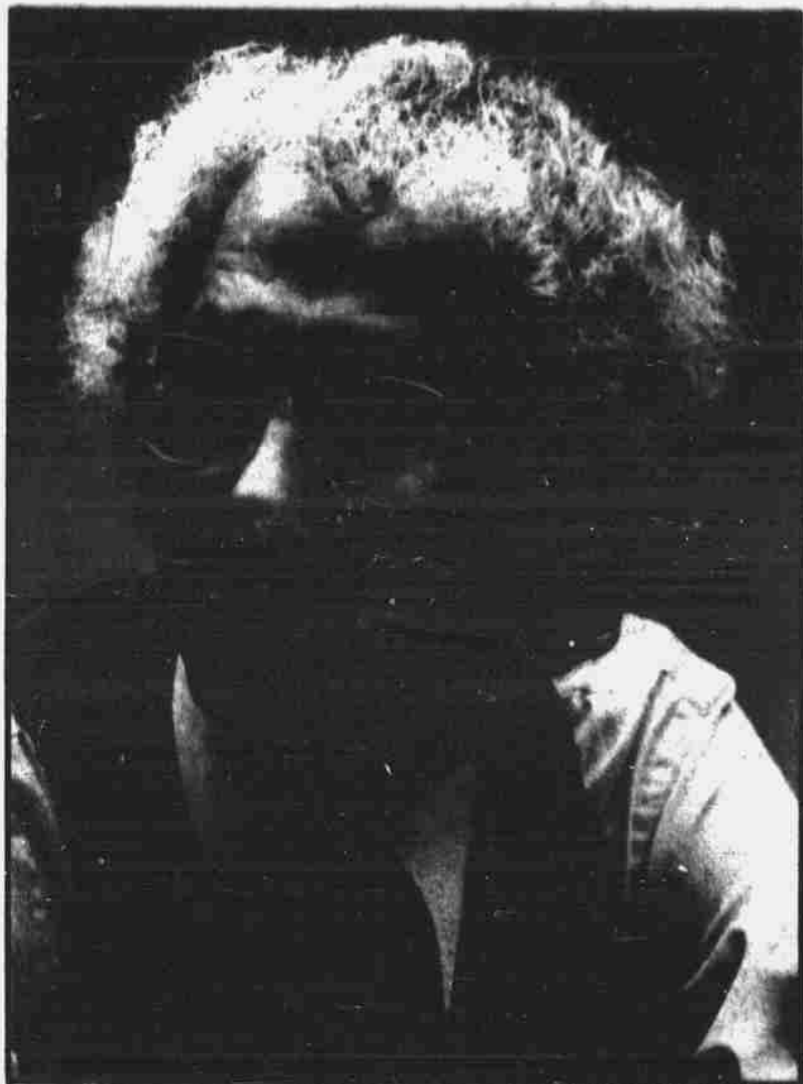


ASUN projections unavailable

Voter turnout highest in eight years



Daily Nebraskan photo
ASUN President Ken Marienau

By Shelley Smith and
Barb Richardson

With the polls closed, and the votes being counted by the Electoral Commission, ASUN presidential candidates said they were nervous and anxious to hear final results. No ballots had been counted by 12:45 a.m. and the count was not expected to begin until 2:00 a.m., according to Electoral Commissioner Susan Ugai.

"We didn't get them here (the computer center at Nebraska Hall) until about 9:30," Ugai said. Once the commission received the ballots they had to sort the ballots according to college, senators, executive and so on, she said.

Ugai said the sorting process would end about 2:00 a.m. after which the first computer run would take place. The executive ballots will be run first, she said.

Candidates optimistic

Bud Cuca, presidential candidate with the Students for the University of Nebraska (SUN) party, Scott Brittenham with the Students Advocating Innovative Leadership (SAIL) party, and Henry (Bob) Winkler with the SINK party were busy talking with other party candidates and buying each other beers.

Cuca said he was optimistic about the final results, but added that it was hard to make a judgement.

He said he was pleased with his campaign, and said he felt an accomplishment by the size of the voter turnout.

Joe Nigro, presidential candidate for the Students Organized for Active Representation (SOAR) party said he "was happy" with the large voter turnout.

"I'm happy for the students' sake. And, I think it was good for us too," he said.

Nigro said he felt the campaign was a "good experience" for him and said he had no regrets about any of it.

However, Jon Pfeiffer, first vice presidential candidate for the SAIL party said he believed the elections were an "experience in dirty campaigning."

Current ASUN President Ken Marienau said he was also pleased with the turnout, and projected the percentage at about 22 percent.

In last year's election, voter turnout was only 10 percent, according to Marienau. He attributed the higher percentage to more polling places and the increased number of parties running in the election.

A 22 percent voter turnout would be the highest since 1971.

RHA results

Although the ASUN election final results were not available, results from the Residence Hall Association election, held in conjunction with ASUN elections were tabulated.

Jay Curtiss, a junior who lives in Neihardt Residence Center, was elected RHA president and led a sweep of RHA offices by his FIRE party.

Curtiss received 433 votes, according to unofficial election results. Harlan Milder of OSL party received 349 votes, 238 of which were cast at the Harper-Schramm-Smith complex where he lives. Jerrie Muir finished third with 130 votes.

Elected with Curtiss were FIRE candidates Karen Schrader, vice president; Nancy Kenyon, secretary; and the highest vote getter of all candidates, Glen Thomas, treasurer. Thomas received 552 votes.

Polling problems

973 people voted in the RHA election, which is 21 percent of those eligible to vote. Last year, 17.5 percent of residence hall students voted in RHA elections.

Along with slow ballot counting in the ASUN election, problems were also reported at several polling places.

According to poll worker Mike Ebers, there were many problems at the Abel/Sandoz polls.

Ebers said workers ran out of senate ballots for the Arts and Sciences, Home Economics and Architecture Colleges. He said he wrote down students' names and told them to come back when they got more ballots.

"Some people came back, but I don't know if everyone did," he said.

"Too disorganized"

"It was too disorganized," Ebers said. He added that the disorganization could have hurt voter turnout.

Ebers said after four or five women finished voting they said they would never vote in an ASUN election again because it was too much hassle.

Despite organization problems, Ebers said there was a good turnout at the complex. He estimated about 150 people voted in a 75-minute period.

OSI senatorial candidate Pat McGuire said when he voted at Love Library during the afternoon poll workers stamped his student identification card and not his left thumb nail.

Some poll workers did not know what ballots to give undeclared students, McGuire said.

Another problem Ebers pointed out was the misprinted executive ballot. Workers did not have time to correct all the ballots, so students may have been confused.

Although the Abel-Sandoz polls had problems, a poll worker at Nebraska Hall said it was the opposite picture at her poll.

"Since about 5:30, there's been about 5 people an hour," Theresa Schekirke said.

Possible run-off

The voter turnout at Sigma Chi fraternity was "not bad," according to poll worker Nancy Kenyon. Kenyon said most voters were members of Sigma Chi fraternity or other campus fraternity and sorority members.

Kenyon said that 2 people voted during the last hour of voting.

Poll worker Larry Bennett said the only problem he experienced at the Union was some students could not vote because they did not have a current registration sticker on their student identification card.

Ugai also expressed hope that the new system for electing ASUN executives will function properly.

"Hopefully, the Hare system will work so we won't have to have another election," Ugai said.

However, she said there is always a chance that a run-off election between the two top vote getters would have to be called after spring break.

Cancer causing agents discussed

By Amy Lenzen
Associate news editor

Regulations prohibiting the use of carcinogenic chemicals by food producers are based on bad scientific methods, destructive to agricultural marketing and neither wanted nor needed by consumers, according to critics at an agricultural forum Monday night.

The forum "Consumer Legislation and Its Effect on Agriculture," was sponsored by Alpha Zeta, national honorary for agriculture students.

Constance Kies, UNL professor of Human Nutrition and Food Service Management in the School of Home Economics; Dominick Costello, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Marketing Chief, and Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood, chairman of the Agriculture Committee criticized consumer legislation and the Food and Drug Administration, the regulatory agency charged with enforcing it.

Julia Hewgley, consumer affairs officer of the Omaha FDA office explained the agency's role in enforcing the legislation and why the legislation was passed.

Impossible amendment

Kies criticized the Delaney amendment to the Food and Drug Act of the late 1950s. This act prohibits the use of any substance that is shown to be carcinogenic, in any species, in any amount, as a food additive.

Although the law is morally good because it seeks to prevent cancer, it is scientifically unsound, she said.

Instead of allowing substances to be used in safe amounts they are totally prohibited which is impossible, according to Kies.

Because new technology allows scientists to detect substances in smaller and smaller amounts they can find a little of everything in anything.

This leads to the use of extremely large doses of chemicals being given to test animals and a bad scientific practice, she said.

Costello said the regulations "tend to create marketing barriers" because they raise the cost of production and the costs to the consumer.

He cited beef import legislation, unnecessary and ex-

pensive health and safety requirements in food processing plants, and labeling requirements as examples of bad regulations.

There are part of the "mountains of artificial costs between the farmer and the consumer" that have created barriers to selling agricultural products, Costello said.

"When you put the cost factor on there, I can't see where you have produced a better food product.

"At what point does consumer protection become consumer harassment in the form of higher costs?"

He said regulations prohibiting the use of supposed carcinogens are based on fear—although it can't be proven that chemicals cause cancer they are banned out of fear they are not safe.

Marketing regulations

"People say 'support is there,' so we make regulations and we say it can't be wrong if no one gets hurt. But someone does get hurt—the producer," Costello said.

Schmit said in his experience as a legislator most concern with consumer affairs is not by "those people who walk up and down the streets" but by government officials.

"Interest from the general public is no way as great as it was 10 years ago," Schmit explained.

He also said the regulations are not realistic.

"There is no way to find out that something is absolutely safe. We cannot have a completely safe society."

He said the cost of regulations is prohibitive to the producer and the consumer.

Consumerists want a "society so clean and pure that we cannot afford to exist," Schmit said. "We are living longer today, but we worry more about the cost of health care than about the disease."

Consumer's fears

Consumerist fears are based on a lack of information about chemical use, he added.

"They are used to improve and enhance the lives of everyone in this country," he noted.

"In the long run," he said, "we have to balance regulation and control over competition and freedom."

Hewgley said the primary role of the FDA is that of a consumer health protection agency.

Although Costello had argued that FDS should be under the department of Agriculture it is under the control of HEW, she said, because "once that food is produced, it has a different meaning—the consumer protection role begins, the production role has ended."

She said the scientific studies Kies criticized are "the best we have today."

Agency responsibilities

The FDA deals with abuse and problems and the agency seems to take a negative approach to drugs because it is problem oriented.

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