

# New group backs marijuana legalization

By Cris Wildhagen  
Staff Reporter

fits of the plant. "The group is not looking for a change in marijuana laws to be so members can sit around and smoke pot. Instead, they are truly interested in the advantages the plant can produce for the environment," he said.

Clinchard, citing examples from "The Emperor Wears No Clothes," written by Jack Herer, said marijuana could help solve deforestation and global warming related to the use of petroleum fuels.

The hemp plant can be used to make paper four times more efficiently than tree farms, Clinchard said. This is better for the environment because oxygen-producing trees are not destroyed, he said.

The hemp plant also can be used as a food source, Clinchard said. Four marijuana seeds contain enough protein for a person for one day, he said.

Clothing can be made out of the plant, Clinchard said. In the 1930s, hemp was used for parachute fiber and shoestrings, he said.

Most importantly, he said, hemp

can replace petroleum as a fuel source. Fuel can be made from the woody stalk and oil from seeds, he said.

Clinchard said these benefits of the hemp plant motivated him to reorganize NORML. The group had existed at UNL in the late '70s, but died in the early '80s because of lack of interest.

At the first meeting last month, there were 35 members, Clinchard said. So far, reactions to the group have been positive, he said.

"Most people seem amused. The average citizen believes it (smoking marijuana) is not really something to go to jail for," Clinchard said.

The main argument against legalization of marijuana is the belief that smoking it leads to use of harder drugs, he said.

"It doesn't necessarily lead to other drugs. The social circles of a marijuana user can gain access, which could lead to the availability of harder drugs," Clinchard said.

NORML meets Thursday nights in the Nebraska Union.

Continued from Page 1

of Nebraska-Lincoln this year to put the Herbie logo on 500,000 beer cans, with the athletic department receiving a penny per can.

Some officials, including Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne and the directors of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Nebraska, were angered by the arrangement, saying it appeared that the university condoned drinking.

Coors said he thinks the deal's opponents have blown the issue "way out of proportion."

"I feel it has done a good thing," he said. "But it has to be done because the school wants it done."

Coors said the same offer was made to the University of Colorado last year and it met with "tremendous enthusiasm."

He said the deal was made not to encourage young people to drink, but to honor the university and to support the athletic department.

## police REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday, Oct. 16  
2:58 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, The Reunion parking lot, \$75.

4:52 p.m. — Man arrested for possession of narcotics, Harper Residence Hall.  
10:48 p.m. — Hubcap taken from car, The Reunion parking lot, \$60.

## ASUN

Continued from Page 1

would have been "inherently wrong" to elevate the problems of racial minorities above those of others.

"I agree these types of oppression are not the same," he said. "But none is more important than the others."

"It is not fair and it is not right to make one wrong more important than

another wrong. That's not why we're here."

Gosch said adding committees to deal with other minority issues is not possible.

"It's unfortunate that we raised the hopes of some racial minority students," he said. "But some senators, and I, too, feel that this isn't the way" to address minority concerns.

Gosch said he thinks the debate

over the issue will intensify senators' efforts to find some solution to the problem of making ASUN more representative.

In other action, senators tabled indefinitely Government Bill No. 3, which opposes strengthening the current Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. That issue will come before Nebraska voters on Nov. 6.

## Commission

Continued from Page 1

will become the fourth university campus on July 1, 1991, joining UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Roger Larsen, director of Higher

Education Services for the Nebraska State Education Association, said enrollment in Nebraska's state and community colleges had increased 11 percent during the last three years.

Under a 2 percent lid, he said, college budgets would have been allowed only a 6 percent increase to cover the 11 percent enrollment increase.

That would have limited institu-

tional growth and would have denied enrollment to some students, Larsen said.

Under a 2 percent lid, he said, potential faculty would look to states other than Nebraska.

Nebraska ranks low, in the 20th percentile nationally, for faculty salaries in state colleges, Larsen said.

"If we are unable to attract and retain qualified faculty members, we are going to have weaker institutions and are going to deny our students a quality education," Larsen said.

## Panel

Continued from Page 1

UNL College of Law, said female enrollment nationwide in law schools, at 40 percent, is the highest it has ever been, but noted the upper echelons of the field are still resistant to women.

Moreover, black women suffer from a "double impediment," according to a study presented in the book, "Invisible Bar," she said. Black women are twice as likely to encounter obstacles to succeeding to more powerful positions in law firms and better paying judiciary posts, she said.

The Rev. Susan Davies, pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 8320 South St., said she found her niche in the ministry when the institution began to open up to women.

After "bumping up against the institution" for years, Davies said, it's time that "the doorways be opened for a shared ministry between males and females" because of the important work women can offer, she said.

"People seek me out more easily to talk about problems than males," she said.

Alice Dittman, president, chief executive officer and secretary of the board of Cornhusker Bank in Lincoln, said family planning is critical, but doesn't need to interrupt a woman's career.

Dittman and former Lincoln mayor Helen Boosalis said career women need a strong mate who doesn't feel threatened by the success of his spouse.

"There's a lot of closeness involved with raising children that men have missed out on for too long," Dittman said.

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