

Hedges: Constitution protects engineering college

By Val Swinton

The NU College of Engineering and Technology will not be forced to shut down, no matter how bad the university's budget crunch becomes.

That's the word from Ned Hedges, vice chancellor for academic affairs, who spoke to a group of engineering students last week at Nebraska Hall.

Hedges made his remarks in response to a story in the March 5 Daily Nebraskan. The story quoted Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Larry Andrews as saying the engineering program may be discontinued if funding for the college does not increase.

But Hedges said Thursday the story simply was not true.

"That was a figment of somebody's imagination," he said. "But it was not Larry Andrews' or mine."

Hedges said the state constitution protects the engineering college. A provision of the constitution says the university must

provide instruction in the mechanical arts, which, Hedges said, has been interpreted to mean the engineering college.

"Even the Legislature cannot do away with the College of Engineering," Hedges told the students.

Andrews' denial

Andrews, in a telephone interview Sunday, denied making the statement, saying that he had instead indicated that 75 percent to 80 percent of the programs at the university, including the engineering and business programs, were unique not only to post-secondary education, but to the state as well, and would not be removed.

"I have affirmed and will continue to affirm our support for the programs and will do everything to secure resources," he said.

Both Hedges and Lyle Young, acting dean of the engineering college, said efforts were being made to help solve the funding problem within the college. Hedges said

one of the major problems was the difficulty in filling vacant faculty positions. There are 13 vacant positions, difficult to fill because of low salaries—a problem Hedges blamed on the Nebraska Legislature.

"In not one of the past seven years has the rate of increase in salary appropriated by the Legislature come close to the rate of inflation," he said.

Compounding the problem is the current demand for engineering graduates in private industry.

"People with bachelors' degrees are going out and making more money than professors," Hedges said.

Few future teachers

Both Hedges and Young agreed that high salaries in private industry are keeping students out of graduate programs. And graduate students, they said, are future teachers.

To prove his point, Hedges asked for a show of hands of the 20 students at the meeting who planned to enroll in graduate

courses. Three responded.

Lack of funding also is putting a disproportionate burden on the engineering college because of the large amounts of money needed for equipment at the school.

Young said attempts were being made to solve funding problems by soliciting outside donations. He said a letter-writing campaign to alumni and businesses in the state should help.

Hedges said \$250,000 in the new budget has been earmarked for the college, and the chances of getting the money "are very good."

The controversial Krugerrands, donated to the college also would help ease financial problems, according to Young.

NU Alumnus James Coe of Phoenix, Ariz. donated about \$900,000 in Krugerrands to help fund equipment purchases in the college, but the donation has been protested by members of a black organization on campus, because they say black labor was exploited in mining the gold in the coins.

ASUN president endorses Parsons

By Lori McGinnis

ASUN President Bud Cuca Sunday endorsed John Parsons for the 1980-1981 ASUN presidency.

Cuca said although Parsons and Renee Wessels are the front runners in the campaign for the presidency, he is endorsing Parsons and the STAR party because he said Parsons' plans to implement ideas clearly "rests head and shoulders above" Wessels, a member of the US party.

Cuca, along with Willie Watters, campaign manager for Cuca and the SUN Party in 1979, Jon Pfeiffer, a 1979 SAIL candidate for ASUN's second vice presidency, and Scott Brittenham, a former senator and a candidate for the ASUN presidency in 1979, announced their support for Parsons in an afternoon press conference.

On the basis of the debates, Watters said Parsons stands out from the other three candidates. Wessels and Parsons have similar ideas, but the difference is in their sincerity, he said.

"As far as I'm concerned, he's worth his weight in Krugerrands," Watters said.

Pfeiffer said that while all candidates are operating in the university system, he agreed that Parsons' plans for implementing his goals stood out.

Brittenham said Parsons has a "keen sense of what needs to be done."

Watters, Pfeiffer and Brittenham said they will actively campaign for Parsons.

Parsons said he wasn't sure if Cuca would endorse him, but was hoping he would.

"I'm very pleased with the decision he's made," Parsons said. "I think it's the right decision."

Parsons said Cuca's endorsement will give his candidacy a boost, but he will continue to campaign hard.

Wessels said she was disappointed about Cuca's endorsement.

"I'm disappointed in Bud and his judgment, however I don't feel his endorsement will have much of an impact."

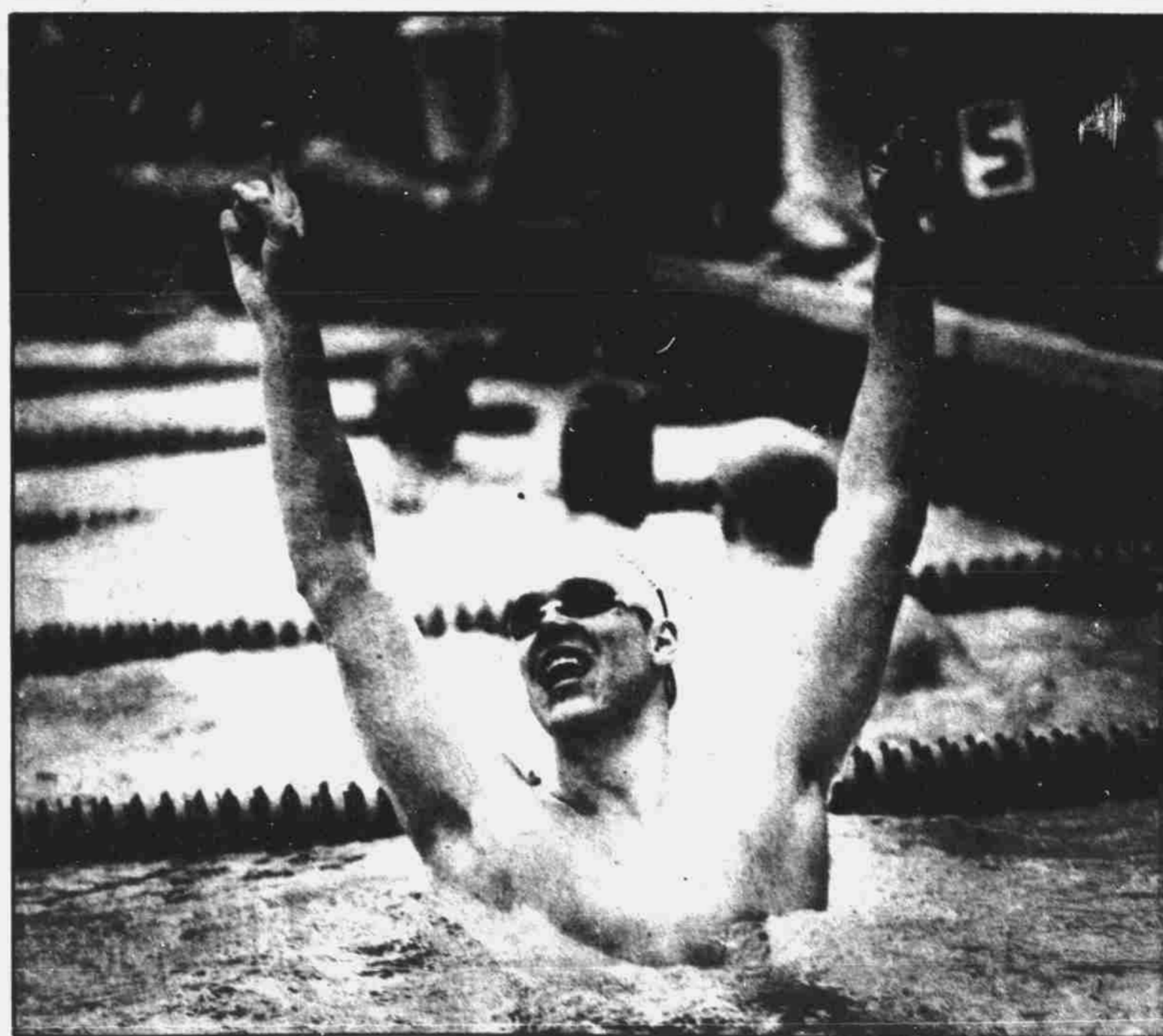


Photo by Colin Hackley

Thrill of victory

"We're number one," Husker swimmer Anders Rutqvist exclaims. UNL won Big Eight titles in both men's swimming and diving, and in men's gymnastics this weekend. For stories, see page 14.

Group unveils five write-in candidates, platform

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Students claiming that they have been denied their right to a bona fide joke party, Militants Encouraging Collegiate Aggression, Sunday unveiled their candidate and presented a 12-point platform for this week's ASUN elections.

Kirk Ehrlich, a journalism senior from Lincoln, was revealed as the unidentified candidate referred to in Daily Nebraskan ads for the past month, according to Tim Mommaerts, MECA party member. Ehrlich will run as a write-in candidate for ASUN president.

Other candidates named on the MECA ticket were Diane Walkowiak, a senior in social sciences from Spalding for first vice president; Joe Beam, an electrical engineering junior from Omaha for second vice president; Dianna Todd, a freshman forestry major from Lincoln for agriculture college senator; and Ron Dahlke, a non-student ambassador to the Air Park West Campus.

Although there is no UNL campus at Air Park West,

Ehrlich said the party feels having an ambassador there may strengthen its standing with the NU Board of Regents' past proposal to relocate Memorial Stadium there.

Mommaerts was quick to disassociate MECA's name from an off-campus organization of the same name.

The Monday Evening Club Amended, a broad-based group that meets weekly off-campus, has no direct involvement with this campaign other than that the Monday Evening Club launched the unknown candidate, Mommaerts said.

"It would be grievously offensive to be called a joke party," Ehrlich said. "I'm serious about everything on this platform."

MECA's 12 proposals include:

—guaranteeing all students "the rights to sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll."

—allying UNL with the "University of Wisconsin-Madison in its war against the Universities of Kansas and Missouri, and set(ing) up an exchange treaty with UW-M

whereby we would trade corn for beer." Ehrlich explained this would fulfill ASUN's overdue need for taking an active stand and said that, if elected, he would create a department of war.

Ehrlich, figuring that MECA would get along pretty well with presidential candidate Tim Munson, said he would appoint Munson chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs of UNL.

—replace all disco music in campus jukeboxes with Spike Jones recordings.

—allow religious testimony on campus and bring back St. Christopher medals.

—establish a pub in the Nebraska Union. Beam said this could open the door to selling beer at athletic events.

—establish parity between Greeks and GDI's by eliminating the dorm system." Beam said MECA believes the fraternities and sororities provide valuable services to the university. The vacated residence halls would be used to hold prisoners from the war with the Universities of Kansas and Missouri.