

Activist offers challenge

Speaker addresses changing roles of gays and lesbians

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

National Coming Out Day ended at UNL Tuesday night with a challenge from a gay rights activist to obliterate the proverbial closet.

Torie Osborn spoke in front of about 300 students, faculty and visitors in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. The speech, sponsored by the University Program Council, lasted more than an hour and was followed by a question and answer session.

Osborn, an activist for almost 30 years, spent 22 of those years out of the closet. She emerged as a national figure for gay rights in April 1993 when she served as a media spokes-

woman during the march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

During that year, she also met with President Clinton to discuss gay issues. She directed two major gay organizations: the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

During the speech, Osborn discussed the role gays and lesbians have in history and in society.

"This is an extraordinary time for gays and lesbians in society," said Osborn. "Virtually every institution in the 1990s is grappling with homophobia."

Osborn called the time between July 1992 and the present a cataclysmic period. She referred to the period as "Stonewall II" because gay and lesbian issues were put on the American social agenda.

Gay rights issues were first put on the social agenda in the 1960s, she

said. In the late 1960s, police raided Stonewall, a New York City gay bar. The event became a rallying point for homosexuals.

Four factors brought gay and lesbian issues to the forefront of national attention, Osborn said. The first factor was Clinton's presidential victory. During the election, Clinton publicly courted the gay vote, she said.

The second factor, she said, was the rise of the right wing, which gave gays and lesbians a wake-up call. The third factor was the rise of thousands of gay and lesbian support groups. The final factor was AIDS and its effect on communities.

During the speech, Osborn talked about homophobia and the difficulties of coming out of the closet. Osborn said homosexuals must have courage when facing parents and peers.

"There's nothing more free than coming out of the closet," Osborn said.

New group to handle ticket jam

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

A second parking appeals committee is being formed to handle the backlog of ticket appeals, said UNL's parking manager at a Parking Advisory Committee meeting Tuesday.

Tad McDowell said the addition would give students more opportunities to schedule their appeals. The backlog of appeals has been caused by the infrequent meeting of the appeals committee. Time conflicts between committee members have made meeting times difficult to arrange.

The advisory committee also dis-

cussed the upcoming annual campus safety walk. The walk is designed to improve campus safety for students and faculty who walk on campus late at night.

Representatives from the advisory committee, university police and other groups will walk the campus at 4 a.m. on Nov. 12. The walk is scheduled for a time when all building lights will be off.

During the walk, the group will look for poorly lit areas on campus and for overgrown bushes and trees that could conceal assailants.

Daryl Swanson, committee chairman, said he planned to invite repre-

sentatives from the Women's Center because of the importance of nighttime safety to women.

The committee also reviewed proposals to improve existing parking areas.

The committee denied a proposal to pave the rock lot east of Cather-Pound Residence halls. The group said the \$670,000 cost of the project was too much.

Another rock lot north of Harper-Schramm-Smith also will not be paved because of a possible city project to build a bypass there. The bypass will relieve traffic congestion on 16th and 17th streets.

Libraries to reduce periodicals

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

Cuts will have to be made in the number of periodical titles in UNL's libraries, the library dean told the Academic Senate on Tuesday.

"I'm not thrilled to be here to talk on this topic," Kent Hendrickson said. Hendrickson said the rising inflation on periodicals would cause the University of Nebraska-Lincoln libraries to cut 1,500 periodical titles from its collection in January 1996.

The inflation on serials, such as medical and political science journals, has driven up their prices an average of 11 percent each year for the past five years, he said. The li-

braries' budget for materials has increased only 2.4 percent.

Hendrickson showed a graph indicating that the price of the periodicals increased at a greater rate than medical and higher education costs.

The increasing inflation on periodicals resulted from fluctuations of the dollar in Western Europe, he said. And UNL libraries spend more than half of their serial budget on serials from Western Europe, Hendrickson said.

"They're price-gouging us to death," Hendrickson said of European publishers.

Hendrickson's solution is to cut \$350,000 worth of serials in January

1996. The subscriptions are paid through the end of 1995.

The libraries will offer Journal Express to compensate for the loss of materials, Hendrickson said. UNL faculty members, staff and graduate students can have articles not available in UNL's libraries sent to them through the service within three days.

Hendrickson said he still would seek additional library funds to cover the rising costs of periodicals.

The long-term solution to serial inflation, however, is to get publishers in Europe to control prices, he said.

"There's not enough of us ... arguing about this."

ASUN may ask for lobbying effort

From Staff Reports

ASUN senators will discuss a bill at its meeting tonight that would direct the Government Liaison Committee to lobby against the creation of a separate engineering college at UNO.

Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said the bill would tell GLC members to convince the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and Nebraskans that a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha was not needed.

If the bill is passed, Loudon said, GLC will conduct letter-writing campaigns and make phone calls during the next six weeks to regents in western Nebraska and in Lincoln.

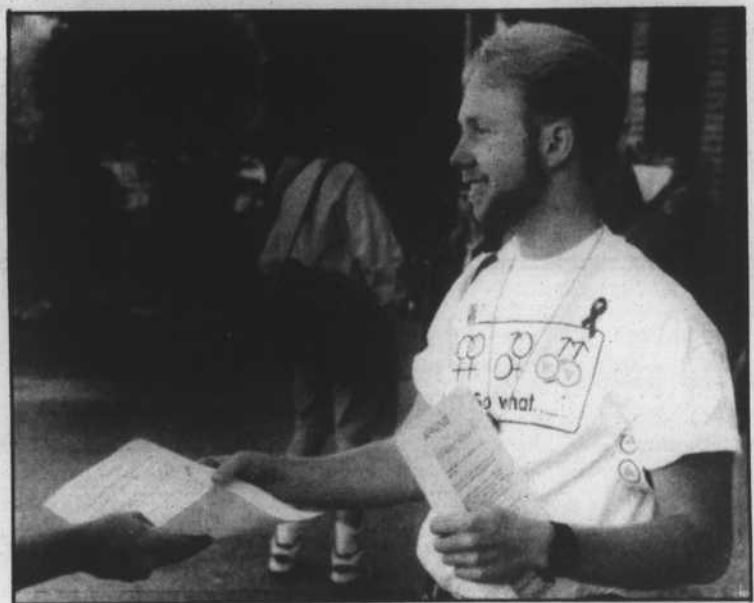
Loudon said he wanted to provide regents and their constituents with information about the cost of a new engineering college, the lack of state funds to pay for it and the need to avoid duplication of programs.

GLC members have a lot to accomplish before NU President L. Dennis Smith accepts a report in mid-November from the engineering task

force, Loudon said. The task force is creating a plan for implementing an engineering college at UNO if the regents decide one is necessary.

Loudon said GLC members must stress how the quality of education of engineering students would be affected if a separate college was created.

"Now that we see how the issue is coming to a head, we will make sure that the regents and the people of Nebraska know how (engineering) students and their parents feel about it," he said.



Gerik Parmele/DN

Scott Roewer, a music education major, takes flyers condemning homosexuality from people.

Day

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"We want to affirm who we are and encourage others to come out."

National Coming Out Day is just an extension of the civil rights movement, Pavao said.

"By having us here, we're here. We're not on TV and in the newspapers, and we're not dressed in leather or dressed as drag queens," Pavao said.

Robert Anderson, a senior political science major, approached the microphone and leafed through

a book of gay and lesbian poetry, searching for the poem he wanted to read.

"I'm gay; I've been here for four years," he said.

Although he said he expected more people to come, he said the event would have a positive effect.

"We want to show gay and lesbian people that we have a voice. We can talk," Anderson said.

He said National Coming Out Day should show people who were afraid to disclose their sexuality that they had support.

"We want to reach out to our 'family' in the closet," he said.

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