

# ASUN supports crew team, container tax

Four resolutions were passed and one was tabled before the ASUN Senate lost a quorum Wednesday night and was unable to act on any other business.

First Vice President Sharon Johnson said before the meeting began that several senators would be unable to attend because they were either speaking before the Student Court or attending a Chancellor's Roundtable.

The loss of the quorum delayed discussion on the length of terms of Council on Student Life members and prevented a "sense of the senate" resolution on placing voting booths in residence halls.

The question of voting booth placement was brought up in Open Forum by Rick Horton, a first vice presidential candidate. Horton said putting voting booths in dorms was unfair to members of

fraternities and sororities and to students who live off campus.

One resolution passed at the meeting supported LB505, a bill in the Legislature which would place a tax on non-returnable beverage containers.

The UNL crew team also received verbal support from a resolution passed by the Senate, but not until the resolution had been amended, striking the proposed \$500 in monetary support.

Resolution No. 59 was tabled until next week so Nebraska Wesleyan Professor Anthony Ruprecht could speak in favor of the measure to donate \$175 to the National Committee for the Tax Deduction of Tuition Fees.

The resolution was introduced by Sen. John Vihstadht who told the senate that "my heart really

isn't in this," Ruprecht had asked Vihstadht to introduce the measure but was unable to attend Wednesday's meeting.

A "sense of the senate" resolution was also passed supporting fall election in 1976 if the ASUN Constitutional Amendment passes in next Wednesday's election. The motion was to clarify the ASUN position because of an oversight leaving out the date on which the amendment becomes effective, according to Sen. Jana Hills.

By a close vote, another resolution was passed supporting the abolishment of two parking lots near the Union. The resolution was passed over the objections of Sen. Mike Jacobsen. The vote was 13 to 10 with one abstention.

## Title fees increase, rights bill considered

The Legislature's Public Works Committee Wednesday held hearings on two bills that would affect drivers in Nebraska.

LB572, introduced by the committee, would increase fees for motor vehicle certificates of title. LB491, introduced by Sen. Jack Mills of Big Springs, would revise Nebraska laws concerning the rights of guest passengers in a motor vehicle.

The fee for duplicating certificates of title would be increased from \$3 to \$5 dollars, according to LB572. Each new and refilled certificate of title would cost \$3 instead of the \$2 it is now.

Two of the \$3 collected would go to the state general fund. The remaining dollar would go to the county general fund.

In addition, any notations of a lien on a certificate of title would be increased from \$1 to \$2. The county would receive \$1.50 from this fee, the remainder would go to the state.

Lengthy debate marked the hearing on LB491. Those appearing before the committee argued the application of the term "gross negligence" to the wording of the bill.

The bill concerns the right of a guest passenger in a motor vehicle to collect from the driver if the passenger was injured due to the driver's "gross negligence."

Questions arose over the payment for a ride. Attorneys debated that if a person paid a friend for a ride, the driver would be taking payment for services offered and therefore be as responsible for injuries suffered by a passenger as would a bus company.

Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha was persistent in his questioning, seeking concrete facts and actual meanings of the arguments presented.

"Is it more important for the people to get a ride or a safe ride?" Cavanaugh asked.

He also asked the attorneys testifying in favor of the bill whether they were testifying merely in order to increase the fees they could collect from these cases.

## Child abuse bill has public hearing

Representatives from the Lincoln and the Omaha Police Department and from the Douglas County Child Protective Services Division were among those who testified Wednesday at the Legislature's Judiciary Committee's public hearing on LB20.

The hearing concerned a controversy which had arisen between the Omaha Police Department and the Douglas County Child Protective Services division of the Department of Public Welfare.

LB20 outlines procedures for reporting neglect of children and incompetent or disabled persons. Those procedures are the same as for abuse of these persons.

The bill also states that cases of abuse or neglect in counties of more than 250,000 people may be reported to the protective services unit in that county. In smaller counties reports are made to the police departments.

Richard Hayes, administrator of Child Protective Services in Douglas County said his division endorses LB20, especially the part which says abuse may be reported to his division.

He said the Omaha Police Department does not follow the existing law which says the police must send reports of abuse cases they receive to the welfare department in their county the day following the report of the abuse.

"Because of the way the Omaha Police Department handles these cases, children are getting no protection," he said. "LB20 is a way of giving children this protection."

He said his division gets "beautiful cooperation" from the Douglas County sheriff outside of Omaha.

Omaha Police Chief Richard Andersen said he is "following every statute of the state" in his department's reporting of abuse cases to Protective Services.

He said his department sends reports of child abuse to the Douglas County Department of Public Welfare every morning.

"But they refuse to send us anything," he said.

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