

Professor studies effects of abuse

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sexual stereotypes and relationships on the outcome of a domestic violence trial. Willis-Esqueda included variable factors (such as whether the victim was married and whether the couple was interracial) within the court transcripts.

With 97 percent of domestic violence victims being women, variables for the second study concentrated on whether the woman shoved her attacker after being assaulted or if she remained passive during the violent episode.

According to Willis-Esqueda, the results of both studies showed that a significant portion of students who participated in the project appeared to have allowed the variables within the transcripts to affect their verdict.

And even though domestic violence is the leading cause of premature deaths among U.S. women, "the more intimate the relationship, the more women are blamed for domestic violence," she said.

In addition, black women must also deal with the stereotype of being a dominating group, emotionally and physically stronger than white women, Willis-Esqueda said.

This misconception can lead to an impression that black women don't need as much protection from their abusers as other women, she said. Police may not respond as readily or be as willing to arrest the attacker, she said.

Women who resist their batterer may also be subject to cultural bias during police intervention and the trial, Willis-Esqueda said. This conception may be because of society's view of women as passive and submissive beings and men as assertive and in control, she said.

"It (violence) is not only socially acceptable (for men), but also rewarding," Willis-Esqueda said, "because they get what they want."

According to Willis-Esqueda, tendencies toward violence in a relationship begin in the dating stage in most cases.

"Domestic violence has its roots in the dating relationship," she said. "Forty percent of dating couples on U.S. campuses have experienced some form of violence in their relationships."

But the strongest predictor of violence in a relationship is when one or both partners has a history of abuse, Willis-Esqueda said.

ASUN supports efforts to settle Sigma Chi issue

By KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter



Soda, cigarettes and Sigma Chi were on the minds of ASUN senators Wednesday night, as the senate passed three government bills addressing each issue.

Government Bill No. 13, reacting to Sigma Chi's recent burning of a cross during a fraternity ritual, supported the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska's "strong desire to be a part of the healing and educational process." It was passed unanimously by the student senate.

The bill was passed only after it was amended, changing a passage of the bill from "ASUN supports the chancellor in his positive efforts" to "ASUN supports all positive efforts."

"Why are we taking a stance on this at all?" asked Andrew Delancey, a senator from the College of Fine and Performing Arts. "We don't have anything to act on yet."

But several senators said the bill needed to be passed,

"Ignoring it or putting it off does nothing," said Amy Rager, Campus Life Committee chairwoman.

ASUN President Eric Marintzer

agreed.

"We need to have a position in this issue," Marintzer said. "It's one of the primary reasons why this bill was written."

Government Bill No. 11 was also passed, following two separate amendments.

The bill addresses the possible beverage alliance between the university and one of two major bottling companies.

The bill granted ASUN support to the alliance, provided that funds from the alliance are used toward the improvement of technology, academic support and such areas as the honors program and intramural sports program.

Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance, spoke to ASUN on the issue and answered senators' questions.

He said that no decision would be reached for weeks and Coke and Pepsi had financially competitive offers on the table.

ASUN unanimously passed Government Bill No. 12, supporting the sale of cigarettes in the two campus unions.

Revenue produced by cigarette sales was a main motivation of the bill's passage.

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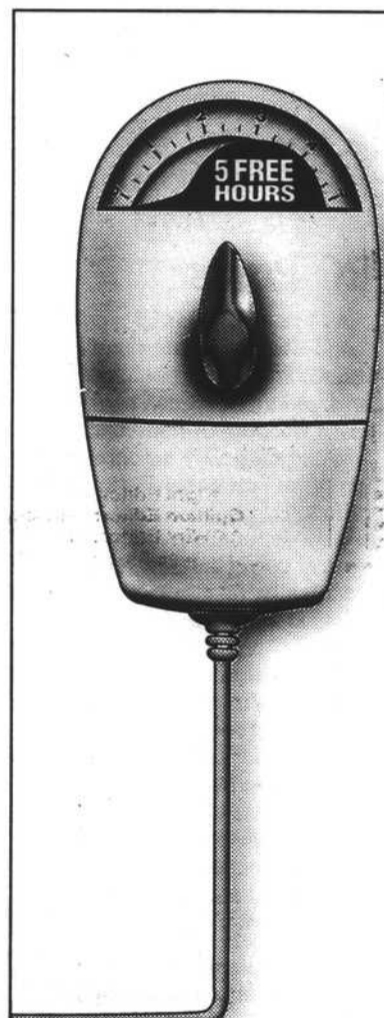
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