

Student Court won't overturn graduate election

The ASUN Student Court Wednesday denied a request by graduate student Ron Stephens to overturn the ASUN Electoral Commission's decision to annul the March 17 ASUN Graduate Studies College election.

The commission voided the election because a number of ballots cast in the graduate election allegedly were cast by persons not in the college.

Because only 17 votes separated the first place winner from the sixth place winner, the commission voted to annul the election.

Stephens, who was elected to a Graduate Studies College seat in the March 17 election, charged that he and the five other winners were denied due process because they were not notified of the Electoral Commission's

April 1 hearing about the petition contesting the election.

However, the court ruled that since none of the six March 17 election winners were on trial, the Electoral Commission was not required to personally notify them. It also said that a Daily Nebraskan story about the hearing was sufficient notice.

Stephens also charged that the commission's decision to annul the graduate election was invalid because the commission could not meet the four-fifths majority vote required in the ASUN Constitution to make such a decision.

The court ruled that because Paul Morrison, then ASUN second vice-president and Electoral Commission member by right of office, disqualified himself from the commission because he was an election candidate, the

commission had only five members. Because four commission members voted to annul the election, the four-fifths vote requirement was fulfilled.

The court also rejected Stephens' request that the court require an ASUN Senate review of the commission's procedure and prepare a report for the court.

It ruled that the proper forum for requesting electoral reform is the Electoral Commission itself and the ASUN Senate, not the Student Court.

Stephens was re-elected in a second graduate college election April 16. However, March 17 winners Roberto Sosa, independent candidate, and Robert Simonson, New Student Coalition candidate, lost their seats in the second election to write-in candidates Janet Rasmusson and Ronald G. Struss, who were not elected March 17.

Energy conservation merits any 'reasonable action'

By Gail Smith

If Americans can be "wooled" away from their cars, mass transit can affect energy conservation, said Lyle Young, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Technology.

Young was responding to an analysis in the April 2 issue of Science, the weekly journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In the journal, Eric Hirst, formerly with the Federal Energy Administration and now with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, said mass transit and carpools will only minimally affect energy-saving in the next decade.

Although the resulting energy saved may not be large, Young said, any reasonable action should be taken to lower energy consumption.

Increase operating costs

To reduce auto use, he said, the price of operating a car must increase.

He said increased mass transit use is an economic, not technological, matter. Mass transit systems have been created, he said, but more people will not use them until the auto operational costs are too high.

To encourage mass transit use, Young said, less money should be spent on street widening and creation of parking space. Money saved could be used to create and improve mass transit.

In his article, Hirst said the long-term potential of mass transit could be greater, but urban travel pattern changes

may take at least a decade to implement because of long time lags associated with changes in land-use patterns, auto ownership and individual attitudes toward public transportation.

Young said he agrees that it takes time to affect changes. For example, he said, a person who bought a big car three or four years ago may be more concerned about energy conservation now, but his car has years of use remaining. Therefore the person keeps the car, creating a time lag before he trades it in for a smaller, more efficient model, he said.

Raise gas prices

In his analysis, Hirst cited two ways to improve new-car fuel economies—increased gasoline prices and legislation. He said the most dramatic way to decrease fuel consumption is to increase gas prices by 20 per cent. Young said he agrees, but also suggested that prices be raised by creating a large gasoline tax instead of increasing prices by lowering the amount of available gasoline.

Money raised by the gas tax then could be used to develop more alternatives to auto use, he added.

Hirst's article also said he thinks a more effective way to save gasoline would be to increase new car gasoline mileage. With an increase of from 14 miles a gallon in 1974 to 20 mpg in 1980 and to 22 mpg in 1985, he said, savings could reach the equivalent of 568,000 barrels of crude oil a day in 1980 and 1,327,000 barrels daily in 1985.

Young said a goal can be set for how much oil will be

conserved, but it is impossible to determine if the goal will be reached.

Young said current extensive energy conservation research includes solar heating for buildings and gasohol for cars.

Voc-ag program set

Because of an increasing demand for vocational agriculture teachers, a four-year high school vocational agriculture curriculum is being planned for Nebraska.

Besides the high school program, the project plans to upgrade current high school courses and develop teaching materials to fit Nebraska's production, agriculture and agribusinesses.

UNL received a \$36,000 grant to finance the project, which involves 24 Nebraska vocational agriculture teachers, the State Department of Education and UNL's Department of Agriculture Education.

Allen Blezek, project director, said the grant is federally financed through the State Board of Education.

"The high school program has been implemented by other states—Oklahoma, the granddaddy of them all, Kansas and New Mexico," he said.

According to Department of Agricultural Education figures, during the last five years high school vocational agriculture enrollment has increased about 35 per cent to more than 8,000 students while the number of teachers has increased about 17 per cent, to about 150.

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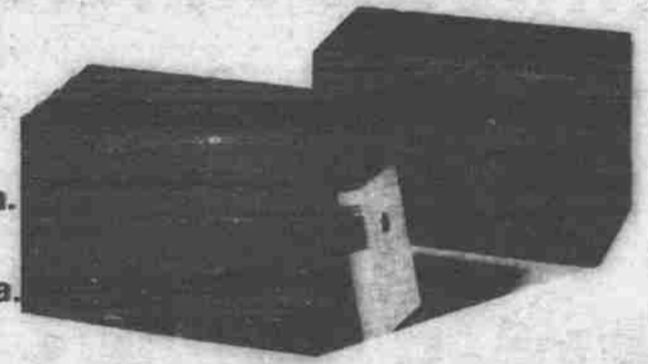


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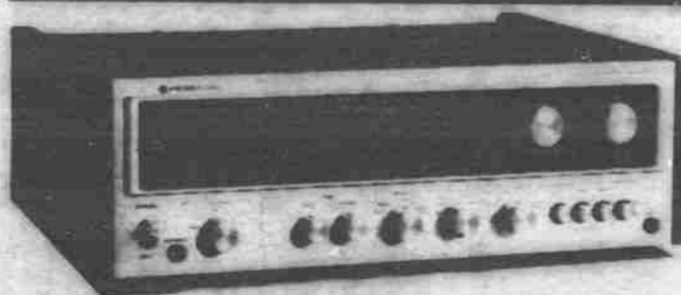
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