

Case withdrawn; unobjectivity cited as reason

By Kent Warneke

Diane Walkowiak and Paul Grabowski withdrew their student court case against the Electoral Commission Thursday afternoon.

"We are backing down from the case, but not from the issue," Walkowiak said.

During a press conference, the two plaintiffs stressed that election reform is badly needed at UNL, but said they felt the ASUN Student Court could not hear their case objectively.

In their amended petition, Walkowiak and Grabowski asked for a binding commitment from all the presidential candidates before the election results were released to take steps to resolve the problems in the UNL election system before the 1981 ASUN election.

Walkowiak said, in a prepared statement, that because one justice is a defendant in their suit, another is the counsel in another court case, and another actively is in-

involved in a candidate's campaign, she doubted the court's objectivity.

The student court is also unclear about its exact powers, she added, and has never determined the extent its jurisdiction covers.

"What we're asking for, they (student court) can't give," Walkowiak said. "They couldn't enforce the binding we wanted."

Faced with an opportunity to constructively reform ASUN's election system, Walkowiak said the material has become so embroiled in campus politics that it would be impossible to achieve their purpose.

"We are sorely distressed that the whole matter has been drug down to the likes of a shabby rendition of the Gong Show and Family Fued," Walkowiak said.

Both Grabowski and Walkowiak said a workable set of procedures should be developed so that future elections can be fair, proper and better organized.

"To continue to sweep problems under the rug is to prepare ourselves for a total breakdown of the election process in the future," Walkowiak said.

Walkowiak said she plans to go before the NU Board of Regents in an attempt to solve the problems of the election procedures and will help others with similar efforts.

Walkowiak said she agreed with John Parsons' court case that the ballot system used in the elections was unfair.

"I would not support a decision for a new election for all ASUN offices, but I have not decided as to my support for a new election between executive positions," she said.

Grabowski and Walkowiak said they had hoped ASUN would join in their effort to resolve the issue in a constructive manner.

"This is not being done and we refuse to don our clown suits and join the circus," Walkowiak said.

Johnson requests Pub Board reply

English instructor Linnea Johnson and her attorney Elaine Waggoner requested Thursday the UNL Publications Board respond to her charges that the Daily Nebraskan printed libelous material last semester.

Johnson and Maria Lemmon, instructor in the English Department, released a nine-page rebuttal Oct. 11 to charges published in the Daily Nebraskan that two men were excluded from a women's poetry class on Aug. 29. They maintained that the Daily Nebraskan's "assertions were in error and misleading, and that in fact, all allegations were false."

The Publications Board responded to allegations in an Oct. 26 letter saying the board planned to take no further action.

Mark Bowen, chairman of the Publications Board, said at the meeting that "the last letter to Linnea (Johnson) spelled it out pretty well" and said the board had "assumed the matter closed."

Waggoner said the matter was not closed because Johnson's career had been "harmful by the obvious untruth." Waggoner said they were "contemplating a libel suit."

Publications Board member Rifka Keilson questioned the time lag between the last letter and the Thursday meeting, asking if the statute of limitations had expired.

Johnson said she "didn't seem to think the time lag was important" because a story "stays libelous once it is in print."

short stuff

April 15 is the deadline for applications for a fall semester internship through the Washington Center for Learning Alternatives. Minority students with financial need are eligible to apply for a small scholarship to help defray costs of the program. For more information, contact the Coordinator for Experiential Education, Oldfather 1218, 472-1452 before spring break.

"Sin, Slavery and the Status Quo". At 9:30 p.m. Scott Bartchy and Christopher will speak on "Jazz and Jam."

The UNL Folk Dance Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Mabel Lee Hall 119.

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers will host the 1980 Mid American Regional Conference on Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22, at the UNL East Campus Union. Speakers include Dr. William Scheller, Director of the National Gasohol Commission. There will be a tour of the Mead Solar Energy Plant Saturday afternoon.

Celebration Days, sponsored by the College Career Christian Fellowship, will feature Scott Bartchy at 7 p.m. tonight in the Nebraska Union Rostrum. The topic of discussion will be

daily nebraskan

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