

# Hearings on 'super' board display lack of interest

By Cindy Coglianes

Some members of the State Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee said they would be in favor of another public hearing on the "super" Board of Regents issue on Oct. 19 in Fremont despite a lack of interest by the public.

The legislative resolution, sponsored by State Sen. David Newell of Omaha, calls for a study of Board of Regents that would preempt the state's current Board of Trustees, six governing boards and the NU Board of Regents.

Two public hearings in Kearney and Omaha showed a lack of interest among the public with only a few people testifying at each meeting. Committee chairman Sen. Barry Reutzel of Fremont said the committee cancelled a third hearing in Columbus after the light turnout at the Omaha hearing on Aug. 27.

Since then, Newell has requested a third hearing about four of the seven committee members are supporting the meeting. Reutzel said the October date is the only time available for the hearing and is pending further approval.

Sen. Gerald Koch of Ralston said he is not in favor of a third public hearing because of lack of public interest.

"The previous hearings have demonstrated that there is a lack of interest. There is no interest with the public and among post-secondary officials," said Koch, who was one of the founders of the present post-secondary education advisory board.

In addition, of the five committee members surveyed, only Sen. Walter George of Blair supported the idea of a super Board of Regents.

He said he was interested in having the third hearing in October so that the super board may be promoted. He said many states have one board that controls its community colleges, state colleges and university systems.

Sens. Reutzel, Larry Stoney of Omaha and Calvin Carsten of Avoca said they disagree with Newell's resolution, but wish to study the matter further.

"I think the thing that is weighing in my mind is that it was put before the people once and they voted it down," Reutzel added.

Sen. Carsten said he thinks the present structure is adequate and that a super Board of Regents may be "too mammoth."

He added that the third hearing should be scheduled because the "committee has started on the subject and should finish it."

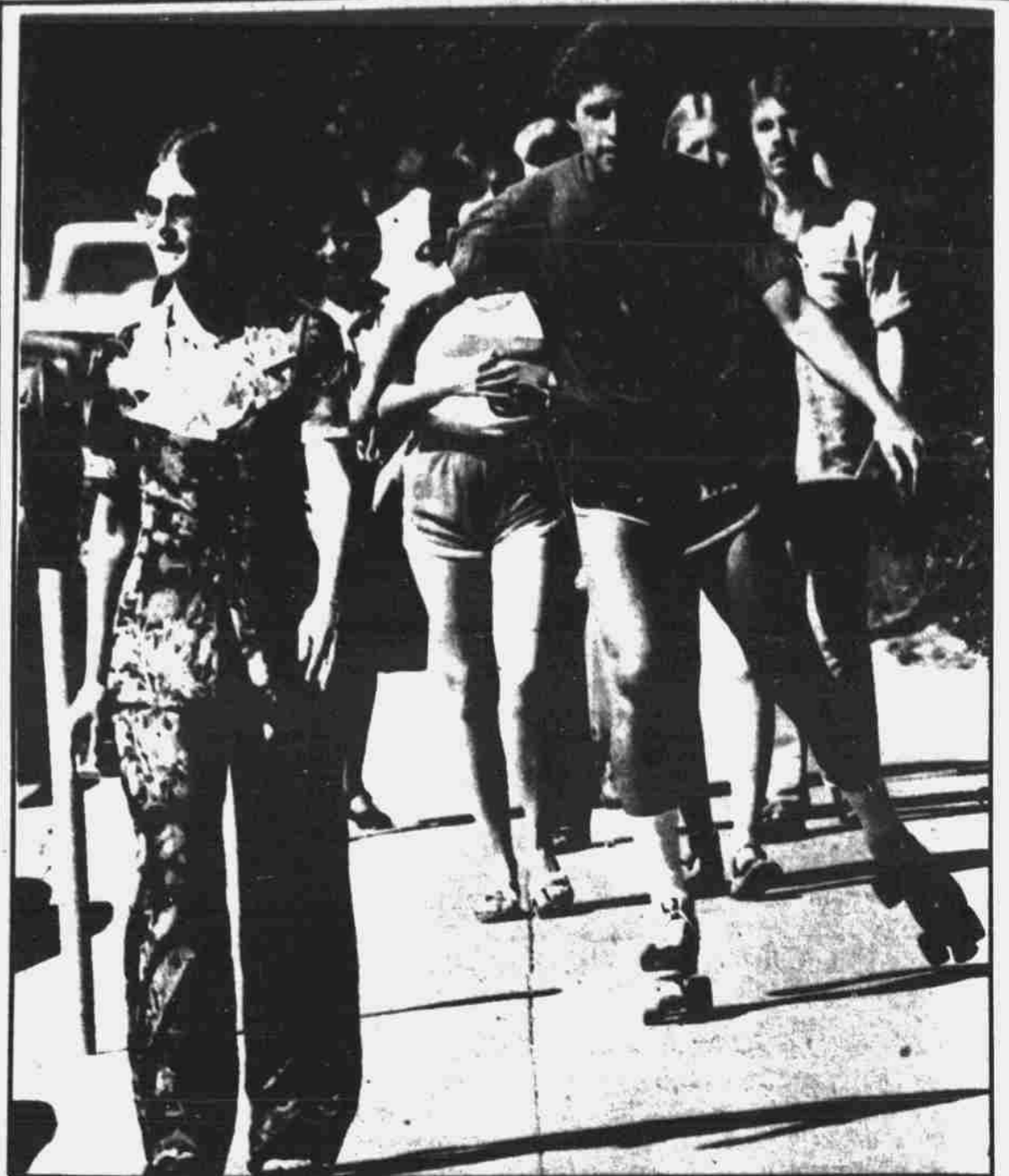
Stoney agreed that any resolution intro-

duced by a legislator deserves a public hearing. He said, however, that he has not been convinced that a super Board of Regents could effectively run the post-secondary operations.

Stoney said public sentiment may have changed with California's Proposition 13

and the property tax freezes in Nebraska City and Omaha showing a greater public concern of budgetary matters.

Other committee members, Sens. Carol McBride Pirsch of Omaha and Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, could not be contacted for comment.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Dave Stern, a Sigma Alpha Mu member, wheels his way along the sidewalk. Sure it saves gas, but what do you do when you come to a flight of stairs?

## Senior enjoys rolling to class

By Lynn Mongar

Getting to class is just a "hop, skate and a jump" for one UNL senior.

Journalism major Bill Kraft has joined the roller skating craze sweeping the east and west coasts. Kraft has taken a sporting interest in skates a step further by rolling to classes.

"Saving time is an added advantage. Mainly, I skate because it's fun," Kraft said.

He said he had expected more students to be skating on campus, adding, "I haven't seen anyone else skating to classes yet."

One of Kraft's friends, a student at UNO, told Kraft that quite a few students skate to class there.

The main reason people aren't skating is that they worry about what other people will think, he said. They also worry about falling, he added.

Kraft said the cost of skates could be another reason people aren't skating. Kraft's new outdoor wheels, which are made of softer rubber than skating rink wheels, cost him about \$40. "When I spent \$40 on skates, I decided I was going to skate," he explained.

Kraft skates inside buildings as well as on sidewalks. "Tile is terrific. It's like sailing on a cloud," he said. But stairs and deep pile carpeting are hazards Kraft tries to avoid. Kraft said he removes his skates if there are a lot of stairs.

"One floor I don't mind—but three flights of stairs are really bad," he said.

Kraft explained that by pointing his foot and using the skate's toe stop he can climb stairs easily.

But, he said, going downstairs is "scary and takes longer. That's the only time someone is faster than me."

Other hazards for skaters are gravel, brick sidewalks, and sprinklers, which make pavement slippery, he said. "You have to get to know every little crack and rough spot in the cement."

Kraft has learned alternate routes to classes which avoid rough or dangerous areas. "I'm finding out where all the handicapped ramps are," he said.

Pedestrian traffic isn't a problem, if you think ahead and keep in mind that

everyone is going slower than you are, he said. "It's like going 100 mph down O street."

Kraft also skates to his job at the Boar's Head Restaurant at 200 N. 70th St. "My boss even wanted me to wait on tables with my skates on," he said.

Jay Crossman, manager of the Roll-over Skate Rental and Ales, also skates to work, a distance of about 2 miles, to 14th and P streets.

The store, which opened Aug. 26, rents skates for \$2 for the first hour and \$1 for every hour thereafter. The store also sells skates that cost between \$15 and \$79, according to Crossman.

A variety of skate styles are being offered to eight-wheelers. For instance, a California manufacturer has not forgotten the cowhand in the skating craze. The "skateboot" is selling at Macy's and Bloomingdale's for \$225. That price, however, does not include hubcaps on the wheels, soon to be offered.

The "jogger skate," a tennis shoe with wheels, sells for about \$79. Crossman said the jogger skate is one of the best quality skates available.

Buying skates for the store cost the owner, David Putensen, about \$7,000, Crossman said. Putensen also will be providing skaters with knee and elbow pads.

Store hours beginning Monday are 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. weekdays, and 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends. Crossman said he will be offering three skating lessons for \$5 beginning next week, not including a \$2 skate rental charge.

A regular customer, Ken West, said that until recently he hadn't skated in years.

"It's really not hard to pick back up," he said—as he fell down.

He did say he had just started skating outdoors.

Crossman said he began skating outside because he didn't like the indoor rinks. "The rinks are loud, and there are too many little kids to fall over," he said.

He also said he didn't like the disco music played at many roller rinks. "Besides, all you do is go around in a circle," he said. "Outside you are much freer to do what you want to do."

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