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Feedback expected on policy

By Matthew Walte
Senior Reporter

A draft policy addressing discrimination and sexual harassment has a long, tough road ahead of it, officials at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said Wednesday.

Eric Jolly, director of affirmative action and diversity at UNL, distributed the policy to many college faculty and administrators this week.

Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor at UNL, said the document was the beginning of a long process of feedback, meetings and revisions.

Howe said Chancellor Graham Spanier had set up a committee to hear feedback from those on campus reviewing the document. Howe said the document then would be revised based on the feedback, and the process would be repeated again before a final document was released.

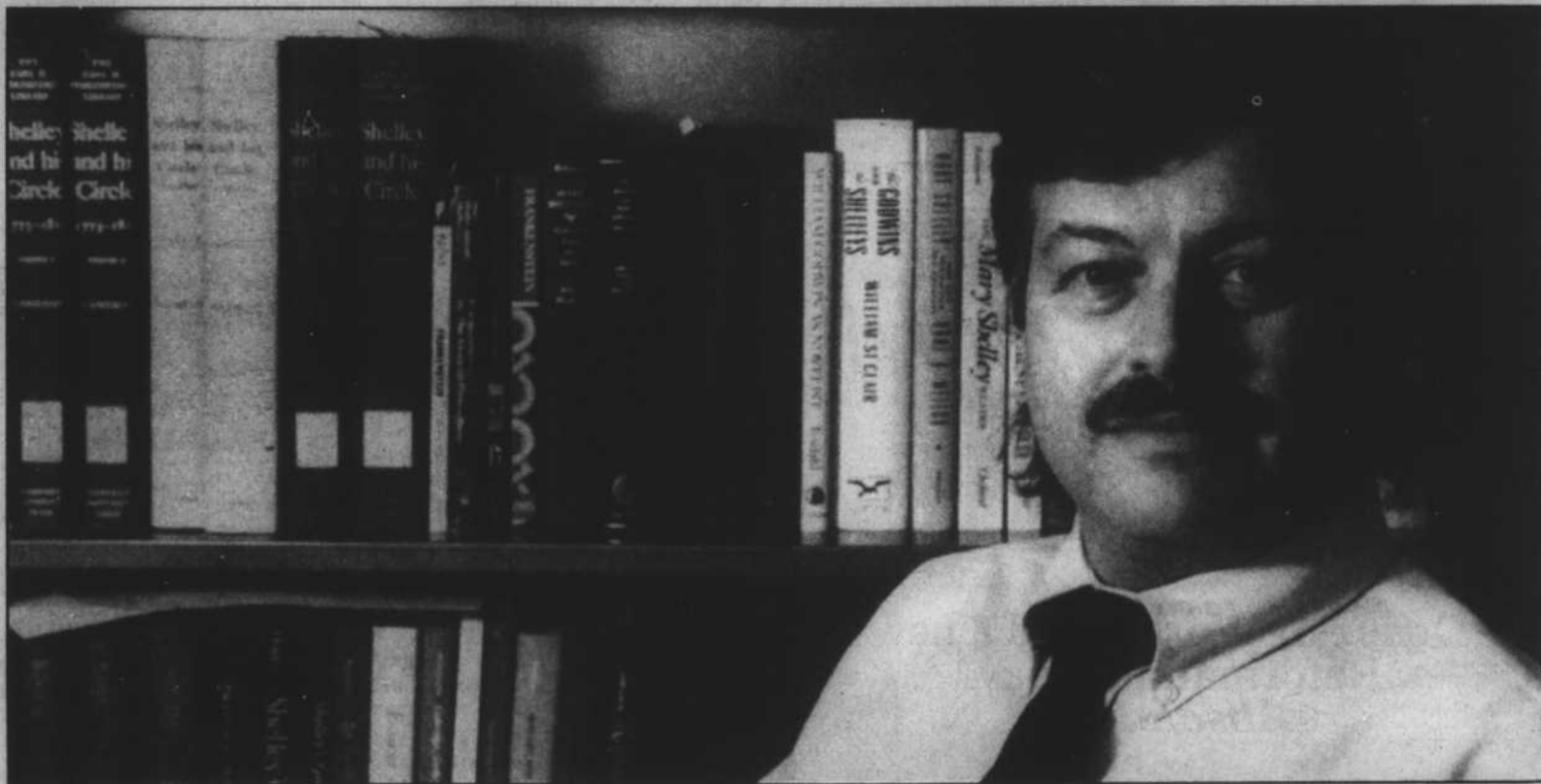
Names of the students, faculty and staff that are to be on the committee were unavailable on Wednesday.

Judith Kriss, director of the Women's Center at UNL, said the policy was needed, but there were flaws in the sections on relationships with power differential, where one person was in a position of direct authority. She said the section could protect the victim less than those in power.

The document defines sexual harassment as consisting of "unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when the conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic status or advancement in a university program, course or activity."

Kriss said the document called for both parties in a power-differentiated

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Jeff Haller/DN

English professor Stephen Behrendt, one of the leading authorities on Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," will appear on "Eye to Eye" with Connie Chung tonight at 9 p.m. Behrendt's head and office shelves held extensive information about the author and her novel.

UNL Frankenstein expert to be on TV

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Professor Stephen Behrendt will be going "Eye to Eye" with Connie Chung tonight in a monstrous appearance.

Behrendt, who is an authority on Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein," flew to New York last week for an interview about the new Kenneth Branagh film that stars Robert DeNiro as the monster. The CBS-TV show will be a preview to the movie which opens Nov. 4.

The movie, which Behrendt hasn't seen, is loosely based on Shelley's novel about a scientist whose legendary attempts to create life went awry.

CBS selected Behrendt, one of many Frankenstein authorities ap-

proached for the interview, because of his expertise on both the book and the author.

"I've taught the book ever since I started teaching," he said. "It's such an important romantic document."

"It takes all the themes that poets of the time are working with and questions them."

Behrendt said he had read the book about two dozen times and spotted something new every time.

"It's such a complicated story," he said. "There are so many things going on, and they all relate at different levels."

Behrendt was interviewed last week by Bill Geist, an interviewer for "Eye to Eye," in the crypt of the Church of the Intercession.

"The church was beautiful," he said. "It was located on most of a city

block, and the rest of the block was a cemetery.

"It would have been really kind of creepy in bad weather."

"The basement was dark and Gothic-looking," he said. "There was one wall full of cremated people stuck into it."

Behrendt said Geist was concerned with previous Frankenstein films and their accuracy.

"Most of them are full of misconceptions like that business with the wrong brain," he said.

"He doesn't turn into a monster because he is given a criminal's brain," he said. "He becomes a monster because he is discriminated against because he is different, and no one gives him a chance."

Behrendt said one of the few films faithful to the book was the 1974 Mel

Brooks movie "Young Frankenstein."

"Mel Brooks understood what the book is about," he said. "The creature ends up being civilized, and the person responsible for the creature takes responsibility for it."

The interviewers also were curious about the continual popularity of Dr. Frankenstein's creation.

The story has the essence of timelessness, Behrendt said.

"The story is about a science experiment that could benefit the whole human race," he said. "And the last time I taught it there was an article about a cloning experiment."

Behrendt said the popularity also was caused in part by the feminine aspect of the story.

"It's about a man who is trying to

See FRANKENSTEIN on 6

Combs outlines reform plan

By Matthew Truesdell
Staff Reporter

Patrick Combs, the Democratic candidate for Nebraska's 1st Congressional District seat, outlined Wednesday his ideas to reform Congress.

Combs, who spoke at the State Capitol, said reform would be his first priority as a member of Congress.

Legislation to improve the country cannot be passed unless Congress corrects "the institutional problems of Congress that have led to the highest degree of public cynicism and apathy in 40 years," said Combs, who is running against eight-term incumbent Rep. Doug Bereuter.

Combs said members of Congress who were devoted to reform should unite in what he called an Alliance of Representatives to Reform Congress.

Combs said he wanted reforms in national finances, congressional procedures and campaign procedures.

"We need to pass the balanced

budget amendment," he said. "We need to pass the rescission line item veto."

With such a veto, the president can take single items out of budgets that Congress passes.

Combs also supports freezing congressional salaries, restricting congressional use of military planes, revising retirement programs for members of Congress and reducing the size of congressional staffs.

Combs said he would support a constitutional amendment that would lengthen representatives' terms in office from two to four years.

Two-year terms have created an election bonanza, he said. Members of Congress are more concerned about their next election than how legislation is going to affect the people of their district, Combs said.

Combs also said he favored holding elections on Saturdays.

The high voter turnout during China's first free election occurred partly because the election was

held on a Saturday, he said.

Combs also called for other types of congressional reform.

All committee meetings should be open to the public, except for those that deal with matters of national security, he said.

Representatives should take turns at holding committee and subcommittee chairs, Combs said.

Such changes will start crumbling away some of the problems caused by the "good ol' boy network" in Congress.

Combs also wants to limit the power of lobbyists and political action committees, he said. Groups served directly by a committee should not be able to contribute to the campaigns of committee members.

He called such donations the ultimate conflict of interest and vowed not to accept such contributions if elected.

Unless these types of reforms are made within Congress, other reforms, such as health care and welfare policy, will never be made, he said.

ASUN supports bill changing rental law

By Melanie Brandert
Staff Reporter

ASUN senators passed a bill Wednesday that directs the Government Liaison Committee to write legislation recommending that civil penalties be doubled on landlords who refuse to return deposits of Lincoln renters.



The bill is based on the Landlord Tenant Act, which has been in effect since 1974. The law was designed to protect tenants who wanted to get their deposits returned. Landlords may charge renters for damages to rental properties or take money from tenants' initial deposits on the property to compensate for damages.

Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said the bill was important because it affected about

17,000 UNL students who live off campus.

Loudon said he and a state senator were working on the bill. He said the senator would sponsor the bill during the Legislature's next session.

Dave Milligan, speaker of the senate, asked Loudon why the bill was not being introduced on the city level, since the majority of UNL students are Lincoln residents.

Loudon said the bill was being presented on the state level because the Landlord Tenant Act is a state law. He also said Student Legal Services advised him to take that avenue.

Graduate senator Charles Hamilton said the bill would help students who have already filed civil suits against their landlords for refusing to return their deposits.

"Right now, we don't have that many people who are going to go through the process," he said. "The doubling of the fines would cause more people to think about what happened to them and probably would bring up more (suits)."