

State law prompts election changes

The new status of the ASUN president as a student regent will cause most of the differences between this spring's ASUN election and last year's, according to Dave Howlett, ASUN second vice president and electoral commission member.

Howlett also reported Thursday that the electoral commission, in a split decision, has approved the placement of voting booths in the five major residence hall complexes.

The filing deadline for both parties and individual candidates is today at 4 p.m., according to the election rules accepted by the ASUN Senate at its Feb. 12 special meeting.

Other changes, which have been suggested by state officials so the election complies with state law, include allowing absentee and disabled ballots, requiring notarization of filing forms and the use of voting booths, Howlett said.

"The most controversial new requirement is the rule which forces parties to get five hundred signatures in order to

file as a party," he said.

"The main reason for the requirement is to insure that parties have a basis of support from the community," Howlett said. "We've already had a few complaints, but, from personal experience, I don't think it's that big of a hardship on potential parties. It's a way of showing the legitimacy of the party."

According to Howlett, the individual filing requirement of 35 signatures for senatorial candidates and 50 for executive candidates has not changed from last year.

The 3-2 decision to allow voting booths in residence halls has stirred some controversy but Howlett said he thinks the move will result in a larger voter turnout.

In addition to the residence complexes (Abel-Sandoz, Burr-Fedde, Cather-Pound-Neihardt, Harper-Schramm-Smith and Selleck), booths will be located in the Unions on City and East Campuses and in Ferguson Hall on the City Campus.

Impeachment was reminder-Jenner

By Ron Wylie

OMAHA—"The impeachment proceedings were one of the greatest things which could have happened to America," Albert Jenner, former counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, told a dinner meeting of the Omaha Bar Association Thursday night.

Jenner said "the House committee hearings led to a cleansing of the presidency but were more important because they served as a reminder to Americans of the freedoms they enjoy.

"Freedoms which are found," said Jenner, "can be so easily lost."

Jenner was associate counsel of the House Judiciary Committee and served as counsel to the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

A registered Republican, Jenner said that prior to the election "we (Republicans) were responsible for the failure to see former President Richard Nixon as he is. The evidence was always there.

"Nixon is a liar and an evil man," he said. "He was the manager of the abuses of power between 1968 and 1974."

Jenner said that Republicans consistently gave the Nixon administration the benefit of the doubt in the early months of the Watergate investigation, not to Nixon personally, but to the office of the President.

Jenner said the Republican argument was initially to confine the definition of high crimes and misdemeanors to normal crimes such as burglary, murder or theft or to statutory crimes against laws passed by Congress.

The crimes committed in the Watergate case, Jenner said, were crimes against the institutions of the Bill of Rights and against American society. The staff decided that these constituted high crimes and misdemeanors, he said.

He said the excuse that others in power may have abused the system in the same way did not give Nixon license to do so, but Jenner said dirty tricks, misuse of campaign funds and abuse of institutions were regular Nixon campaign procedures.

The start of the Watergate coverup, Jenner said, came on June 17, 1972, when John Mitchell prepared a press release denying that anyone associated with the Committee to Reelect the President had anything to do with the Watergate break-in. Mitchell, he said, has admitted the release was false and that he knew so at the time.

Jenner said testimony before the House Judiciary Committee showed that Jeb Stuart Magruder, second in command of the Nixon reelection effort, was the key to actual operations and knew more than anyone else.

He also said that President Gerald Ford pardoned Nixon in the wrong way for the wrong reasons at the wrong time.

"I believe in pardoning a president," Jenner said, "as I believe in pardoning anyone, but in Nixon's case it should have been done after all trials and investigations of those involved in Watergate and after Nixon publicly confessed his crimes."

Jenner said the institutions of government held up under the most severe attack during the Watergate hearings.

"This situation," Jenner remarked, "should give the American people confidence that their system works when people finally work at investigating their government."

"The constitution came alive during the House committee hearings," Jenner said, "and young people learned from those televised hearings. This is a free and open society.

"We learned from this process," Jenner added, "that impeachment is not a horrible thing."

Former Navy chief to visit Capitol, UNL

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. will be on campus March 3-5. Zumwalt, who retired last July as Naval Chief of Operations, is responsible for modernizing the Navy.

He relaxed the codes on haircuts, mustaches and beards and persuaded the Pentagon to start cultural awareness seminars to help ease racial tensions in the armed forces.

Zumwalt will speak on "Conflicts between U.S. Military and U.S. Political Policies" Monday at 8 p.m. At 10:30 Tuesday morning he will speak on "Closed Oceans and Closed Minds." Both addresses will be in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

UNL Chancellor James Zumbege last fall invited Zumwalt to speak after he had read about him in *Time* magazine. Zumwalt will be paid from University Foundation funds, not from student fees or tax dollars.

Zumwalt's wife, Mouza, a native of Manchuria, will appear on the KOLN-TV program "Woman's World" Tuesday morning at 9:30.

Zumwalt will address faculty-student groups at the College of Engineering and College of Arts and Sciences Tuesday morning and to Zumbege and groups at the Business College and Law College Wednesday morning before leaving Lincoln.



Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., former Naval Chief of Operations.

Ombudsman: few complaints

By Betsie Ammons

Dan Babcock, acting UNL ombudsman, says people don't take advantage of the services the ombudsman has to offer.

Ombudsmen originated in Sweden about 165 years ago to hear people's grievances about the government. Today the state governments of Hawaii and Nebraska employ ombudsmen, as do many colleges and universities.

The UNL Ombudsman mostly hears complaints of faculty members, students and staff concerning university procedures, but he hears other complaints, too, Babcock said. The Ombudsman has no authority to change policies or procedures, but has access to the same information the chancellor does, he said.

Hears grievances

Babcock said although the ombudsman handles the grievances of all groups, he is not a member of any of them. He is paid by money from ASUN, faculty funds and administrative funds.

"People usually come to the ombudsman for one of two reasons," Babcock said. "If they have a complaint and don't know who to see about it, I help define the facts and suggest who to talk to."

The other reason someone visits him, Babcock said, is if he has already tried to solve his problem and is dissatisfied with the solution. Babcock said in that case he takes things a step further and investigates.

"I try to make the system work properly," he said. He said he tries to solve the complaint at "the lowest level possible." If he is not satisfied with the results he will keep taking it to a higher level until he is, Babcock said.

Many cases

He said he handles many kinds of cases, which are

divided into 23 categories. They include employer-employee relations, grades, housing, student-professor relations and professor-administration relations. He added that everything brought into his office is confidential.

"The ombudsman is the one person you can talk to without fear of kickbacks," he said. He will not act on a problem without the approval of the person who brought it to him, Babcock said.

He said he averages about two and one-half cases a day, and in the past four months he has handled about 200 cases. Of these, 79 per cent are student cases, eight per cent are faculty, eight per cent staff and five per cent "other"—alumni or parents of students.

Publicizes service

As an incentive for more people to visit the ombudsman, Babcock said he sent out flyers to the entire university, and printed a short report on his activities in Bulletin Board, a publication for UNL faculty members and staff. The result of the article was that faculty cases increased from 16 per cent of the case load in four months to 40 per cent in just one month.

Babcock thinks people tend to "sit" on their problems because they believe there is no one who can help them. Also, he said, there is the fear of retaliation. People are afraid that if they go to someone with their problems, a professor or employer may find out and it may affect a grade or pay.

Babcock said the ombudsman offers a "straightforward, honest, objective" approach to a problem that will bring both parties to a quick, reasonable solution.



Photo by Kevin Higley

UNL Ombudsman Dan Babcock describes the services of his office.