

# Student Court: VOTE party not violating rules

By Mary Louise Knapp

A party running in the ASUN election did not violate election rules by the use of its name according to a declaratory judgement handed down in Student Court.

The judgment, unanimously approved by seven Student Court justices, said the VOTE (Viable Opportunities for Total Efficiency) party could not be prohibited from

using the acronym under existing rules. It also said Student Court would take an "unfavorable view" of the matter if the ASUN Electoral Commission were to attempt to make a rule prohibiting the use of the acronym.

The judgment was in response to a petition filed in Student Court by the Electoral Commission which said the use of the acronym VOTE might impair a fair election.

The "instructive use" of the word "vote" in campaign literature might be construed as an endorsement of the VOTE party, the petition stated.

Steve McMahon, the VOTE party's candidate for ASUN president, said he was pleased with the court's decision and called it "our victory."

"The court's decision is extremely pleasing to us," he said, "not only because it reaffirmed what we had believed for the duration of the controversy, but also because it was a unanimous decision."

McMahon said the VOTE party felt the issue was "much ado about nothing."

"We have felt all along that there was no real conflict which needed to be resolved," he said.

### Concern about VOTE

McMahon said he had been approached before his campaign announcement by ASUN president Renee Wessles and director Kim Weiland, director of the Electoral Commission, who informed him that several students had expressed concern about the use of the acronym VOTE.

At that time, he said, he was aware a possible conflict could arise.

"However, we stuck by our guns and remained firmly convinced that we were completely within the rules," he said.

McMahon said he heard from several students that the case was "so open and shut it wasn't really opened for debate."

The decision was handed down in a closed Student Court session, so the VOTE party did not hear discussion of the issue, he said.

"Our party name simply confirmed all that we stand for," he said. "We didn't choose it to create any sort of controversy. We chose it because it is totally consistent with what we stand for and what we believe."

"We want students to vote in the ASUN election," he said. But "more importantly, we want them to vote for a totally efficient approach to student government, and by that I mean making the most of the resources that are available to ASUN."

"Those people who are opposed to the usage of VOTE as our acronym are clearly opposed to our most basic and fundamental principles," McMahon said.

### Formal apology requested

"Additionally, we feel that the instigators of the request for the declaratory judgement owe the students of the campus a formal and public apology, for believing that students wouldn't be able to distinguish between our party name and instructions to vote," he said.

"If this is the way our elected representatives act, then a cleaning of house is in order," he said.

## ASUN filing deadline nears for position on spring ballot

Students wishing to file for candidacy in the ASUN election have until Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. to do so, according to Kim Weiland, director of the Electoral Commission.

The same goes for all student parties and all proposed amendments to the ASUN constitution or referendums to be placed on the ballot.

All candidates must file financial statements of campaign expenditures in the ASUN office by March 4 at 4 p.m. Write-in candidates must file financial statements by March 5 at 4 p.m.

Filing forms, copies of election rules, and copies of the ASUN constitution are available in the ASUN office.



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ASUN Member \_\_\_\_\_

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## NAVY OFFICERS GET RESPONSIBILITY FAST.

### stuff

Angel Flight will hold its weekly meeting tonight at 7 on the second floor of the Military and Naval Science Building.

UPC-Culture Center will have a meeting today at 4 in the Nebraska Union, Room 117B.

There will be a Student Education Association meeting tonight at 7 in the Nebraska Union, Room number will be posted.

Only a few seats are left for Spring Break Bahamas Trip. Call UPC-East 472-1780 for reservations and details.

Filing forms for ASUN elections are available in the

ASUN office, Room 115 Nebraska Union.

Students wishing to be considered for nomination by the university for a Federal Summer Internship should contact the coordinator for Experimental Education, Room 1218 Oldfather. Positions are open for graduate students with degrees in business administration, political science, economics or other human services programs and undergraduates with backgrounds in chemistry, mathematics or life sciences. All applicants must be planning to return to school in the fall. The application deadline is March 2.

Letter-day Saint Student Association has class tonight at 1630 Q St. in the ment