell said, "and we didn't want to offend anyone."

Howell said that although she

admired the activities of Early Warning!, she still was concerned about falsely being associated with the group.

"I think it's great what they're doing," she said, referring to Early Warning!'s protest.

Howell said being wrongly associated with Early Warning! might jeopardize financial support for the Model UN. Since the event is part

of UPC, which is backed by student fees, Howell said association with a group, some student's believe is radical, could damage funding for Model UN.

Early Warning! publicist Nell Eckersley said she was upset that money has to determine so many factors of campus activities.

"It's kind of sad that funds guide student life," she said.

## Implementation of ID system begins in April

ID from Page 3

Griesen said the ID cards will be issued in April to residence hall students signing hall contracts for the 1989-90 school year. About 2,000 cards are expected to be issued by the end of the semester.

During the summer of 1989 the cards will be issued to about 3,500 incoming students participating in New Student Enrollment. Another 1,000 cards are expected to be issued during fall registration, Griesen said.

UNL will start distributing cards this semester and throughout the

summer to students who have University Bookstore charge accounts.

All other students will be issued their new cards during the fall of 1989.

Griesen said UNL will set up an ID office and staff in the University Bookstore.

Sites also will be set up at different times during the fall semester on both campuses to make it easier for students to obtain the cards, he said.

The ID will be a hard card, like bank cards, with the student's name, picture and date of issue. Students will be able to keep the same card

until they leave UNL, he said.

One concern that has been raised about the card, Griesen said, was whether the ID's would prevent students from selling their football tickets.

"My discussions with the ticket people to date convinced me that they are not trying to stop students from selling their ticket to their roommate whose girlfriend or boyfriend wants to go to the game," he said.

"The ticket office does want to stop the scalping of student tickets so that the sections for students can truly be used by students," Griesen said.

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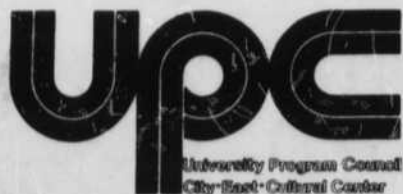
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