

## ASUN election turnout highest in nine years

Compiled from staff reports  
Written by Kent Warneke

Wednesday was ASUN election night, but the important part of elections—the results—weren't available.

At midnight, the electoral commission had not counted all the ballots, but had determined that this year's election turnout was the highest since 1971.

Rocky Yapp, chairman of the electoral

commission, said 3,880 students voted in this year's election, compared to 2,950 last year and the record of 4,370 in 1971.

The official results were not expected until approximately 2 a.m. Thursday. ASUN president Bud Cuca said a delay in correcting the program run on computers in Nebraska Hall used to tabulate the ballots was responsible in part for the delay in announcing the winners.

"We didn't know exactly what kind of

ballot we would be using until a few days ago and we had to see if there would be any write-in candidates for the executive positions," Cuca said.

The five presidential candidates were awaiting election results at various locations.

John Parsons, STAR party candidate, said he "loved" the large voter turnout.

"I'd say (LSD candidate Tim) Munson's party had a lot to do with the turnout because he stirred up a lot of interest," Parsons said.

out. Also, Fowler ran with the University Coalition Party (UC), compared to his aide's US (University Students) party.

Tim Munson, LSD candidate, predicted that the vote would be split evenly three ways, but didn't indicate which three candidates would be involved in the split.

"Any time you give the voters something to vote for, they'll turn out," Munson said.

Munson said he would take the credit for the large turnout in the elections, saying, "In order to get people to the circus, you've got to have a sideshow."

Write-in candidate Lynn Rogers said he was surprised by the turnout and attributed it to the issues raised in the last days of the campaign.

Rogers said he felt his campaign went very well considering that he worked on it for only five days. He said his campaign was not a one-issue campaign.

### Religious issue a concern

Rogers, a member of one of the four religious organizations put on probation in connection with Josh McDowell's visit, said if 300 people wrote his name in, it shows that people are concerned about the religious issue.

"If there is more than that, it shows this issue can't be put to rest," Rogers said.

The fifth candidate, Jay Willhoft, was unavailable for comment.

Voter turnout throughout the day varied with location.

According to pollworkers, East Union had a steady and heavy turnout and the City Union attracted more voters than last year.

Two fraternity houses doubling as polling sites reported light turnouts overall, primarily from Greek members. Poll workers at the Theta Xi fraternity estimated about 30 voters per hour during the evening hours.

Kay Harrison, a volunteer from the League of Women Voters said most of the students she talked with at the Phi Kappa Psi house had questions about the Hare ballot system.

"I just don't think they've taken time to read (the instructions)," she said.

Cuca said in briefly looking through the ballots, it didn't appear that incorrect usage of the Hare ballots was large. Usage of the ballots is not complicated, but just takes a little extra time, he said.



Photo by Tom Gessner

Senior Patty Ebel prepares to vote in Wednesday's ASUN elections.

Corkie Kumpost and the Concerned About Residential Environment party swept the RHA elections gaining all four executive positions.

Kumpost received 802 votes for the presidency, far out-distancing write-in candidate Steve Rowe, who got 41 votes.

When reached about her victory, Kumpost said, "I'm excited because there's a lot of things I want to do."

She said she wants to work to increase student input into what RHA can do.

Lisa Burianek was elected vice president, Susan MacDonald secretary and Russell Oatman was elected treasurer of RHA.

Parsons added that he thought the US party added to the turnout because of sheer numbers, but Parsons' party stirred up interest because it had "quality people."

US presidential candidate Renee Wessels said, "I feel tremendously positive, I feel like we did it," she told friends over the telephone.

The high voter turnout was attributed to individual canvassing on the US party's behalf, Wessels said, adding that she felt the endorsements of Parsons by Cuca and Daily Nebraskan editor Rocky Strunk "were very insignificant."

"I think everyone has a very good chance," she said.

### Fowler calls

At her party headquarters, Wessels received a call from State Sen. Steve Fowler to wish her good luck. Wessels is a legislative aid for Fowler.

Fowler was elected ASUN president in 1971, when the record 4,300 voters turned

## Diplomat: Morality complicates Krugerrand issue

By Mary Jo Pitzl

The Krugerrand controversy at UNL could be easily solved if it was strictly an economic issue, according to a former U.S. diplomat to South Africa.

However, since the acceptance of the gold coins involves moral considerations, solutions are not easily obtained, said Jean Tartter, UNL diplomat in residence. He declined comment on whether the \$1 million in South African Krugerrands given to the NU Foundation in January should be returned to the NU alumnus who donated them.

"Anyone who gives \$1 million to a university has to be respected," Tartter said of 1923 graduate James Coe and his wife, Jessie, of Phoenix.

Emphasizing that he was not condemning Coe in any way, Tartter said Coe's guest opinion printed in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan conveyed some false impressions.

Tartter served as economic counselor of the U.S. embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, from 1976 until August, 1979, when he started his UNL residency. Tartter was also the officer in charge of the Pretoria embassy for six months each year when the U.S. ambassador moved to Capetown to follow the move of the South African parliament.

Tartter commented on several of Coe's statements, including wages for black mine

workers, working conditions in the mines, the dependence of African countries on South African resources, loss of ethnic identity among the original South African settlers, and the freedom of outsiders to buy in black South Africans' stores.

### Few prospects

"The lure of wages in the mines of South Africa brings in people from other countries," Tartter said, but the majority of mine workers are South African blacks. Because of the passport laws and other government regulations, the blacks have few alternative employment prospects.

Until the early 1970s, black mine workers' wages were "extremely low," averaging about \$15 to \$20 per month, Tartter said, but international pressures on the white government coupled with soaring gold prices brought the wages up quickly. Tartter quoted \$80 per month as an average wage last summer.

"I read—I don't always believe them—in the paper the mine companies claim that the average wage (for black workers) is about \$180 per month recently," Tartter said.

Although this figure is on par with national black wages, Tartter claims this is still not enough money to raise a family. "White workers earn, on the average,

about seven times as much as the black," he said.

Tartter conceded that the white government has been making progress to reduce the gap between the two racial groups, but pressure from the powerful white labor unions (the blacks are not allowed to unionize) puts a ceiling on blacks' progression in the South African work structure.

### Charges false

Tartter said charges that the blacks are forced into "slave labor" in the mines are not technically true.

"They're not forced except in that there is no other alternative to earning money."

He said 42 percent of the black South Africans work on a contract basis, which typically obligates them to nine to 12 months of work in a mine away from their homeland. The male workers are not allowed to bring their families with them and live in their barracks, Tartter said.

"This is very, very disruptive of family life and creates severe social problems," Tartter said. It also precludes blacks from job advancement, he said.

Tartter compared the perils of working in the South African gold mines with those of American coal mines. "But the wages are different," he added.

Although many African countries need South African resources, a majority of them are indignant about South Africa's treatment of the blacks, Tartter said. Their opposition may be expressed through embargoes on South African goods and by severing diplomatic relations with the government, Tartter said.

The claim that white settlers were in South Africa before the blacks moved there from the northern parts of the country is a myth, Tartter said. Historians have proven that the blacks were present long before the whites, he said.

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