

# ASUN surprised by union hour cutback

By Barb Richardson

ASUN President Bud Cuca said he was a "bit surprised" Thursday morning when he read in the Daily Nebraskan that the Nebraska Union hours had been shortened.

Cuca explained that members of the ASUN senate were unaware that the Union Board was voting on hours Wednesday night when the senate also met.

Cuca also said the communication problem creates unnecessary "animosity" between Union Board and ASUN.

The Union Board voted that night to shorten the Nebraska Union hours to 11:30 p.m., instead of midnight, on Fridays and Saturdays. The union will open at 9 instead of 8 a.m. on non-football Saturdays. The East Union will close at 10:30 instead of 11 p.m., Sunday through Thursday and will close at 11 p.m., instead of midnight, on Fridays and Saturdays.

The board shortened hours to help pay utility bills. Because the Nebraska Legislature voted last year to no longer finance bonded projects, among them the unions, the union was left with a \$244,027 utility bill.

"None of us (Union Board members) want to close the building," board President John Kreuscher said, but "we need the money."

After the hour cuts, the union has \$4,070 left to pay for utilities, Kreuscher told the Daily Nebraskan.

ASUN SEN. DALE WOJTASEK said he

was surprised by the change in hours. Wojtasek sponsored an ASUN resolution that objected to cutting the unions' hours.

The resolution said because closing the union decreases the hours available for students who support the building, ASUN should oppose limiting the hours.

Wojtasek said the resolution, which was not introduced, will not be introduced Wednesday night. He said the resolution was not introduced last Wednesday because he told the senate that Union Board would give the senate warning before they voted on the change.

Wojtasek said when he read the paper Thursday he felt like he had been used, because the board did not warn the senate.

Kreuscher said he told the board they probably should wait for ASUN's reaction, but because ASUN gave the Union Board responsibility for consulting the union staff on policy changes, they went ahead and voted on changing the hours.

Wojtasek said it would be pointless for ASUN to address the resolution. He said he doesn't plan to introduce the resolution at Wednesday's ASUN meeting.

ALTHOUGH WOJTASEK said that he can now justify the cut in hours, he said he was bothered by the communication between ASUN and the union board.

Instead of verbally letting ASUN know, through Cuca, that the vote on hours would take place Wednesday, Wojtasek said that Kreuscher sent ASUN a letter in the mail that arrived Thursday after the

change.

Wojtasek said that Kreuscher told the senate on Nov. 14, that he wanted student input on the changes and was going to do a study to determine how many people use the union during the late hours.

Wojtasek said he didn't know if students were talked to about the change.

"My argument is not with the hour cuts, but with the communication barrier," Wojtasek said.

Kreuscher said that one of the reasons that the board took action last week was so that if students were upset about the change the board could change the decision this week. He added that the board talked to the night managers to find out how many people use the union late at night.

"IT'S QUITE COMMON that only one person is in the building at closing time," he said.

Kreuscher said that he is assuming that the hour changes are acceptable because he hasn't heard any negative feedback from students.

"The Union Board is made up of students, and if that's the only student

input the board used, then I would say that is biased," ASUN Second Vice-President Kim Weiland said.

"I can understand why they would close the union, but I don't agree with the communication used," she said.

She said that she had not heard of any correspondence between Union Board and ASUN about Wednesday night's vote.

"I was very upset that Union Board didn't wait for ASUN's position," ASUN Sen. Bob Knuth said. "If you look at what ASUN is supposed to be, we're supposed to represent the students of UNL and their opinions."

Knuth said the cut in hours is not such a "catastrophe" if it is the best possible solution.

Although he was surprised, Cuca said that it's hard to comment on the changes because he didn't have all the facts, such as the number of people using the building late at night.

Kreuscher said that he will probably be at ASUN's Wednesday night meeting to discuss why the changes were made.

## Boosalis corrects Scherer

The Daily Nebraskan quoted City Council member Leo Scherer Nov. 27 as saying the mayor spent \$3,600 on travel expenses for the last fiscal year.

Mayor Helen Boosalis said the figure was wrong. She said she spent \$1,800 on traveling expenses for the last fiscal year.

## Flood area to be discussed

Rehabilitation alternatives will be discussed today for a flood area in the Malone neighborhood.

The area from O to R streets and 22nd to 27th streets has one chance in a hundred years of flooding, Larry Potratz of the Urban Development Department said.

The meeting is part of an eight-step process before Lincoln can spend federal community block grant funds for rehabilitation in the area.

Citizens are invited to the meeting at the Grace United Methodist Church, 2640 R St., at 7 p.m. to give suggestions.

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