



Daily Nebraskan photo

Elaine Brown, Black Panther chairperson, participated in the Power in America symposium Tuesday night.

10th anniversary

Panther chairperson: party continues to fight

By Larry Lutz

The Black Panther Party, on its tenth anniversary this month, "celebrates on the blood of our fallen comrades and continues to be dedicated to the lives of the people," according to Elaine Brown, the party's chairperson.

Brown, speaking last night at the Union Program Council's symposium on *Power and Conspiracy in America: Who's in Control* said the party has always been dedicated to the people and has refused to give up the fight.

The party, founded by Huey P. Newton in Oakland, Calif., has overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to survive today, she said. Speaking from a prepared text, she said that the party still exists today, although it is in a different form than it was ten years ago.

One of the main obstacles facing the party from the beginning was being falsely identified by the media, she said.

"The media has told us (blacks) from the beginning who our leaders are, what our purpose is and what we stand for," she said. "Rolling Stone magazine speaks of us today in the past tense. The national media still tells us who we, as black people, have as our leader.

"Last year it was Patti Hearst, this year its Reverend Andrew Young."

The party has never been a force ready and able to oppose the U. S. Government she said. She termed the party "a rag tag army in the beginning."

"Now, do you think that rag tag bunch could overthrow one precinct of the Oakland police department, let alone the U. S. Government," she asked.

Instead of the "racist, reformist, integrationist party" defined by the media, the Panthers were a people's army with a specific 10-point platform for American society, she said. That platform was summed up in the tenth point, which called for land, clothing, food and control of technology by the people, she said.

Unlike our political parties in America, she said, the Panthers attempted to deal with concrete problems in the country such as poverty, oppression and racism. She said the party has come a long way from its early days of self cultism and arrogance.

It went from that elitist group to a party with a message to put out, she said. The party became unified, dedicated to putting out the message of freedom and liberation at any cost, she said, and "that was the only dangerous thing ever about the party."

She said the government and media worked hard to fight against the party, eventually driving Newton to Havana, Cuba. She predicted he would return to the United States within a year and rejoin the party.



Mueller: Olson not offered job

James Olson, interim president of the University of Missouri, has never been offered the NU presidency, according to Bill Mueller, ASUN president and the UNL student regent.

"We haven't offered the position to anyone yet," Mueller said Monday. He said he was speaking for the NU Board of Regents.

The Columbia Missourian reported Oct. 8 that Olson was offered the NU presidency Oct. 1 but turned it down.

The story quoted Van Williams, Missouri University Board of Curators president. Williams said Olson told him he turned down the Nebraska offer.

Olson confirmed for the Missourian newspaper that he was not available to succeed NU President D. B. Varner, but he would not confirm or deny that he was offered the job.

Varner is leaving Jan. 1 to become chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the NU Foundation.

"I don't know where the story came from," Mueller said, "but I don't want the people in Missouri to have the satisfaction of saying 'our president turned down the offer to be your president', when in fact he was never offered the job.

"If he was offered the job," Mueller continued, "I will be mad because I wasn't consulted and didn't participate in the decision. But I trust the other regents enough that I know they wouldn't do anything behind my back."

In its story, the Missourian said Mueller contradicted himself, first saying that Olson had not been discussed for the position, and then saying, "I heard at the meeting that Olson was contacted late last week and was not available to come to Lincoln."

Mueller maintained that the regents had not offered anyone the job.

"We didn't have someone come to our meeting and re-

port that Olson had turned down the job," Mueller said.

He said any discussion by the regents about Olson's availability for the job was based on medic accounts quoting Olson as saying he was unavailable.

Mueller said the regents probably will go into closed session at their meeting Friday to discuss the candidates for the NU presidency.

Registration schedules and packets for second semester are available at the Nebraska Union Information Window and Window 5 in the Administration Bldg. Early registration for class priority is Oct. 18 through 29.

Some tuition credit refund checks also will be available at the cashier's window in the Administration Bldg.

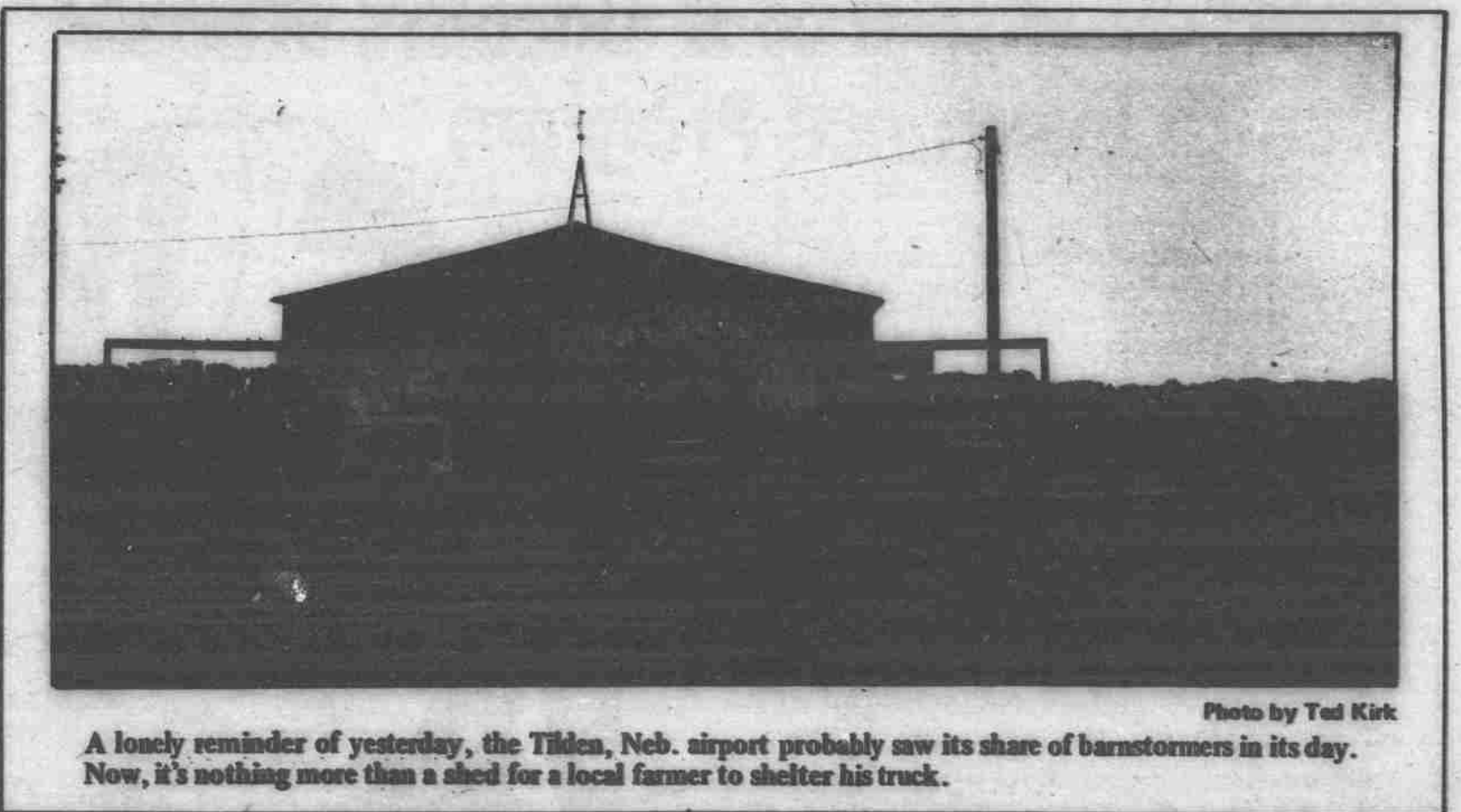


Photo by Ted Kirk

A lonely reminder of yesterday, the Tilden, Neb. airport probably saw its share of barnstormers in its day. Now, it's nothing more than a shed for a local farmer to shelter his truck.

Court bolsters NU Regents' governing authority

By George Miller

The NU Board of Regents Monday won the first round of their fight with the Nebraska Legislature concerning who has the ultimate decision-making power over the University of Nebraska.

Samuel Van Pelt, Lancaster County district judge, ruled in favor of the regents in the suit against the Legislature. The suit asked for a court order clarifying language in the Nebraska Constitution regarding the governance of the university.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Pat O'Brien, attorney for the Legislature, said Tuesday that no decision had been made regarding an appeal of Van Pelt's decision. However, both O'Brien and the regent's attorney, Flavel Wright, have said they expected the case to be appealed to the State Supreme Court regardless of which way Van Pelt ruled.

The central issue in the controversy was Article VII, Section 10 of the Constitution, which reads:

"The general government of the University of Nebraska

shall, under the direction of the Legislature, be vested in a board of not less than six nor more than eight regents."

Van Pelt ruled that the board is required by the Constitution to be established by the Legislature. He ruled that the Legislature may add or subtract the duties and powers of the regents by expanding or contracting the number of areas the regents are authorized to act in.

However, Van Pelt ruled that the government of the university and the powers of the regents may not be delegated to any agency outside of the Legislature.

This means the Legislature cannot turn authority for construction plans and data processing over to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), as the Unicameral did last year.

Van Pelt also ruled that the Legislature cannot control the regents' use of university funds not raised by taxes. These include student fees, University of Nebraska Medical Center fees, and the "sale of commodities raised on university property."

"Such university cash funds are subject to being disbursed only by order of the Board of Regents and no appropriation of those funds by the Legislature is required," Van Pelt wrote.

Van Pelt ruled that the Legislature is "without authority to direct employees of the university, and should confine any valid directions to the Board of Regents."

He also ruled that the Legislature stepped out of its bounds of authority by passing a law last year requiring approval by the Legislature and governor of any bequest to the university worth more than \$10,000 in personal or real property.

Van Pelt's decision also states that the director of the DAS has no authority over salary and wage increases of university employees.

However, Van Pelt ruled that the state does have control over the salaries of C-line employees (employees on a straight monthly salary, such as maintenance personnel and secretaries).

This is because C-line employees were placed under the state personnel system by action of the regents.