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inside today

Start Scrambling: Uncle Sam wants his tax money by midnight, and he doesn't like to wait p.2
Best Seller: Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner and the rest step aside, UNL Economics Prof. Campbell McConnell has a best seller p.8

ASUN renews McDonald's stance

By George Miller

The new ASUN Senate began business Wednesday night by reaffirming its opposition to construction of a McDonald's Restaurant on the UNL campus.

The resolution, introduced by Teachers College Sen. Laura Schory, requests the Lincoln City Council and City Planning Council rule against proposed changes in zoning which would allow a McDonald's to be built on two lots of land owned by the Nebraska Book Store Co. The lots are at 1319 R St. and 1325 R St.

The resolution also asks the council and planners to adopt a policy which creates a "commercial buffer zone" between City Campus and the downtown business district.

The resolution duplicates a resolution passed by the former ASUN Senate Feb. 11. However, Tony Williams, first vice-president, said ASUN executives think the new senate should go on record either supporting or opposing construction of a McDonald's on campus.

The Senate also approved 20-6 a resolution sponsored by Professional College Sen. Clarke Stevens placing the Senate on record as urging the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) to provide student fees money for the 1976 Homecoming Royalty election.

Stevens said Corn Cobs and Tassels, spirit organizations which sponsor the election, got money to hold last year's election from the NU Alumni Association. However, he said the Alumni Association is less willing to provide funds this year.

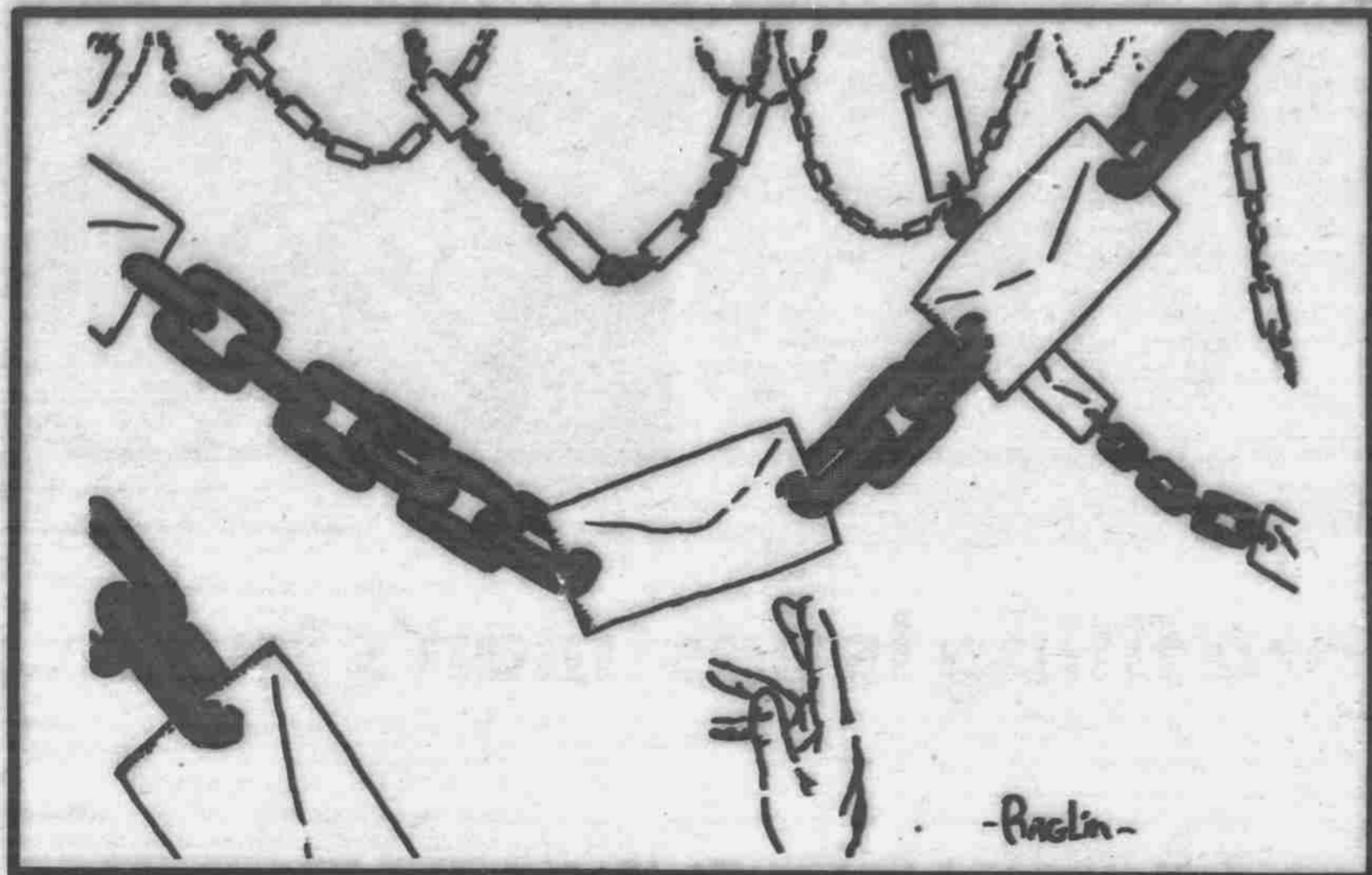
He said FAB previously had rejected spending money for the election and that his resolution would ask FAB to reconsider its decision.

In other action, the Senate passed resolutions allowing a member of the Governmental Liaison Committee to act as liaison between the Lincoln City Council and ASUN, and one thanking all state senators who voted to override Gov. J. James Exon's veto of portions of the 1976-77 NU budget.

Second Vice President Dennis Martin told the Senate two of the current eight permanent ASUN committees will be abolished.

Martin said the Human Rights Committee and the Environmental Task Force Committees will be disbanded. He said the Environmental Task Force committee will have most of its duties taken over by the Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group.

ASUN President Bill Mueller said a President's Cabinet will be established. The cabinet, which already is included in ASUN's Constitution, will have nine representatives drawn from various campus organizations, off-campus students, cooperative living units and East Campus students.



Get-rich-quick chain letter illegal

By Nancy Clark

Earn more than \$6,000 for a \$12 investment!

That is what a chain letter, reportedly circulating in UNL residence halls, offers potential investors.

Although the offer sounds tempting, David Rasmussen, director of Student Legal Services and ASUN staff attorney, warns students that the odds of collecting \$6,000 or even recovering the original \$12 investment are poor.

Rasmussen, who was contacted by several students from different residence halls about the letter, added that the letter violates federal postal regulations.

According to UNL Ombudsman Al Dittmer, another student questioned him about the legality of the chain letter.

The letter asks participants to mail money orders, which violates federal regulations that prohibit fraudulent soliciting schemes through the mail, said U.S. Postal Inspector Paul Smith.

More blatant

"Chain letters are not unusual on college campuses," Rasmussen said. "But this one is more blatant than most in that it virtually promises the student a \$6,000 return."

The letter follows the standard chain letter form. A new participant pays \$6 for the letter and \$6 to the first name on the list. He then adds his name to the bottom of the list, dropping the first name.

The participant then is instructed to sell the new letter to two people to recover his \$12 investment. The letter promises the participant that he will receive more than \$6,000 when his name reaches the top of the list.

The success of a chain letter depends on a continuous flow of new participants, Rasmussen said. Because it is impossible to continue indefinitely a steady flow of customers, chain letters are considered fraudulent, he said.

Make a killing

Although "those on the ground floor make a killing," he said, the letter is a poor investment for most students.

When students sign the letters, they do not know how many people have signed it before them, Rasmussen said.

According to Lois Tefst, Lincoln Better Business Bureau manager, persons who sign a chain letter after its initial stages lose money because "they simply run out of names to send the list to."

In this chain letter, 11 persons enter on the first stage and each sell two letters, bringing in 22 participants for the second stage, who bring in 44 participants for the third stage and so forth.

Customer's decease

As the chain progresses, the number of potential customers decreases. For participants entering on the 17th stage, they will have lost 1,680,896 potential customers or a population about the size of Nebraska.

Five residence hall directors contacted by the Daily Nebraskan said they knew nothing about the chain letter. Directors from Cather, Pound, Harper, Smith, Abel and Selleck Quadrangle Residence Halls were interviewed.

A sixth-floor Harper resident said he knew about the chain letter, adding that it has been widely circulated in several residence halls.

He added that several chain letters have been circulated in the residence hall previously, including one for liquor instead of money.

Although Nebraska laws prohibit knowingly obtaining money under false pretenses, there are no laws dealing specifically with chain letters, said Lancaster Deputy

General Atty. Cliff Livingston.

Postal authorities prosecute

Because most chain letters are sent through the mail, he said the letters are usually handled by U.S. Postal Service inspectors.

Postal authorities usually prosecute persons who initiate the letter, said Paul Smith. But, he added, anyone participating in the chain can be prosecuted.

If anything connected with the letter, including the letter or money, is mailed, he said, the letter violates federal laws.

The penalty for using the mail service to defraud is not more than \$1,000 fine or five years imprisonment or both.

Most chain letters in Nebraska are started outside the state, Smith said. The person initiating the letter usually has two to three participants working for him, he added.

Smith, who handles mail fraud cases for 15 southeast Nebraska counties, said his office receives about 25 chain letter complaints a year. Most of the complaints come from Lancaster County, he said.

Chain letter complaints can be directed to the U.S. Postal Inspector Office, 700 R St., 471-5172.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Creighton third baseman Jeff King tags Darryl Pegues of Creighton as he attempts to check-in at third base. It was the first game of a Wednesday doubleheader with Creighton, which the Blue-jays won 6-0.