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Petition helped table expansion?

By Mike Patten

Leaders of the ASUN petition drive protesting stadium expansion are pleased with its apparent success.

All of the petition's organizers said they thought the decision to hold off on any expansion decision was influenced by the petition.

The petition drive gathered more than 2,000 signatures in less than 24 hours. The petit. a then was presented to the NU Board of Regents at its Friday meeting. The regents were scheduled to vote on the proposed expansion of Memorial Stadium, but instead tabled the motion until next month's meeting.

Ken Marienau said the petition drive was undertaken to present the regents with a report to offset the Citizen's Expansion Committee's report favoring expansion by 8,000 seats.

"Before we started it, it (expansion) looked like a certainty. Now it looks like they (regents) are going to give it a serious look. Especially in light of the loss Saturday," Marienau said.

Mary Fejfar said she thought the drive shows the level of student opposition to the expansion.

"We knew there was student opposition to the expan-

sion," she said. "I think students are becoming more concerned with campus issues."

Fejfar said the drive gathered more than 400 signatures in the last hour of its life. She agreed with Marienau, saying the decision was affected by the petitions.

"I think that had quite a bit to do with (Grand Island Regent) Koefoot's decision to table it."

Bill Skoneki said he was glad the regents voted to table the motion. He said he was certain the motion would have passed if it came to a vote.

"From what I understand of the regents, anytime something is tabled, it moves a step closer to defeat."

Skoneki said the four leaders (Mike Herman is the other) worked all night Thursday organizing the petition drive. Petitions were passed out at most of the fraternities and sororities during dinner, he said.

Petitions also were distributed in the dormitories and in several classrooms. Skoneki said the petition drive was ASUN President Greg Johnson's idea.

Herman said he thought five to 10 thousand students would have signed the petitions if ASUN had organized sooner, but said he was happy with the final total.



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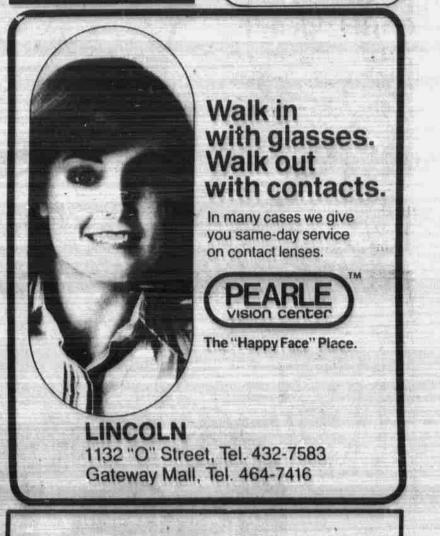
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