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WEATHER:

Today - Colder with a 30 percent chance of rain. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight - Blustery, low near 20 to 25.

March 5, 1996

Schooner or later

Editor earns local attention for magazine

By Todd Anderson
Staff Reporter

For years, Prairie Schooner and its editors have been recognized across the nation for publishing outstanding literary work.

But only recently have the magazine and its editor, Hilda Raz, attracted much local attention.

Last month, Prairie Schooner received the Nebraska Governor's Arts Award for Organizational Achievement.

And two weeks ago, Raz was named the 1996 Woman Artist of the Year by the Lincoln/Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women.

Prairie Schooner, which is supported by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department and the UNL Press, has always had a great reputation nationwide, Raz said.

The Washington Post has called Prairie Schooner one of the best magazines for "fabulous fiction," and Writer's Digest has called it one of the top 10 magazines for poetry.

In fact, it was the magazine's reputation that attracted Raz to UNL in the first place. "My family thought I was crazy; Moving to Nebraska?" she said.

But the magazine's high standards and the reputation of UNL's English Department made Raz's decision clear.

She began working with the Prairie Schooner as a volunteer poetry reader. Since then, she has served as the poetry editor, editorial assistant, and eventually editor of the magazine.

Raz, who is the fifth editor and the second female editor in the magazine's 70-year history, has been editor since 1987.

Raz works with a team of associates from the English Department and several volunteer readers to sort through stacks of manuscripts every day.

From those stacks, only a handful of writings can be chosen for the quarterly magazine with a printing of more than 3,000.

"We have a very professional staff," Raz said. "We're making the best magazine nationally and internationally."

The magazine recently published several issues with different focuses, Raz said, such as Canadian women writers, Czech and Slovak writing and Latino writing.

Those special issues were near sellouts, she said.

"We are constantly expanding the venue,"



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Hilda Raz, editor of Prairie Schooner magazine, was recently named Woman Artist of the Year by the Lincoln/Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women.

she said.

The Prairie Schooner also has attracted distinguished contributors such as Octavio Paz, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Cynthia Ozick, Eudora Welty and Raymond Carver, as well as essays, poems, translations and fiction from Pulitzer Prize winners and Nobel laureates.

Often these writers appeared in Prairie Schooner before their major works were published on the East Coast.

The Prairie Schooner, however, is the only top-rated literary magazine that does not pay its contributors, she said, although it is working toward that goal.

The magazine continues to distribute awards in the names of former editors and long-time supporters, such as the Lawrence Foundation Award for best short story and the Bernice Slotte Award for best work by a beginning writer.

Aside from editing the Prairie Schooner, Raz is also an associate professor of English and a published poet and essayist.

Still, with all the national attention the Prairie Schooner and Raz have received, local recognition is the most gratifying, she said.

"(Receiving these awards) really validates your work," she said.

Liability in police chases hotly debated

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Debate on a bill addressing police liability in high-speed chases was delayed Monday afternoon after two senators attacked the bill — and its introducer.

One day after an accident following a high-speed police chase claimed the life of a 16-year-old Beemer girl, lawmakers began to debate LB952, which would limit police liability in chases that injure an innocent third party.

Debate on the bill, introduced by Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice, was postponed until March 19 after heavy opposition from two Omaha senators.

Sens. Ernie Chambers and John Lindsay dominated the debate on the bill, saying it was poorly drafted and riddled with problems.

"I think that Sen. Maurstad may believe what he's saying," Chambers said, "but I don't think he knows what he's talking about."

"It sets up more hoops that an injured third party has to go through to recover. The real issue is that it will attempt to make it as difficult as possible for the injured third party to collect."

Before debate started, Chambers distributed packets containing more than 50 pages of newspaper articles dealing with police chases — some dating back to 1974.

Maurstad said his bill was good public policy because law enforcement officers should be allowed to pursue criminals to protect the well-being of society.

He said third parties also should be allowed to recover damages from all sources involved in the chase.

Current law states that in cases where police chases run through more than one political subdivision, damages can be collected only from the subdivision where the accident or injury occurred.

Maurstad's bill allows the injured party to recover damages from all political subdivisions involved in the chase.

Chambers and Lindsay said the bill was an attempt to lessen the fiscal blow to local governments and law enforcement agencies.

Lindsay said the state, then, would be forced to pick up the tab for those who couldn't work and spent all their earnings paying for hospital bills.

See CHASE on 2

ASUN candidates debate for the final time

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Representing students who have been ignored and using poor campaign tactics were areas of contention

in Monday's ASUN debate, two days before the election.

The debate, sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, Golden Key National Honor Society and Mortar Board, brought together OFFICE presidential candidate Justin Firestone and ACTION presidential candidate Eric Marintzer.

Firestone said students — especially residence hall students and international students — thought the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska had ignored them for too long.

"Everybody knows there's a political machine running on this campus," Firestone said.

He said residence hall students didn't have proportional representation on ASUN committees, such as the athletic relations committee, which have only one residence hall student but two greek representatives and three at-large members.

Firestone said OFFICE candidates were committed to listening to what students truly think, not just claiming they represent students.

"That's why we're running," he said, "because we want to change all that."

Marintzer said his party was looking to speak for students.

"This is not a political machine. This is concerned students," he said.

ACTION will represent students because its ticket is diverse, Marintzer said. Its slate of 72 candidates includes 38 women, nine minorities and 11 residence hall students.

"That's what I call an accessible government," he said.

ACTION would work closely with the Residence Hall Association by sending Kara Marshall, second vice-presidential candidate, to RHA meetings, Marintzer said. And he said he would continue to talk frequently with RHA president Eric Vander Woude.

Marintzer said OFFICE couldn't represent all students because its 11 candidates include only one woman and no residence hall students.

"If someone can tell me how that is access, I'd like to know," Marintzer

said. "I question how they'll be able to represent females on this campus when they only have one woman on their slate."

Firestone said he already had shown he could fight for women's concerns on campus.

"I assure you I don't have to be a woman to understand women's needs."

He said he fought for women's concerns in the Committee for Fees Allocation when he spoke out against cutting funds for the Women's Center. He said he was able to convince the committee to save the Women's Center.

Firestone said he had stuck his neck out for students in the campaign because it was his duty. OFFICE would be committed to that duty and would

See DEBATE on 2

ASUN Campaign



ASUN Q&A

Daily Nebraskan editor

J. Christopher Hain recently quizzed ASUN presidential candidates Justin Firestone & Eric Marintzer. The interview can be found on page 3.