

# daily nebraskan

## Election results undetermined Thursday morning

No results from the ASUN election were being released as of 1:30 a.m. Thursday. Kim Weiland, chairperson of the ASUN Electoral Commission, said she had hoped results could be released by midnight.

However, she said election workers had problems sorting the ballots, which led to the delay.

Weiland said she thought the turnout was "real good." Although she said it still was too early to know for sure, she said it looked like the voter turnout was greater than last year's record turnout.

"But I never guarantee anything with this election," Weiland added.

"I think we have a fairly decent chance of getting in the run-off," said SURE Party presidential candidate Rick

Mockler. "We were really happy with the turnout," he said adding that it was partly due to people campaigning in the residence halls.

Mockler also said he thought there was a higher percentage of students voting because of the number of candidates, the referendum issues and the diversity of parties.

Independent candidate Diane Walkowiak said three of the presidential candidates—Rick Mockler, Steve McMahon and Tom Vergith—were essentially "no-change candidates."

If one of these candidates wins, she said, "I think we're just going to muddle along just as we have been and not accomplish anything."

"I was one of only two candidates pushing to change the structure of ASUN," Walkowiak said.

Walkowiak said time was the biggest obstacle of her campaign. With classes and work, she said she didn't have time to establish personal and group contacts. She recommended that future candidates get out and talk to students to get in touch with the mood of the campus.

She said she resented "being treated like a minority candidate" during the campaign, especially by other candidates during debates.

"People were so sure that some of us candidates didn't stand a chance," she said.

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Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

A Wednesday forecast of sunny weather turned instead to a soupy snowfall. The heavy blobs of slush soaked Lincoln.

## RHA run-offs will be March 11

Run-off elections will be March 11 for the Residence Hall Association offices of president, vice president and secretary.

Independent candidate Robin Lynch and X Party candidate Bill Flack were the top two vote getters in Wednesday's balloting.

Lynch received 31.7 percent of the vote and Flack received 25.5 percent of the 720 votes cast.

Ane Jensen of the Campus Leaders and Student Support (CLASS) Party received 23 percent of the vote. Russ Snygg of the Concerned Adult Residents for Excellence (CARE) Party received 19.8 percent.

Heidi Friesen of the CLASS Party was elected treasurer; she received 56.7 percent of the vote. Her

only opponent, CARE candidate Gary Brethour, received 43.3 percent. Fifty-one percent is required for a winning majority.

The vice presidential run-off will be between X Party candidate Steve Rowe and CARE candidate Tom Macdissi.

Rowe gathered 36.6 percent of the vote to Macdissi's 33.9 percent. Russ Pahre of the CLASS Party finished third with 29.5 percent.

The run-off for RHA secretary will be between Vicki Wagner of the CLASS Party and CARE candidate Chris Little. Wagner garnered 45 percent of the vote and Little received 29.8 percent. Richard Betz of the X Party received 25.5 percent.

## VOTE Party candidate found in violation of commission rule

By Betsy Miller and Tom Prentiss

The ASUN Electoral Commission Wednesday ruled that Mike Kratville, second vice presidential candidate for the VOTE Party, was in violation of a commission rule preventing defacing of party signs or posters.

ASUN Sen. Dan Renn filed a complaint on March 1, charging that Kratville tore down a SURE Party poster of candidate Tim Chandler.

Renn, in his complaint heard Tuesday night, said he was leaving a SURE Party meeting in the Nebraska Union when he saw Kratville deface the poster.

"Mr. Kratville tore the poster down, then turned and saw me standing in the door. He stopped, said 'Oh-Oh,' and handed me the torn poster. He then said he had torn down the poster because the candidate depicted on the poster (Chandler) was tearing down VOTE posters and putting his posters over VOTE Party posters," Renn said in his complaint.

The commission, in its findings, asked for "relief in student court." Section C-6 of the Electoral Commission regulations states "offenders will not be allowed to hold

elected office or appointed positions of ASUN during the calendar year of the offense."

Kratville said he was upset because the complaint makes more of the issue than it really is.

"You don't hang someone or put them in the electric chair for shoplifting," he said.

Kratville said he had taken down the SURE poster because it was in an illegal location and he planned to give it to SURE presidential candidate Rick Mockler.

He also said SURE candidates had removed illegal VOTE Party posters with the same intent of returning them to the party, but electoral commission rules are ineffective because they only allow for legal action to be taken if the student was caught in the act of defacing posters.

Jean Gittler, electoral commission member, said the commission had no way of knowing what the Student Court would decide if Kratville is elected.

The commission also dismissed two other complaints. A suit claiming Kratville covered SURE posters with VOTE posters was dismissed for lack of evidence.

Kratville had lodged a complaint against Chandler for defacing VOTE posters, but his motion was also dismissed for lack of evidence.

## Testimony heard in capital punishment bill

By Kim Hachiya

People lined up on both sides of the fence during a Judiciary Committee hearing Wednesday, testifying both for and against LB202, which would repeal Nebraska's death penalty.

Introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha and co-sponsored by Sen. Don Dworak of Columbus, LB202 would substitute a mandatory 30 year sentence on those convicted of first degree murder.

Chambers read a letter from death-row convict Harold Otey to Gov. Charles Thone in which Otey responded to Thone's recent endorsement of the death penalty.

Otey denied that during an interview with Thone last summer that Thone spoke with him about the death penalty. He alleged that Thone promised no portion of the interview would be made public and said the visit was orchestrated and manipulated by Thone's aides.

"Don't give the public the idea that

someone whispered in your ear that they wanted to be the guinea pig, that they wanted to be the first one," Otey's letter said.

Chambers said nearly all of the 600 persons on death rows in the United States, including the 11 in Nebraska, are poor or minorities. Only five of the 600 are women. He said this focus on minorities is an example of the disparate and capricious way death penalties are meted out.

"Far worse murders have been committed by those who are part of the general prison population who are not facing death," Chambers said.

Dworak said he is supporting the bill because he has a strong pro-life philosophy.

"Human life must be protected and preserved," he said. "The state must not kill. There is no legitimate justification for state sanctioned killings."

Dworak said there is no evidence that death penalties are a deterrent.

"The fact that people are on death row

in Nebraska shows it is no deterrent," he said.

"Vengeance is a feeling of luxury that does not justify state sanctioned taking of human life."

The Rev. Charles Nichols, of Omaha's Westbrook Evangelical Free Church, said God instituted the death penalty and authorized man to carry out his word.

"The person who took the life shows he doesn't value life—why should we be asked to show mercy?" he asked.

"God instituted the death penalty. To say it is immoral is to say that God is immoral, which he is not," Nichols said.

Nichols said that deleting the death penalty because it does not deter murder is a weak argument.

"Tickets and losing points don't stop speeders, jail doesn't deter robberies. Does that mean we should drop the punishments for these crimes?"

The Rev. Vernon Pollema, of Lincoln's Reformed Church of the United States,

agreed with Nichols that the non-deterrence argument is flawed.

"If a local law officer is justified in killing in defense of others, why can't the government kill in defense of its citizenry?" he asked.

He said that the inequity of poor and

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