

Gay/lesbian alumni group to fight injustices

By Larry Pearce
Senior Reporter

The lack of an adviser is the only setback now facing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association, said organizer Rodney A. Bell II.

Once an adviser is found, Bell said, the association will give its letter of intent to Campus Activities and Programs, which will forward it to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska for recognition, Bell said.

Once established, the association will be open to undergraduates, faculty and alumni. Like other alumni groups, he said, it will function as a social network.

Ideally, Bell said, the association will have annual dinners and will publish a newsletter. It also may cre-

ate a foundation to raise money. "I envision a board of directors," he said "with faculty, alumni and student members."

Bell said he planned to submit the letter of intent today, but said the association's designated adviser had to refuse "based on conflict of interest." Bell said he hopes to find an adviser this week.

Bell said that more than 50 people have talked to him about forming a gay and lesbian alumni association.

The alumni association won't be affiliated with the Gay Lesbian Student Association or the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events, but will be organized from the GLSA office, Bell said.

"I hear from non-students who don't want to go to COLAGE or GLSA events because they aren't students," he said.

"We're dealing with different cooperative clientele."

However, he said, he hopes GLSA and COLAGE members will become student members of the alumni association.

"We'll encourage bisexual and straight people to get involved too." Because of current attitudes about homosexuality at UNL, Bell said, the association also will serve as a "watchdog against constitutional violations."

ASUN's refusal to appropriate money to COLAGE is an example of what the association will look for, he said. The association may try to raise money for attorneys to represent gay interests.

"Gay bashing" and "NOFAG" political parties are other problems the association will try to deal with, he said.

The association will try to create public awareness about bashing, Bell said, and push for stiffer laws against hate crimes.

"It's an unreported problem," he said. "When (UNL) school's in session, there has been bashing in Lincoln."

In response to attacks on gays, one of the largest foundations in Nebraska gave \$1,700 to support self-defense workshops for gay men, he said.

"And here's the university complaining about \$750 (for COLAGE)," he said.

The association also will promote workshops for self-defense, he said.

Gay-bashers are "Ku Klux Klan-ish," he said, and groups of three or more people who seek out gay men to attack, often near the state capitol building.

Because most gay-bashers are from 17 to 25 years old, Bell said, groups like COLAGE are needed to educate people about homosexuality.

The association also could provide job support and referral services, he said, because gays face economic discrimination by employers. Bell said some gays live with the fear that their employer will discover they are gay and fire them.

Some companies have notified national gay organizations that they don't discriminate against gays.

These companies "don't care about the gay aspect," and are only interested in finding good employees, he said.

"That's what I want. It's not the issue."

Through the association, gays

See ALUMNI on 6

State senator says university needs more computers

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Scott Moore of Stromsburg said Friday that many of Nebraska's brightest students are going to college out of state because of a lack of computers at Nebraska colleges.

"I, for one, think the area of computers should have higher priority" in the Legislature's appropriations, Moore told the Appropriations

Committee at a hearing about LB735.

The bill, sponsored by Moore, would give \$3.5 million to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, \$500,000 to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, \$3 million to technical schools and \$2 million to state colleges for new computer terminals.

Moore said the appropriations are based on student populations.

Gerald Kutish, associate director of UNL computing, testified with a neutral position on the bill, but said

the number of computers on campus is too low.

"The quality is great, but the quantity is not there yet," he said.

UNL has a ratio of one computer for every 200 students, Kutish said, while the University of Illinois, a peer institution, has one for every 30 students.

UNL's peer institutions have between 1,000 and 2,000 public access terminals, he said, compared to 177 at

UNL. The peer institutions spend an average of 2.4 percent of their general budgets on computers, but UNL spends only 1.5 percent of its budget on computers, Kutish said.

"We spend probably 50 cents on the dollar compared to the national average," he said.

Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, a member of the committee, said her son, a recent UNL graduate, dropped his computer science major because UNL lacks computers.

UNL student Mark Policky, a junior finance major who spoke in favor of the bill, said he is in a computer science class that has no direct access to computers. The class has about 200 students, Policky said.

"If you go to any computing room, you will find the facilities poor and inadequate," he said. "We cannot overlook such a serious problem."

No one testified against the bill.

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