

## Election suit motives questioned

By Kathy Stokebrand

Two ASUN presidential candidates are questioning the motives behind another candidate's suits concerning the election.

Tim Munson, LSD party presidential candidate said STAR party candidate John Parsons filed suits in Student Court questioning the validity of the election after he discovered he had lost the election.

"Why would he want it (the election) nullified unless he knew he lost," Munson said. Munson charged that it is common knowledge that the current ASUN president, is aligned with Parsons, and he was the connection between the election results and Parsons.

"I did not in anyway release any results," said ASUN

President Bud Cuca. He said the student government was losing credibility due to the "mudslinging and name-calling" surrounding the election.

Renee Wessels, US party presidential candidate said "Tim has a point. His thinking has been expressed by others and needs to be looked into."

She said she wonders why Parsons waited until he did to bring his charges.

### Two suits filed

Parsons filed two suits with the court March 13. One alleges that the Hare System, used in the election for ASUN executive positions, does not satisfy the NU Board of Regents' requirements that the student body executive be elected by majority vote. The second, which charged Munson with bribery, has been dropped.

Parsons said Munson's allegations were rather humorous. "I didn't know the results. It is pretty dumb to make that accusation without proof," he said.

The suit which asks for a re-examination of the Hare System and requests that a run-off election be held between the two top vote-getters if a majority was not indicated, will be amended today, Parsons said. He declined to comment about the amendment but said the suit would still call for a run-off election.

Parsons alleged that Munson had committed bribery by declaring in his campaign that he and his executives

would donate 33 percent of their salaries to financial aid if elected.

Munson said he and Parsons met and agreed that the suit against Munson was interfering with the democratic process. They realized the suit would have no significance toward the results, he said.

Although Munson does not agree with the Hare System for finding a majority, he said a complaint against it should have been filed prior to the election.

### Results withheld

The results of the election will be withheld until at least next Thursday due to an injunction issued by Student Court Chief Justice Scott Cook stemming from another complaint filed with the court.

In that suit Diane Walkowiak and Paul Grabowski charge that poll workers opened and examined voter's ballots before placing them in the ballot box. They asked that the election be declared void because the concepts of democratic elections had been violated.

Jim Davidson, an ASUN senator designated by the electoral commission to help with the ballot tabulations, said the results, other than those for write-in candidates and executive positions, were known about 3:30 a.m. Thursday. The first results for the executive positions came through the computers at about 4:30 a.m. he said.

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## Regents table staff expansion proposal

By Michelle Carr

A resolution to request \$100,000 from the Legislature to finance a staff assistant for each of the eight voting members of the NU Board of Regents was tabled Saturday.

Regent Robert Prokop asked members of the board to adopt the resolution because the NU systems staff is "overburdened" and cannot answer the regents' questions.

Legislators spend money to finance research assistants and they represent only one-seventh of the regents' district area, Prokop said.

Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha moved to table the measure and Regent Ed Schwartzkopf agreed, saying that money is needed in other areas.

"As badly as we (the university) need dollars," he said, "we shouldn't siphon it off from other areas."

Schwartzkopf suggested that if such a staff were created, students could be hired and could earn credit for their research.

### 4-3 vote

Regent Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff said the request would not cause adversity with legislators.

"There is a significant number of legislators who can't understand how we are operating without this (a research staff)."

The resolution was tabled by a four to three vote. Simmons, Prokop and Regent James Moylan of Omaha voted against the tabling motion. Regent Robert Raun of Minden, Regent Robert Koefoot of Grand Island, Schwartzkopf and Hansen voted to table the resolution. Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler was absent.

The regents also heard complaints about the disunity between the summer school calendars at UNO and UNL. William Petrowski, a UNO history professor told the board that the two schedules should be the same.

Petrowski said only 85 percent of class time spent in regular semesters is spent during summer school. He said summer school allows students to take "cheap classes for cheap degrees."

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## Social Security grade IDs violate privacy act

By Debora Hemminger

Posting grades by Social Security numbers is illegal without students' written consent, according to a federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare official.

William Riley, head of the HEW staff regulating the Buckley Amendment to the Privacy Act of 1974, said Social Security numbers are personally identifiable, and therefore cannot be released without permission.

The Buckley Amendment to the Privacy Act protects students' academic records. Grades posted without permission are in violation of the amendment.

But NU General Counsel Richard Wood said he

thought the practice was legal, because an individual's Social Security number cannot easily be traced to the person's identity. He explained that it is a criminal violation for the Social Security Administration to release numbers.

### Written consent

James Kula, a service representative of the Social Security Administration, said an agency may release a number only if it has written consent.

Though Wood said he did not think the practice of posting grades illegal, he called it something not advisable for department heads.

Gerald Bowker, dean of Academic Services, said new faculty are advised to inform their class if they are planning to post grades by social security number and ask if anyone objects. If students do object, they would then personally contact the professor to receive their grades.

Riley said if no one complained about the practices, then nothing would be done because of limited staff.

He said, in the last five years, he could think of two complaints. Both were filed by professors who were disturbed that their colleagues were not complying with the Buckley Amendment.

"Both the students and the professors want to get the grades out," Riley said.

### Ombudsman's office

No complaints were filed throughout 1979 with the UNL Ombudsman's office concerning the posting of grades with Social Security numbers, Faye Moulton of the office said. "It would seem to be a natural concern," she said.

The assistant dean of the law school, Ray Hazen, said he wouldn't think posting grades by Social Security number would be illegal unless the illegal link was related to the fact that Social Security numbers are permanent. He said the law school posts grades by a number, but the number is changed every year and third parties cannot find the owner of the number.

The chairman of the department of geography, Brian Blouet, said posting grades is "left up to the wisdom and discretion of the instructors." He said the practice is probably more common in larger introductory classes because of the numbers of students.

Bowker said HEW has indicated that schools should use common sense in their interpretation of the Buckley Amendment.

He said the main question of the Buckley Amendment is whether the action is going to cause harm to the students.

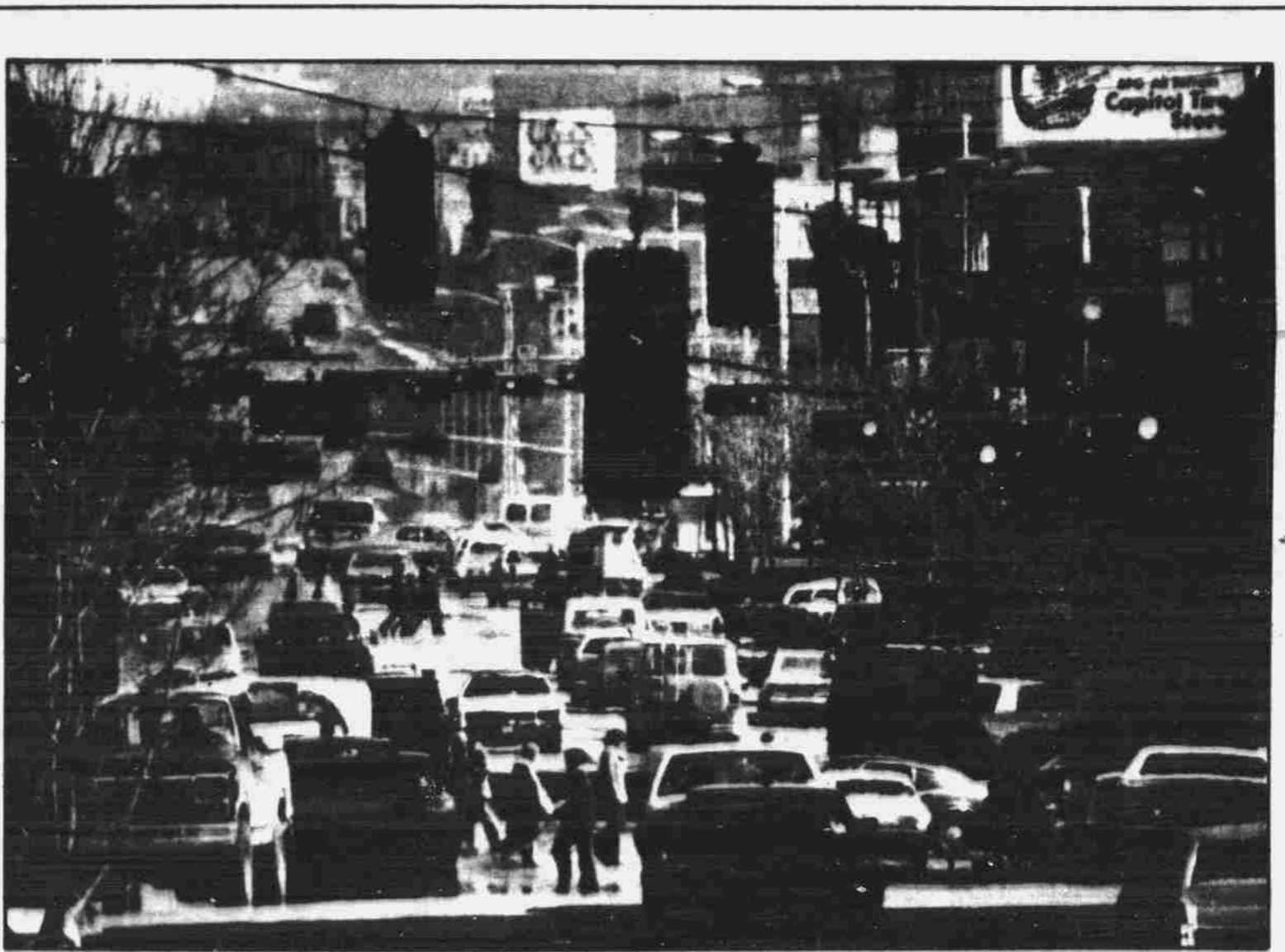


Photo by Mark Billingsley

It may not have been the coming of spring, but high temperatures combined with the state boys' basketball tournament caused many crowded scenes this weekend in downtown Lincoln.

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