

daily nebraskan

Committee seeks stricter Pub Board membership

By Jim Faddis

The NU Board of Regents' Ad Hoc Guidelines Review Committee, set up by the regents following the James Coe letter disclosure, has proposed that strict guidelines be set as to who can serve on the Publications Boards on the UNL and UNO campuses.

The regents instructed the committee to develop amendments to the student press guidelines providing for the Publications Board to be "clearly separated from all university elective political officers and bodies."

The UNL Publications Board is a nine-member body consisting of five students, two faculty members and two professional journalists that oversees the Daily Nebraskan.

The regents appointed the committee in October after the regents had expressed dissatisfaction with the way the Coe letter incident was handled.

A letter from Coe of Phoenix, Ariz., to former Daily Nebraskan Editor in chief Rocky Strunk was received by present Editor in chief Randy Essex. Essex gave the letter to Publications Board Member Hubert Brown. Brown then gave it to State Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha, who then released it to the media.

Coe's donation of 1,300 South African gold coins was criticized by some who said the coins were symbols of racism. Coe's letter was said to be derogatory to blacks.

The Publications Board found that Essex and Brown used "poor judgment" and sent a letter of regret to Coe. Brown was a former ASUN first vice president.

The committee has proposed the following restrictions placed on Publications Board membership:

1) No member of the NU Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate, the student senate or any elected or appointed officer of the university administration, faculty government or student government can be on the board.

2) No former member or officer of the groups named in the first restriction can be on the board until one year has expired since the end of their term in office.

3) No unsuccessful candidate for any position on the groups named in the first restriction can be on the Publications Board until one year has expired since their candidacy ended.

4) No campus newspaper staff member may be on the Publications Board at the same time.

5) No member of the campus body responsible for allocating student fees to one of the newspapers shall be on the board. No former member of the body shall be on it until one year after their term has expired. No unsuccessful candidate for the fee allocation body shall be on the board until one year has expired since their candidacy ended.

The committee's report said that "such restrictions are necessary to avoid possible conflicts of interest and preserve the independence of the newspapers from political control."

The committee also has proposed changes in the way Publications Board members are selected. Presently, five students are appointed to the board by the student senate or student president.

The committee has proposed that the student advisory council of each academic college appoint one member to serve on a committee to select students to be on the Publications Board.

Faculty members on the Publications Board should be selected by a committee consisting of one representative from each academic college executive committee, the report says.

All appointments to the Publications Board should be approved by the campus chancellor, the committee said.

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Council shelve radial proposal

By Robin Lynch

The City Council shelved the proposed Northeast Radial Highway by voting in favor of the no-build option at the council meeting Monday afternoon.

The Council passed the motion, which was made by Eric Youngberg, with a 5-2 vote after members were allowed time to express their views on the issue.

After the voting, Youngberg commented that the Council should put a notch in one of the chamber's pillars, indicating the number of times the proposal has been defeated. He later estimated the Council had decided against the highway about six times.

Both Council members Leo Scherer and Donna Frohardt, voted against the no-build option, saying it would not meet the public or the university's needs.

Before voting, Scherer said that if the motion for no-build passed, "It would be a sad day for the city's transportation needs."

Frohardt said that since the public approved the city bond issue for mass transit they indicated a desire for some type of mass transit. She also said that the city needed to check the validity of the comprehensive road building plan, but not defeat it.

Youngberg said that no one would be a winner in this fight and that the city needed to face the reality that they

can't build every road planned because there just isn't enough money.

Council member Michael Steinman said he had always opposed the northeast radial, but the public hearing on Oct. 27 was an eye opener. He also said the city should preserve the neighborhoods, both business and residential, which the radial would go through.

Councilman Joseph Hampton said he was tired of the issue being used for politics and advocated several times to let the public decide. He added that continued debate on the radial issue year after year was like "whipping a dead horse."

Several members of the Council said that the city didn't have the money to complete existing street projects, and to take on this one would only intensify the problem. Council member Magrethe Ahlschwede said the city of Lincoln could be road rich and people poor.

ASUN Speaker Rick Mockler, said that a resolution ASUN made several weeks ago supporting the no-build option was influential in the decision made by the Council.

Mockler said that he and Mark Hirschfeld spoke with several neighborhood groups Saturday, who thanked ASUN for the resolution. Mockler also said that it is a very positive step for ASUN because it was ASUN's first interaction with the groups.

'Reorganize human services'

Thone endorses suggestions

By Steve Miller

Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone Monday gave his endorsement to seven of 88 recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force for Government Improvement.

In a press release from the task force, Thone said he would make periodic announcements on recommendations of the remaining issues as each issue is clarified, rather than announce his position on all the recommendations at one time.

The group of businessmen and women who formed the task force in October handed Thone a report containing the recommendations designed to improve the efficiency of state government.

Three of the recommendations Thone endorsed involve departments that deal with human services.

Single office

The departments of Public Welfare, Public Institutions, Labor and Health would have their functions coordinated under a single administrative office.

Thone also agreed that services should be organized to meet the needs of the individual.

"It is wrong to deal with individuals and families as if their problems can be sliced into four distinct and unrelated areas: Health, institutions, welfare and labor," Thone said.

"Quite often an individual's or a family's problem will run across the whole spectrum of social health and economic needs.

Reorganize approach

"If we are to get these fellow Nebraskans back on their feet and back to work, we need to reorganize our approach to the delivery of human service."

Thone also called for increased efforts to eliminate duplicative inspections through close cooperation between inspection agencies.

Thone agreed with the task force that duplicative inspections are an unnecessary burden for the individual or business being inspected.

A recommendation calling for maximum effort to collocate offices also was endorsed by Thone.

One-stop service

"Our goal is to provide, wherever possible, one-stop service for state government," Thone said. "Nebraskans should not have to expend energy resources running all over their towns to find state government."

Thone said he would direct the Department of Administrative Services to perform space audits of state buildings to bring agencies that are now leasing office space back to state-owned buildings.

He added that plans are already underway to further consolidate space in the capitol and state office building.

Thone also endorsed a recommendation to reduce the number of state passenger vehicles.

"I am strong in support of this proposal," Thone said. "The state has too many passenger-carrying vehicles."

"I will direct those agencies under my control who own vehicles to work together to establish new policy and procedures for vehicle purchase and use."

Thone said he would ask agencies to explore the possibility of leasing vehicles instead of buying and to consider reimbursement for personal mileage as option.

Thone also favored a centralized system of controlling the number of state forms.

"Such a program will help reduce the number of forms currently pressed upon the private sector by state government," Thone said.

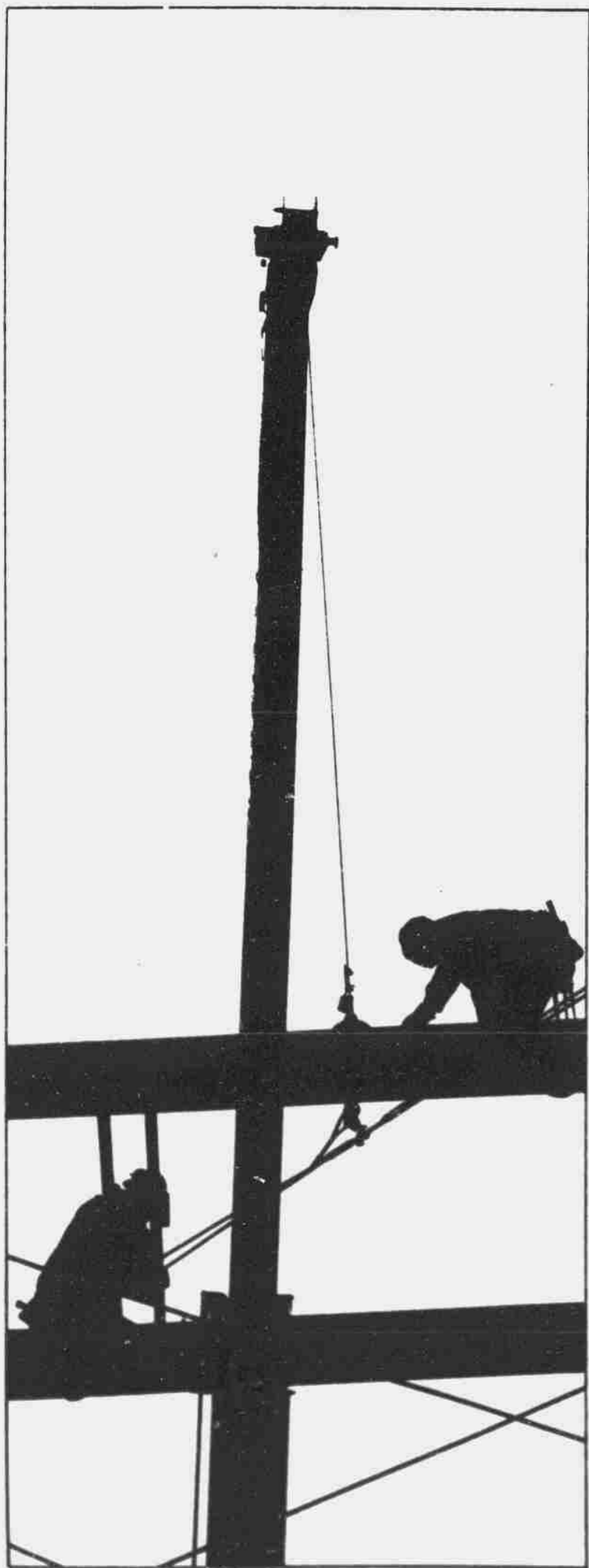


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Precariously-balanced workers are silhouetted against the early morning sky as they raise steel beams in a construction project on O Street between 13th and 14th streets.