

Prokop asks sponsors of resolution for apology

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber has questioned the ASUN resolution which asked the NU Board of Regents to "publicly admonish and censure" Prokop.

In a letter sent during spring break to several of the resolution's sponsors, Prokop asked the students to show where their resolution has foundation and why he should not "proceed to other types of action against the senators involved in the vote."

ASUN passed a resolution March 12 condemning Prokop's criticism of the English Department. Prokop's comments were made in a letter last month to the Daily Nebraskan.

In his letter to the senators, Prokop asked for either an explanation or an apology for the allegations in the ASUN resolution.

He said the resolution alleged that he "blatantly and fatuously attacked the Department of English" and that he "implicitly and unfairly questioned the moral character of their faculty members."

Prokop added that the senators suggested a "rather libelous solution" to the issue, referring to the resolution's suggestion that Prokop be dismissed from the Board of Regents and publicly admonished and censured.

Mike Hroch, Prokop's attorney, declined comment on the validity of a libel suit. Hroch said it is too early to comment on the issue.

John Parsons, one of the resolution's sponsors, said he received Prokop's letter at his Omaha home during spring break.

"We'll give him his jollies by responding to him," Parsons said, explaining that a group reply is planned.

Former ASUN Sen. Dee Divis said the students who received Prokop's letter haven't had a chance to get together

yet to plan a collective response. She said she hopes something will be done by Friday.

Although they could not predict the contents of the planned response, both Divis and Parsons stressed that they would not be sending an apology.

"As for an apology, he's got about the chance of an ice cube in hell," Divis said.

Parsons said Prokop's allegations to a libel suit would be difficult to uphold.

Correction

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly reported Tuesday the times classes will be dismissed Friday to allow students to attend the Honors Convocation.

Classes on City Campus will be dismissed from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and classes on East Campus will not meet from 10 a.m. to noon.

ASUN president Wessels stresses fiscal awareness

By Kathy Stokebrand

The ASUN meeting Wednesday night was filled with names, endorsements, appointments and oaths of office as the new senate officially filled positions for the next year.

In her executive report, ASUN President Renee Wessels urged the new senate to become informed quickly about issues it soon will face, including the budget, student fees, student banking and the need for an appellate body for the ASUN Student Court.

The budget, Wessels said, has been given to Governor Thone and he has pledged to cut it. If he does, some of the university's appropriation may be cut, she said. The senate needs to work with the legislature to prepare for an override if the Governor vetoes it.

There is a controversy over services offered by student banking and whether those services can be improved," Wessels said. For example, student organizations are charged for each transaction they make and are not allowed to set up savings accounts with interest elsewhere without first going through the Student Bank, she said.

Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic

are discussing declaring their groups as non-student organizations as a last resort in an effort to avoid the extra legwork currently in the Student Bank. Wessels urged students to provide input about the situation to Gary Wilkinson, business officer of the Nebraska Unions.

A political action committee appeared before the senate and supported Del Rosenberry and Don Blank for the two positions open on the NU Board of Regents next fall.

Gail Casteel, speaking for the First In Responsible Education, political action committee, said those candidates were chosen by the committee based on what it believed was best for the state, the university and the student body."

Mark Hirschfeld, chairman of FIRE, said the committee was formed to organize students and collect money for regent candidates it supports. Casteel added that the committee is filed with the state, like other supportive political committees. Casteel did not ask for an ASUN endorsement or connection with the candidates selected by the committee, but instead asked for workers and donations.

"We chose two candidates who are electable," Casteel said.

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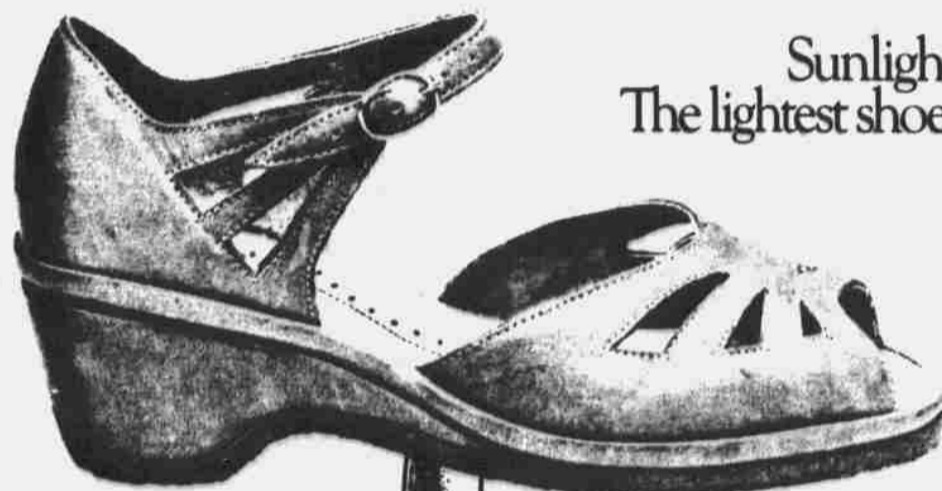
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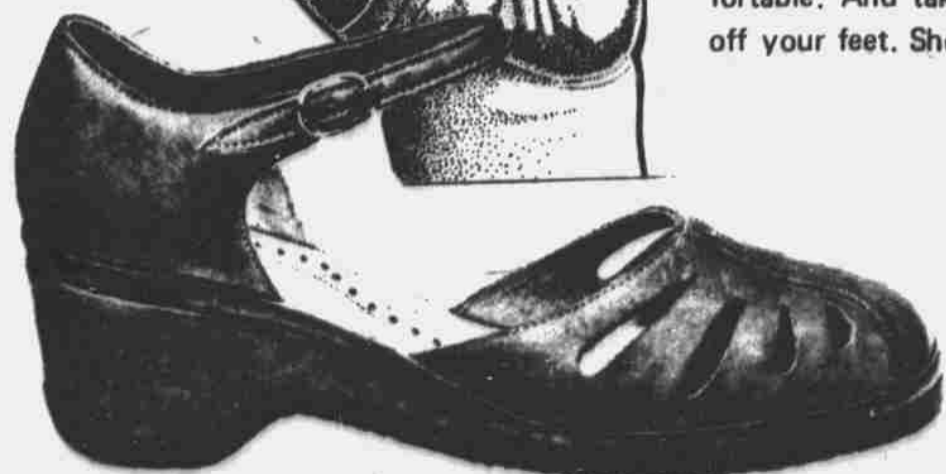
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