



Eric Carstenson

## Carstenson: apathy paramount issue

Eric Carstenson, a senior English major from Grand Island, said he is running for ASUN president because he is dissatisfied with student government.

"It is not working for students," he said.

Carstenson was an ASUN senator this year.

"I do not aspire to a higher office" or politics after graduation, he said. Senators should be elected "for more than something to put on their recommendation sheet," he added.

He called student apathy "the most paramount issue. Only after dealing with that can we go on to more important issues.

"There is a lot of talk that apathy is a sign of the times, but I don't believe that is true," he said.

### Eliminate apathy

Carstenson said he has a "philosophical way to get rid of apathy." First, identify a goal, such as returning student fee allocation power to the students, he said.

Second, he said, work toward that goal, involving a large number of students and student opinion leaders. This should create a snowball effect, as more students become more interested, he said.

Carstenson said the third step is achieving the goal.

Gaining more student involvement begins within the Senate, he said. Senate "cannot function without a mandate from the students," but lack of informed senators was a problem this year, he said.

"I was demoralizing to never sit with a full senate," he said.

### Educational quality

The quality of education at UNL is another issue, he said.

"ASUN should be a strong lobbying force to represent students and all aspects of the university community," Carstenson said. Students should look at themselves as consumers of education and should be concerned with obtaining a quality product, he said.

As student regent, Carstenson said, he would continue to improve the credibility of students in the eyes of the NU Board of Regents.

"We have a lot to recognize that that board views the student regent as a student first," and other members of the board will use restraint in dealing with the student, he said.

With this in mind, Carstenson said, the student regent must subtly persuade and let the regents think they are controlling and think it is their idea.

In addition, Carstenson said he would introduce legislation to reorganize the senate, setting up committees to report monthly to the student regent.

The student regent could go to the Board of Regents meetings "informed in every area from budget to educational materials. He would be the most informed regent; and there is power in that," he said.



Kirk Hemphill

## Education quality concerns Hemphill

Kirk Hemphill, the High People's Coalition (THC) Liberated Students for Democracy (LSD) presidential candidate, is a senior psychology major from Lincoln.

Hemphill said he is running to improve the way student government is run and to improve the quality of education at UNL.

"The economy of the state depends on the training kids get now," he said. "A lot of money goes into education, we should be able to get a good education.

"Students should have more voice in where their money goes. Students should speak out and the senate should make their voices heard."

Students are not consulted when it comes to university policy and the way their money is spent, he said. "We find out about signs or the (Nebraska) Union bakery after they are under construction."

As president and student regent, Hemphill said he would not accept budget cuts for faculty members, but would accept cuts in administration. "UNL needs good faculty members, he said, and good academic departments.

"ASUN hasn't done anything really ballsy since 1971 because they are afraid of losing money," he said. "The faculty are afraid to make noise for fear of losing their tenure."

This year's senate is appalling, Hemphill said. Its

biggest problem has been lack of quorum and apathy, he said.

Hemphill said "by and large the problems were caused by the Greek Slate," which he said he believes is the biggest issue of this campaign.

"ASUN senate should be a democratic, representative body." He said it is "possible to get 35 senators from one place, but that is not representative." In addition, he said secrecy is not in line with democracy.

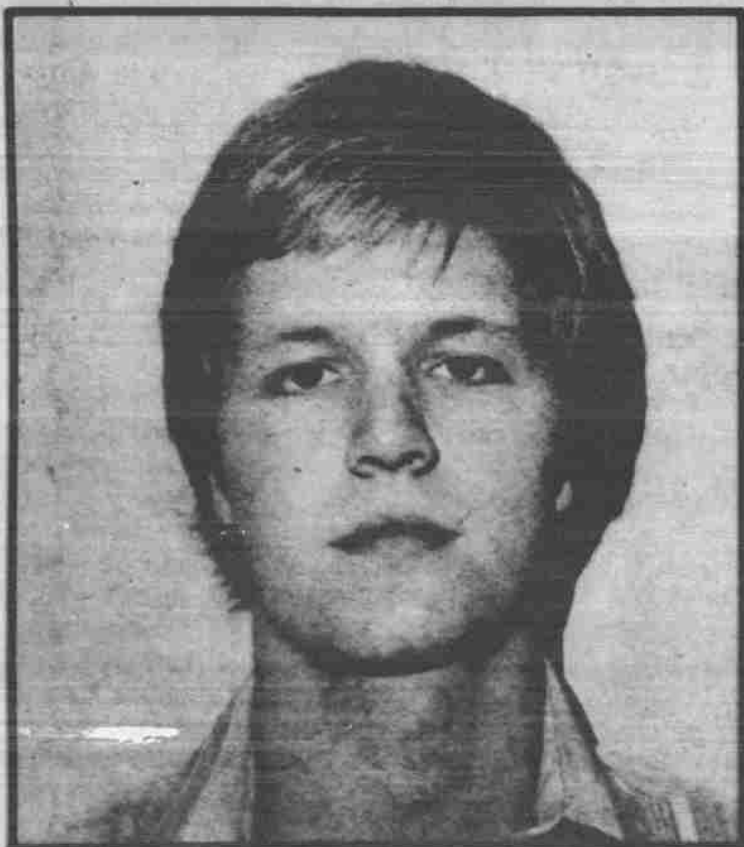
"The Greeks were successful in getting elected," Hemphill said, "but not in getting things accomplished."

GLC (Government Liaison Committee) made noise, ASUN hassled Union director Al Bennett but they had a quorum maybe five times."

The THC party also has made pencil sharpeners, a major issue of their campaign, he said. Hemphill pointed out the serious problems caused by only four pencil sharpeners in the College of Business Administration Bldg., "and they teach math classes in there."

As ASUN president, Hemphill would like to reinstitute "Hyde Park" which he said was a weekly meeting before Senate several years ago. He said it was similar to ASUN's "open forum" but it was held in the Union Main Lounge.

Hemphill said he has served on the ASUN education committee, the GLC, the ASUN Constitution Committee, a Teachers College Task Force and six years on Model United Nations.



Greg Johnson

## Dissatisfaction encouraged candidate

UNL junior Greg Johnson said his dissatisfaction with this year's ASUN senate and a belief that he could change its workings prompted him to run for the ASUN presidency.

Johnson, a political science major from Baltic, South Dakota, is running with the Students for University Need (SUN) party.

Johnson said he believes ASUN has the potential to be effective but "they were wasting their time this year." He said he thinks the Senate needs to be restructured and become more specialized.

"Most of the work this year was done either by individuals or the entire Senate," Johnson said. "That system is ineffective because senators have to be jacks of all trades."

Instead, Johnson said, ASUN Senate should be broken into a committee structure similar to that of the Nebraska Legislature.

Senators would have more time to serve on other student governing bodies, such as Fees Allocation Board or the Council on Student Life, if the committee system were used, he said.

In addition to restructuring, the senate needs to address itself more to viable student issues, according to Johnson.

He said he would like to see work done in the areas of tuition hikes, quality of education, and faculty salaries.

ASUN this year did not work with these problems, he said, but were "a petty subservient body."

Johnson said he also would serve students by making the ASUN Book Exchange more visible and operate more smoothly. He said "students should be informed that his is an alternative to getting ripped off by the bookstore."

In addition, ASUN could provide a comprehensive teacher evaluation form, results of which would be put in a booklet students could refer to when registering for classes, he said.

If elected, he said, he also would develop a commission to study every UNL student government group. ASUN would appoint that commission but not control it, he added. Johnson has worked with the ASUN Government Liaison Committee (GLC) for two years and now serves as its chairman.

"My association with GLC made contacts with people which would help me carry out my duties as ASUN president and also student regent," he said.

Johnson also said he enjoyed government work and enabled him to "go at it with a vigor and determination that can't be equalled."



Randy Musselman

## Musselman favors living unit reps

Randy Musselman, independent ASUN presidential candidate said he decided to run because he thinks student government "should be more than a place for pre-law students to get law school recommendations."

"Ever since I've been here the government hasn't done anything to change the situation on campus," Musselman said. "If no one else will do it, I guess it's up to me."

Musselman said he thinks this year's Senate was "a complete disaster." If elected, he said, he would reorganize it with representation based on living units rather than academic colleges.

He said he favors reorganization because he thinks ASUN deals with student life rather than academic concerns.

Musselman said he would do everything in his power to form a constitutional convention and rewrite the ASUN constitution to bring about this reorganization.

"If reorganization meant abolishing the position of president, I'd gladly step down and let those changes take place," he said.

Along with constitutional revision, he said he would

like to absorb the Fees Allocation Board into ASUN and work to abolish the Council on Student Life, because "I don't see where they are doing anything constructive."

In addition, the entire student community should have the opportunity to vote on fees allocations, he said. "That would be one way to make student care."

The junior political science major said he thinks he could be an effective ASUN president because he has not been associated with government before and has "no built-in bias as to how things should be done."

He added that he would be willing to have his performance evaluated by students each semester he was president.

"If they didn't like what I was doing, I would step down," he said, adding that the evaluation policy should be applied to all UNL student government bodies.

Musselman said that although parties may have their benefits, he is running independently because he couldn't find anyone whose views coincide with his.

"Most people views are more status quo than mine," he said.