

Students differ on need for two UNL lobbyists

By Patti Gallagher

State senators have cautioned student lobbyists in the past not to wage public battle with their own administrators and regents on the legislative floor, according to student lobbyist and chairperson of the ASUN Government Liaison Committee, Nette Nelson.

Although the UNL student lobbying group has heeded that advice, the potential for pitting student against student now exists: a second UNL student has registered as a lobbyist.

Because the student, UNL junior Mike Kratville, has expressed opposition to one of GLC's major issues, Nelson is concerned he may disrupt GLC's theory of presenting a unified student voice to senators.

Kratville said he registered as a lobbyist "to serve as another independent voice." He said his personal position—or the position of the students he is working for—will be deferred if it differs from GLC's.

"There will never be a conflict between us and GLC," he said. "We want to provide a united university front."

But Kratville's position on the State Student Association is opposite that of GLC's. The formation of SSA, a statewide group that lobbies for interests common to all NU campuses and the state colleges, has been a primary project of GLC since last semester.

Kratville, ASUN second vice president candidate for the VOTE Party, said "theoretically it (the SSA) sounded good" and that he signed a petition in favor of it. However, over the semester break, eight students from Omaha contacted him with questions about SSA.

Believes UNL may lose

The students saw it as a way for UNL to lose money, he said.

Kratville said the students and he considered two assumptions about the SSA. Both involve the loss of \$21,000, UNL's 1981-82 tentative budget allocation for the SSA.

Assumption one is that the total dollar amount for all postsecondary education is a fixed amount. Money that

UNL would normally receive would be split up among the other state schools, Kratville said.

Assumption two is that total postsecondary education funds will increase, which Kratville said is what SSA proponents have claimed is possible by lobbying.

If that is true, the university still would lose its initial \$21,000 investment, he said.

"It's my personal belief that the \$21,000 should just be pumped into GLC," he said. Most people now don't even know GLC exists, he said.

Kratville questioned how GLC could generate interest for SSA with so little recognition itself.

Nelson said she doesn't see the SSA as competition for funding for UNL. The SSA, if effective, will be able to secure more dollars for education, she said.

Aside from financing, Kratville said he opposes the SSA because of the time it has taken away from GLC. The committee's time would be better spent contacting state senators and working on the university budget, which GLC has targeted as its primary lobbying concern, he said.

Time-consuming issue

"The SSA has gotten to be their sole issue this semester and they've neglected to build up their relationships with senators," he said.

Kratville said he has met several times with Omaha Sen. Peter Hoagland.

Nelson said, however, that GLC has devoted much time to meeting senators and researching the budget. And, she said, the SSA has increased membership in GLC.

"We've generated more interest with this one project than we have with any other project undertaken," she said.

Nelson also expressed concern that two UNL student lobbyists would present conflicting viewpoints to senators. With Kratville working outside of GLC, "how are we to know if we will compete on issues?" she asked.

Nelson also said Kratville's registration as a lobbyist violates ASUN and NU Board of Regents bylaws. The bylaws mandate that only one student be officially recog-

nized as the university's student lobbyist.

Kratville said he recognizes he is not an official representative. The distinction, he said, is that he is registered "for" university students, not "of" them.

In addition to the SSA question, Kratville said he is lobbying for higher salaries for university professors and other state employees.

Because he is a second vice presidential candidate with the VOTE Party, he said he has not had time to follow specific bills in the Legislature. Kratville emphasized his lobbying or view on the SSA will not be a VOTE campaign issue.

If elected and "if a conflict continues between me and GLC, I will work with only GLC and drop my outside interests," Kratville said.

Rec Center idea not new—Armstrong

By Patti Gallagher

Student fees aren't new, nor is opposition to paying them, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong told students in the Nebraska Union Wednesday.

"Student fees have been around a long time at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and almost from the time they've been conceived they've been controversial," he said.

Armstrong, in an afternoon forum sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee, explained the fee allocation process and fielded questions about fees from the small audience.

The current per student per semester fee of \$72.50 funds, in part, six different programs, Armstrong said. Fund A programs, which take \$3.33 of the total per student fee, goes to UPC, ASUN and the Daily Nebraskan.

The remaining \$69.17 goes to Fund B for the Univer-

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Candidates disagree on merits of SSA issue

Party believes ASUN ignored

By Mary Louise Knapp

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of profiles on the ASUN presidential candidates. Two profiles will be published each day. The profiles will appear in the order the candidates' names appear on the ballot.

The UNL administration thinks student groups should be ignored, and ASUN is serving its intended purpose by being ignored, said ASUN presidential candidate Mike Frost.

Frost heads the ticket of the STUPID (Students Taking Unlimited Part in Democracy) Party.

A State Student Association, if formed, would aid ASUN in its purpose of being ignored, he said.

A journalism major from Omaha, Frost said he thinks ASUN elections are sometimes treated too seriously by the parties involved.

The STUPID party provides comic relief to the campaigns, he said.

Frost said support for the STUPID party has been greater than he expected at the beginning of his campaign.

If elected, the STUPID party will make major changes in the internal structure of ASUN, Frost said.

"First, we will change it into a monarchy, and raise the salary of the president," he said.

"I heard that the regents had to force Renee (Wessels) to accept a raise," he said, adding that he would accept a pay increase without protest.

Frost also said he plans to change the "tacky color" of the walls in the ASUN office to orange.

Frost said his political ambitions began when he first saw John Cavanaugh.

Frost said his father, who served as a bodyguard for the late President Lyndon Johnson during the 1960 presidential election, was another influence upon his decision to enter the political arena.

Frost said Jay Noble, the STUPID Party's candidate for first vice-president, has dropped out of the race because he did not meet the Electoral Commission's 2.0 grade-point average requirement for candidacy.

Frost said Angela Johns, the party's candidate for second vice-president, may be asked to fill Noble's position and a new second vice-presidential candidate may be chosen, but no action has been taken.

CURE to plan new approaches

By Betsy Miller

Tom Vergith said he plans to bring a businessman's "pragmatic" approach to the office of ASUN president if he is elected.

Vergith, 21, an economics major from Lincoln, is running for president for the CURE Party, (Coalition for University Revitalization).

"I'm realistic and pragmatic," Vergith said. "I won't react to situations in a reactionary way."

Vergith said one of the most important jobs of the ASUN president is to develop a good working relationship with the NU Board of Regents. In this area, he said, he would use a different technique than the current ASUN President Renee Wessels. He said Wessels had a tendency to mishandle some of the officials she was supposed to deal with.

Vergith said the ASUN president has complete control over the image people will form of the position.

"The office takes on the character and

personality of the person in it," he said.

ASUN's executive branch also needs to be clearly separated from the rest of the senate, according to Vergith.

To carry on with his businessman's philosophy, Vergith said, the proposed State Student Association should be looked at as an investment which students would be stockholders.

"It's a well-conceived idea. If it could be effective, that would be great," he said.

Vergith said he is worried that not all state legislators are supportive of the SSA. He said a strong student showing at the ASUN elections will show legislators that students are concerned.

As a Business College senator on ASUN, Vergith voted that the SSA issue not be made binding. Since the vote will only show if students favor an association, Vergith said he is worried it won't have enough support.

Vergith and the CURE candidate for first vice president, John Vitek, have "taken the time to raise some serious questions" about the future of an SSA at UNL.

To help the university secure more money, Vergith said he is in favor of a student foundation. This organization would be comprised of students who would attempt to collect money from local businessmen to support UNL programs, he said.

Vergith also said there is no doubt the university needs a new recreation center, but the cost of building a new one would be too much of a burden if students had to pay more tuition.

"You can't hit up students for \$50 more every semester," he said.

The cutoff of the ASUN president's salary will not help attract all qualified candidates to the office, but it shouldn't make any difference to someone who is really committed to the job, he said.

Both Vitek and second vice president candidate Laurie Nigro of the CURE party would bring good qualifications to their offices, according to Vergith.



Mike Frost, ASUN presidential candidate for the STUPID Party.



ASUN CURE Party presidential candidate, Tom Vergith.