

Proposed LES hike draws protest from citizens

By Laure Perlinger

The proposed 1981 Lincoln Electric System Budget, which includes an 18 percent rate increase, met strong opposition at a Monday City Council meeting.

David Sallee, president of the Lincoln Alliance, told members of the council that he was anxious to present his views to the council and the public.

One elderly woman had a sign attached to her wheelchair which read: "My social security check won't increase by 18-percent."

Pauline Towles, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church presented 3,000 letters from concerned citizens asking the council to listen to Lincoln residents and represent them in opposing the rate increase.

Towles, who started the letter drive in Lincoln, asked council members to do their best to cut the budget. "Check it out, cut it where it can be cut, and help us," she said.

Towles said that LES advertises too much. She said she received one letter from a woman employed in Lincoln who received calendars and other promotional items from LES.

"They've got a monopoly in the city. There is too much advertising, when LES is the only one (electric company) here," she said.

But LES Chairman of the Board Keith Newhouse defended the rate increase, saying the budget has been reviewed thoroughly and represents a minimum amount necessary to continue effective service.

Walter Canney, an LES administrator, suggested that the 17.6 percent rate increase is necessary to continue efforts to meet customer needs.

But Ken Miller, administrative assistant of the Lincoln Alliance, said that the council, in deciding whether or not to approve the proposed budget, would be sensitive to citizen needs and cut the budget.

"Economies aren't affected until they are pushed, and I think it's time they are pushed," he said.

Councilman Joseph Hampton then questioned Miller on his awareness of the budget's minimum-rate policy. Hampton explained that 400 kilowatt hours of service, the amount that can be used without being affected by the rate increase, will support numerous household appliances except for air conditioners.

"One might as well live in west Texas or hell than live in Nebraska without an air conditioner," Miller said.

It was later mentioned, however, that even those people using as little as 400 kilowatt hours will still see a 14 percent rate increase.

"We cannot afford it," said Ralph Johnson, 819 N. 33rd St., who spoke on behalf of his neighborhood. Johnson proposed a cut of 5 percent across the board.

C. Edwin Murphy, 5820 Madison St., a retired United Methodist Minister, told the council that LES is a "callous, unfeeling business enterprise."

"Do they know what it is like to be hungry and cold, and not be able to meet financial obligations?" he asked.

Window-breaking incident leads to hearing

ASUN senator resigns, but claims innocence

By Patti Gallagher

Because an ASUN senator was put on university probation for what he said is "an offense which I claim innocence of," he has resigned his senate position.

Tim McAllister said Friday that he was put on university probation which bars him from holding an elected student government position for an incident which he was not guilty of.

He announced his resignation to the ASUN Senate Wednesday night saying, "I fought the system because I thought it was wrong. But the system won."

McAllister said that had he not resigned, he would have been removed. Although

university probation rules would have allowed him to finish the semester, he said he resigned to allow the senate to begin to look for a replacement.

Although he no longer will be a member of the senate, McAllister said he still will remain active in student groups.

Last May, a few days before the end of the spring semester, McAllister was involved in a window-breaking incident in the Selleck Residence Hall cafeteria. He said he was present when the incident occurred but was not the person who broke the window.

He and three other students suspected to be involved were issued university warnings at that time, which McAllister said he

did not accept. A warning would not have constituted any disciplinary action, but because he said he did not break the window, he would not accept it.

Shortly after the incident occurred, the four students appeared in Lancaster County Court, McAllister said. At that time, the student who broke the window was fined \$10 and no action was taken against the three others.

McAllister said he considered the county court decision as having cleared him of guilt.

At the beginning of this semester, the University Judiciary Board contacted the remaining three students, McAllister said. They were told they must either accept the university warning or appear before the judiciary board.

One student accepted the warning; McAllister and one other did not. The two appeared before the board before Thanksgiving break. The board issued university probation to McAllister, he said, while no action was taken against the other student.

McAllister said that the board used him as an example because he was an ASUN senator.

McAllister said the board would not allow him to present a witness when he appeared. He said the board was aware of the county court's decision and that another student had been found guilty and fined, "But they just overlooked it."

After receiving the judiciary board's decision, McAllister appealed to the University Appeals Board. According to Dee Simpson-Kirkland, assistant to the dean of students, the appeals board upheld the judiciary board's decision.

Because the appeals board is the last university hearing body, its decision is final, Simpson-Kirkland said.

According to Donald Kahl, chairman of the judiciary board, the terms for university probation are not determined by the board. Within the rules of student government, however, it is specified that "students on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to hold student government offices," Simpson-Kirkland said.

Kahl declined comment on McAllister's case and claims against the board. He said he is "precluded from discussing Mr. McAllister's case individually "because of federal right to privacy laws.

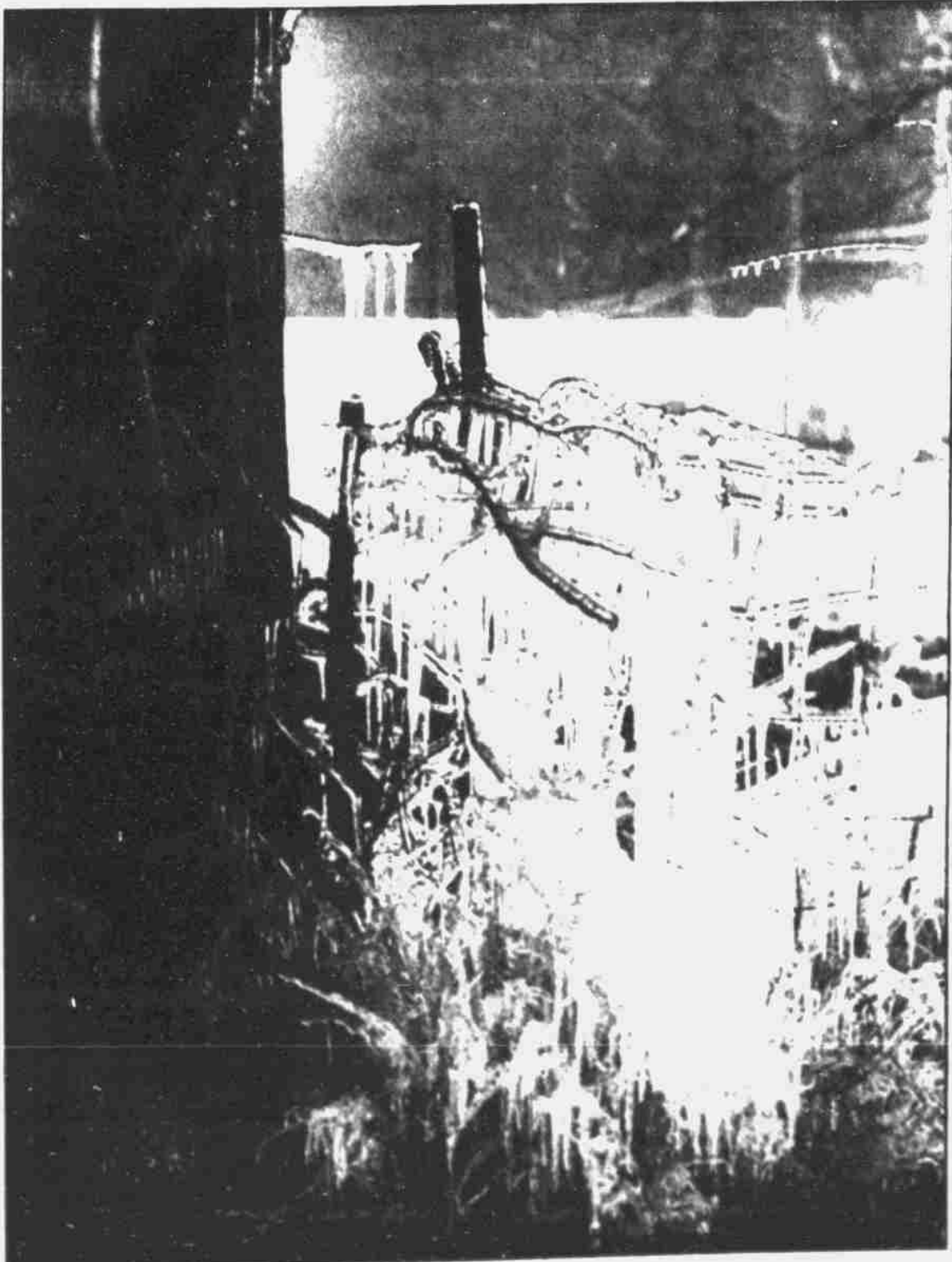


Photo by Mark Billingsley

The recent ice storm was not only slippery and nice to look at, but in other instances, such as this, the ice is an indication of insufficient roof insulation. The inadequate insulation allows heat loss through the roof, causing the ice to melt - only to reform underneath drainpipes.

Foundation provides money for band's Sun Bowl trip

By Mary Kempkes

The UNL band will travel to the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, with money from the NU Foundation.

In 1976, after a disastrous attempt by the band to raise travel money for the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl, with a private donor finally supplying the needed money, the foundation agreed to supply the money when needed. This is the first year foundation money will be used.

When Nebraska plays in the larger bowls the Orange, Cotton and Sugar Bowls the revenue from the game pays the band's way, according to Jack Snider, director of bands.

But when the team plays in smaller bowls, like the Sun Bowl, money is more difficult to get, he said.

The foundation money will pay room, board and travel expenses for the 274-member band. Students will travel to El Paso in six buses, Snider said, leaving Lincoln the Monday before the game.

A trip to El Paso will be cheaper than one to Miami, Snider said, because "a lot of people go to Miami and they raise prices like mad."

The band has traveled to all of Nebraska's bowl games except the Gotham Bowl in 1962. That game, played in New York, was too cold to attend.

And although some people contend

there is little purpose in the band traveling to bowl games, Snider said, their presence contributes to game and school spirit.

"I'm sure there are fans that don't think that the band and yell squads are essential to that event on Saturday. . . . But if all they did was just play the football game, it would be a pretty dull Saturday," he said.

While in El Paso, band members will take in local concerts and go down to Juarez, Mexico, for a night or two out on the town.

But it won't be all fun and games, Snider said. The students will miss Christmas at home, he said, and will have to practice 2½ days, memorizing a complete new show.

And, band members have two 24-hour bus rides to look forward to, Snider said.

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