

Senators, musicians preview alma mater

By KASEY KERBER
Senior Reporter

The unveiling of UNL's new alma mater may be two weeks away, but some students already have had a sneak preview.

The unveiling is planned for half-time of the Oct. 12 homecoming game against Baylor.

Students in the Cornhusker Marching Band, various UNL chorus groups and, most recently, senators of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska all have had a chance to preview the song's music, lyrics or both.

At Wednesday night's ASUN meeting, Chancellor James Moeser played a tape of a synthesizer version of the alma mater, which was written by Omaha composer Chip Davis. The senators heard only the music, not the lyrics.

"I think intuitively that it will be received very well," Moeser said. "So far the reaction has been very positive."

ASUN senators confirmed Moeser's prediction.

"I thought the instrumental version was great," said Russ Ripa, a junior representing the business college.

"It's something that belongs to everyone and that we can all sing at football games or wherever else," he said. Amy Rager, a junior representing the college of arts and sciences, agreed with Ripa.

"I can't wait to hear it with the marching band," Rager said. "I think it'll have more pep and be a little less formal."

The Cornhusker Marching Band has already practiced with the song's music and will take part in the alma mater's unveiling.

Drum Major Brandy Spreitzer said band members' reactions to the song were "split down the line" between favoring the alma mater and claiming it was nothing special.

Chad Wenzl, a senior secondary education math major, said he thought the song was typical of an alma mater. "It's just an alma mater," Wenzl said. "It's simple and that's always what an alma mater is."

The simplicity of the song was a common element noticed by some band members.

Audrey Carl, a sophomore biochemistry major, spoke in favor of it.

"It's a pretty simple melody. There's not too much frilly stuff in it, which can be good," she said.

Members of UNL chorus groups have had an opportunity most band members haven't had—to view lyrics that will accompany the song.

James Hejduk, UNL director of choral activities, said the University Singers and Concert Choir, along with members of the University Chorale and Varsity Glee Club would participate in the unveiling of the alma mater.

He said the reaction of chorus students had been positive.

"I haven't heard anyone come right out and say they hate or despise the song," Hejduk said.

He praised the song's lyrics, saying they "will appeal possibly to an older generation," but would also "cross generations".

Chancellor Moeser hopes the alma mater quickly will become a UNL tradition, but said it would get a "fair chance" no matter what the initial reaction.

"Traditions are things that take years to build up, so it won't be an overnight process," Moeser said.

ASUN President Eric Marintzer said that if students didn't respond well to the alma mater, their opinions would be heard.

"I think that if students don't like it, we should be able to voice our concerns," he said.

Marintzer said that if a majority of the student body didn't approve of the new alma mater, ASUN could draft a resolution against it.

NMA discusses right to die

Dignity crucial for terminally ill, panelist says

By BRIAN CARLSON
Staff Reporter

Jack Kevorkian, the man Americans know as "Doctor Death," has performed an effective service by bringing the topic of death into public discussion, a representative from the Hemlock Society USA said Thursday.

Richard MacDonald, medical director of the society, spoke in support of the legalization of medically assisted death for terminally ill patients who choose to end their lives.

"Most Americans, including physicians, don't talk about dying and death," he said at a press conference in Lincoln. He called Kevorkian a "friend" of the Hemlock Society and credited him with successfully challenging legal control of private decisions.

MacDonald voiced his support for legislation expected to be reintroduced in next year's legislative session by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha.

The bill, which failed earlier this year, would allow physicians to provide "final treatment" for terminally ill patients in cases meeting specific guidelines.

The press conference followed

a full-day seminar on Physician Assisted-Dying/Euthanasia at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus. MacDonald participated in panel discussions during the seminar.

The Nebraska Medical Association, which sponsored the seminar, maintains its opposition to medically assisted suicide. The NMA views physician-assisted suicide as a violation of the Hippocratic oath, which forbids physicians to do harm to patients.

Chris C. Caudill, president of the NMA, said it is unethical for a physician to actively terminate a patient's life. He added that this position is based not on religious views, but on appropriate standards for physician behavior.

Saying that euthanasia is too complex an issue for government to successfully regulate, Caudill criticized the Hemlock Society's efforts to pass the proposed legislation.

"I don't think this issue can be legislated or decided in courts," he said. "It's a very private issue."

"Neither the courts nor the legislatures have the background, knowledge, or willingness to take that on."

Caudill said the NMA does not insist that physicians use extreme

measures to keep terminally ill patients alive. Rather, he said, physicians should be prevented from taking steps to actively end patients' lives.

But MacDonald contends that such "hastening of death" is distinct from "suicide" and should be allowed when extreme circumstances cause patients to lose dignity and control of their lives.

He said it is not irrational to claim that patients with a terminal illness but a sound mind should have the right to make decisions regarding the end of their life.

"The thing terminal patients fear most is not pain, but loss of control," he said.

Caudill, however, expressed concern that it would be difficult to impose safeguards ensuring terminally ill patients did not receive implicit, unwanted encouragement from their physicians to end their lives.

MacDonald cited a UNL survey that found 72.5 percent of Nebraskans favor physician aid in dying for the terminally ill.

Caudill dismissed the findings, attributing them to the blurred perception between active and passive euthanasia.

Health Fair offers checkup for students

From Staff Reports

Students wondering what toll the college diet of fast food and stress is having on their bodies can find out today in the Nebraska Union.

The Chancellor's Wellness Planning Committee is sponsoring the UNL Health Fair from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. today. The fair includes a variety of

health screenings, immunizations and wellness services.

Free screenings include blood pressure, physical therapy (posture alignment and back care), glaucoma and podiatry.

Other screenings are available for a fee. These include: cholesterol, \$6; glucose, which is used to diagnose diabetes, \$2; hemoglobin, used to diagnose anemia, \$3; and others.

Students also can become aware of the biological effects of stress. Body temperature, pulse rate and heart rate change according to stress and relaxation levels. Information on biofeedback and other stress management approaches will be demonstrated.

In addition, free strength and flexibility tests will be available, and a body composition test will be available for \$3.


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