

daily nebraskan

wednesday, march 17, 1976 vol: 99 no. 98 lincoln, nebraska

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Faulty transformer defrosts Union refrigerators



Photo by Steve Boerner

Workers replace a faulty Nebraska Union transformer Tuesday afternoon, cutting off Union electricity for a half an hour. The switching of a circuit breaker caused one of the Union's transformers to blow up, leaving the building and much of the campus powerless.

Loss of refrigeration was the Nebraska Union's biggest problem Tuesday after a faulty transformer blew up, causing the building and much of the campus to be without power, said Daryl Swanson, Union assistant director.

Power initially went out about 9:15 a.m., he said. Power in some of the circuits was restored in two minutes, but the rest of the circuits were out for 15 minutes.

At about 9:40 a.m., the power went off completely for almost two hours, Swanson said, after which power partially was restored.

Verne Traudt, UNL manager of utilities, said the university had to drop power when Lincoln Electric System (LES) was switching a circuit breaker at the 2nd St. substation. The switching caused unintentional power outages in the western half of Lincoln, he said.

After the switching was completed, the sudden surge of power caused the Union's transformer to blow up, Traudt said.

The lack of power caused the Harvest Room, Colonial Room and Gateway Bank to close. After 9:30 a.m., only the North Crib was serving food.

Swanson said the Union has three transformers, but only two were operational by noon. A new transformer was installed at about 3:30 p.m., but Union electricity was shut off for half an hour during installation, Traudt said.

East Campus was without steam for two hours in the morning because of the power loss, he said. Work was complicated further by an East Campus water main which broke.

As far east as 27th St. and Pioneer Blvd., Lincoln was in the dark for a few minutes on two different occasions, according to an LES spokesman.

The blow-up caused no damage to Nebraska Union, Swanson said, and losses because of lack of refrigeration have not yet been estimated.

Voter individuality stressed despite slate

By Liz Crumley

The majority of sorority and fraternity presidents who received a Greek slate, which endorsed candidates for today's ASUN election, said they are going to leave it up to individual house members to vote the way they want.

The idea behind the slate originated after last year's ASUN election, said Al Eveland, Delta Tau Delta fraternity member and former Interfraternity Council president. Its intent was to arouse interest in student government and ASUN elections, encourage persons to get involved by running for the Senate and increase voter participation, he said.

Eveland and Pi Beta Phi member Barb Hengen, former Panhellenic president, were part of "The Committee of The Faction" that created the slate, he said.

Hengen said she did not care if any slated candidates are elected, and added that what she called the secrecy behind candidate selections is to arouse interest in the election, although she said she realized it also aroused suspicion.

Two houses support slate

Of the 21 Greek house presidents interviewed, two said their houses actively are supporting the Greek slate. They are Sigma Chi and Sigma Alpha Mu fraternities.

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However, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, definitely is not supporting the slate, said President Gary Kroenke, because one of its members (Paul Morrison) is running for ASUN president with the Alliance of Concerned Students party.

Kroenke added that another senatorial candidate from Lambda Chi Alpha was not on the slate.

Five of 12 presidents said they either read the slate at their house meetings Monday night or would post the list this morning.

Seven presidents said they had not released the slate. Farmhouse President Ron Heerton said he has not received a copy of the slate because he missed a 2 p.m. meeting Sunday when he was supposed to receive it.

Kroenke said Lambda Chi Alpha never received a copy because of Morrison's involvement as a presidential candidate.

Sigma Nu President Greg Fienhold also said he has not received a copy of the slate, but has "an idea of who is on it." He added he was making "no effort" to tell members of his house about it, but said it is a good way to increase voter participation.

Slate locked up

The slate is being locked up at the Gamma Phi Beta

house, according to its president, Diane Korinek. Korinek, also current Panhellenic president, said she thought it might be a conflict of interest if she was involved in publicizing the slate.

"Panhellenic has nothing to do with it," she said. She added that although the house supports the theory behind the slate (to get Greeks to vote), she said she has not told all members about it.

"People know I have it and are welcome to see it," she said.

Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Xi Delta Presidents Sandy Mohr and Marilyn Wetta agreed, saying that they were not going to publicize the slate, but that anyone could talk to them about slated candidates.

Phi Gamma Delta President Rick Redfield said he did not know about the slate.

Qualification, not affiliation

However, four out of five residence hall representatives contacted by press time Tuesday said they did not like the idea of a Greek slate.

Smith Hall President Coleen Nielsen, a sophomore criminal justice major from Minden, said she thinks qualifications should be the basis for supporting candidates, not their house affiliations.

Neihardt Resident Center President Opal Bernt said the university is supposed to be a comprehensive group of different living experiences. She said she does not favor emphasizing all-Greek or all-residence hall people.

Bernt, a senior architecture major from Stuart, said she does not know what the proponents of the Greek slate are trying to accomplish, and added that she doesn't expect the slate to "sweep" the election.

People who vote for an all-Greek slate are not looking at the qualities of each individual because they're voting after seeing the person labeled as a Greek, said Sandoz Hall President Deb Mitzlaff, a junior advertising and art major from Omaha.

Sandoz Hall residents will not be told to vote for all-residence hall candidates, she said, adding that she does not agree with "singling out people by the place they live."

Less representative

The Greek slate only alienates groups and makes the ASUN Senate less representative of the student body, according to Abel Hall President Gene McClain, senior political science major from Bellevue.

However, he said he thought the slate was logical and practical because when only about 2,000 students vote, 600 or 700 votes for Greeks can carry the election.

Although Residence Hall Association (RHA) President Sue Ihne said she thinks the Greek slate was organized to get more students to vote, she said it could have several different results.

It could "rile up" residence hall people, she said, which

might hurt Greek candidates. If residence hall students become angry, they might vote against the slate, Ihne said. In addition, she said she doesn't think Greeks will vote a straight Greek ticket.

ASUN Electoral Commissioner Ray Walden said he does not think the Greek slate is a good idea because if all Greeks are elected, the Greek minority would rule and the ASUN Senate would lose "any credibility it has left."

Campus relations hurt?

The majority of house presidents who commented on the slate's effectiveness said it might hurt the Greek system.

Randy Wright, president of Delta Upsilon fraternity, said he thinks release of the slate will hurt individual candidate's chances for election and may hurt campus relations.

"But that (hurting campus relations) will happen only if the action of those few people involved in the slate-making is seen to be the actions of all Greeks, which it is not," Wright said.

Kroenke of Lambda Chi Alpha agreed, saying, "independents (non-Greeks) might think the Greeks are out to get them or hiding from them."

"It's not true, but I understand how they might feel. I was one myself once," he said.

Eric Chapman, Sigma Alpha Epsilon president and former IFC treasurer, said he was "unavailable for comment," when contacted Tuesday afternoon on the matter.

Theta Chi President Steve Messinger, said he thought the slate was a good idea.

"If you're going to pick any one group of students to represent the campus, it would be the Greeks," Messinger said.

Six polls open today

Six polling places will operate during today's ASUN elections.

Polls at the Nebraska Union, East Campus Union and Nebraska Hall will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Polls at the entrances to Andrews Hall, Hamilton Hall and Westbrook Music Bldg. will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students must present their student IDs when voting, said ASUN Electoral Commissioner Ray Walden. Students will be asked to sign class rosters to prevent students from voting more than once, he said.