

Candidates debate, debate, debate

by JOHN DVORAK
Nebraskan News Editor

A smattering of students — mostly girlfriends and colleagues of the ASUN candidates — gathered in Smith Hall Wednesday evening for what was termed a "debate."

Presidential candidates Ken Wald, Randy Prier and Steve Tiwald had a difficult time creating controversy and conflict, however. The fourth presidential candidate, Alan Siporin, was reportedly out of the state.

Speaking to a crowd of about 40, the three candidates elaborated on and read from their platforms for the most part.

"It would be incredibly easy for me to promise you my heart and soul," said Ken Wald, who is making his first bid for ASUN elective office. "But in reality, if I'm elected, you're not going to notice a drastic change in your life. You will not experience a more enriching sex life."

ASUN just doesn't affect the average student, no one goes to ASUN meetings and no one reads about student government in the *Daily Nebraskan*, Wald charged.

The University administration is aware that ASUN can't mobilize the students. ASUN is just going to have to get some power, he remarked.

While several guys and girls frolicked in an adjacent corridor, Tiwald agreed that ASUN has little influence.

As one alternative, he suggested that ASUN Senate meetings he held once every two weeks, instead of weekly.

Then, two Wednesdays a month could be devoted to committee work, something that Tiwald said is missing from this year's Student Senate. All senators should be actively involved in committee work, the candidate stated.

Tiwald, who was appointed to the student senate earlier this semester, also proposed that an ombudsman be appointed jointly by the administration and the students.

This is a position which has been recently created at a number of colleges and universities. Tiwald said an ombudsman could do much to help students cut administrative red tape.

Prier also agreed with Tiwald and Wald that ASUN needs a lot more influence. At present, the body only has power to persuade, not to act, the candidate said.



The ASUN structure is inefficient, now, said Prier, a student senator who ran for ASUN first vice president a year ago. Student government should attempt to coordinate work with the advisory boards and should strive to work closely with the Council on Student Life.

It also seemed that the presidential candidates in the April 22 elections all agreed that a student-faculty senate at the University would be immensely valuable.

"There are indications that Chancellor Durward Varner likes the idea, but Campus President Joseph Soshnik does not," Prier said. "Nevertheless we must work hard for the senate."

At other times during the debate, Tiwald and Wald agreed with Prier.

Students must lobby with faculty members and work with the administration to accomplish anything, Wald said. It takes "a lot of dirty gut work," he added.

During most of the rest of the debate, the

candidates tried to disagree. But they all seemed to advocate the same things.

Prier said that "student services" must be expanded and improved. He mentioned the student record store, which is scheduled to open sometime this year as an example.

A student gas station, student legal aid program and lower cost xerox copy service for students would also be desirable, he said.

Tiwald advocated the expansion of the pass-fail system to include courses within group requirements. He also advocated University-wide faculty evaluation system. Tiwald, who organized the anti-Spiro Agnew protest at Pershing Auditorium earlier this semester, also advocated an expansion of the living-learning concept.

Noting that the ASUN budget expanded this year to \$30,000, Wald said, "About \$30,000 in student fees went to ASUN this year and I want my money to give me something in return."



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