

ASUN advocates return of coins

By Kent Warneke

A talk by a late addition to ASUN's open forum speakers, the coordinator for the African People's Union, resulted in extensive debate and discussion over UNL's acceptance of 1,300 Krugerrand coins during ASUN's Wednesday meeting.

Subsequently, ASUN passed a resolution advocating the end of all economic involvement, directly or indirectly, by the University and the NU Foundation in the economy of South Africa, especially including the donation of the Krugerrands.

Hodari Sobabu called the South African coins "blood money" resulting from the savagery of South African apartheid government.

Several senators asked Sobabu why he would not be satisfied with anything less than the immediate return of the coins to the donor, a 1923 UNL alumnus.

Sen. Wendy Wysong, asked why there was no attempt to put the money towards black student affairs or Affirmative Action.

"Why not look at the money as vindication for past wrongs committed to blacks in South Africa and look for practical good use in the present situation," Wysong said.

Sen. Renee Wessels said that if stipulations could be altered, possibly the money could go for programs sponsored by the University Program Council's Culture Center, a programming body designed for minority students.

The donation has been stipulated for the College of Engineering with not more than 10 percent to be spent each year.

'Nothing less'

"We'd rather see the Culture Center fall down and collapse rather than use those coins," Sobabu said. "We won't accept anything less than the return of the coins to the donor."

In a recent development, ASUN president, Bud Cuca, said the proposed idea for photo identification cards for UNL students has been scrapped.

Cuca said he met with regent Robert Prokop, vice-chancellor Richard Armstrong, Athletic Director Bob Devaney and Ticket Manager Helen Wagner and it was determined the problem was a result of enforcement rather than identification.

"The University will be implementing stricter enforcement with student athletic tickets, but photo I.D.'s are out of the picture," Cuca said.

Cuca also announced that the state students' association has been organized after a meeting with representatives from Omaha.

"The association is getting off the ground and it

appears that it will be a very viable organization," Cuca said.

Lovato, Casdos talk

Rumaldo Lovato and Leroy Casdos, representing the United Chicanos and Chicanas of Aztlan, also spoke during open forum recommending acts intended to help promote the removal of discrimination.

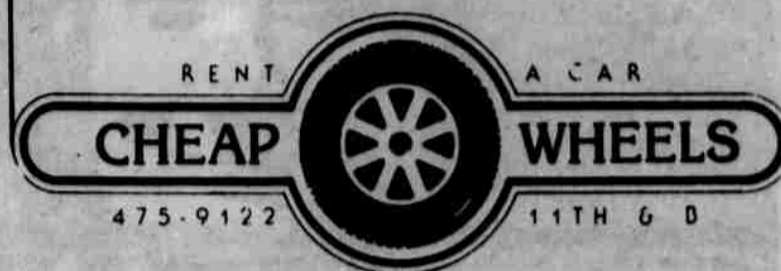
The recommendations included endorsing an increase in recruiting of Chicano and Chicana faculty members and requiring all ASUN senators to take a course in ethnic studies or attend seminars to increase the understanding of what Casdos called, "the third-world experience."

Sen. Gail Casteel asked if any constructive attempts had been made by their group to accomplish their objectives besides looking for outside help.

"You come in here and ask us to do things for you, but have you made any attempts to do things for yourselves, like running for ASUN or joining University Program Council?" Casteel asked.

Sen. Jim Davidson said that, as representatives of UNL, students ASUN should push for a comprehensive Affirmative Action program for the University as soon as possible.

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