

Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Tuesday, February 23, 1982

Vol. 109 No. 31

Lincoln, Nebraska

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Photo by Dave Bentz

The UNL campus looked like something out of a California college catalogue Monday as students fled the buildings in which they had been hiding to enjoy some unusually warm February weather. There is no reason to believe that the paradise will last, as cooler temperatures have been forecast.

Registration drive aims at increasing student voter input

By Eric Peterson

NU football Coach Tom Osborne urged students to do something about their political dissatisfaction at a Monday news conference in the Nebraska Union. The conference was called to announce a voter registration drive undertaken by ASUN's Government Liaison Committee and the Nebraska State Student Association.

"Students continually seem to want to have more control over their destinies and have a more positive input," Osborne said. But, he said, students are slow to take the necessary steps to attain that control, including registering to vote and actually voting.

The GLC and NSSA will have a registration booth in the Nebraska and East unions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Wednesday. Students who wish to register by mail to outstate communities or vote by absentee ballot may complete their registration at the GLC-NSSA booth; students who want to vote in Lincoln can register at the booth only Wednesday.

GLC Chairperson and NSSA board member Nette Nelson said notaries public also will be available in the union so that students can send absentee ballots for the spring elections.

Osborne said most UNL students can register here.

ASUN President Rick Mockler said students have become frustrated with underfunding at the university level, "and this is our opportunity to change it." Lowered financial aid is a particularly sore point at UNL, Mockler said, adding that under Reagan administration proposals, no graduate student will be able to get a federally-guaranteed student loan next year.

"You know, you hear a lot of complaints about students not getting involved and registering to vote, and ASUN is just adamant that students do get out and exercise that opportunity," Mockler said.

Student voter involvement will be crucial at the state level, he said.

"Last year the faculty had to cut salaries 2 percent, and at the same time we saw an increase in enrollment. We just don't have enough support at the Nebraska Legislature," Mockler said.

NSSA Executive Director Mike Burk said changes in education funding are making it hard for many students to continue their education.

"Constant support from students is crucial," Burk said. "We want to get you to give us that support because it's one of the best ways you can influence our legislation."

Nelson said an active group of vocal voters is necessary to get the government's attention.

"I've worked in government, and I know a vacuum exists when there isn't any input from people," she said.

Nelson said the GLC has worked to provide incentives for students to register in Lincoln.

Election rule decision to be released

The ASUN Electoral Commission will release a decision today on whether the Real Party violated election rules by putting up campaign posters before the Feb. 10 date specified in election regulations.

The commission had a hearing Monday afternoon attended by Mike Frost, STUPID II presidential candidate, Kathy Mach, who filed the complaint; Dan Wedekind, Real presidential candidate; and Tim McAllister, also of the Real Party.

Frost and Mach originally filed a suit against the Electoral Commission in the UNL Student Court, charging the commission with five unfair or ambiguous practices. The court dismissed four of the five charges last week and ordered the commission to have a hearing on the other charge, that the Real Party posted signs too early.

McAllister at the Monday hearing said he asked Jennifer Fager, Electoral Commission director, Jan. 25 if it was permissible to put up campaign signs and she told him it was. He said he was prompted to ask because he noticed that electoral rules said posters could be displayed between Feb. 3 and March 10. Prior to this year, according to McAllister, the rules said only that posters had to be down by the day of the election.

He said Fager told him the posters could be displayed any time prior to Feb. 3, but that there was no guarantee that posters put up before that date would not be torn down by custodians.

"She told me point-blank that you could put them (the posters) up," McAllister said.

Mach and Frost's suit acknowledged that the Real Party followed the commission's directions when posting the signs. They charge that the commission was negligent in not informing other parties of this ruling so that they could also post signs.

In its answer to Mach and Frost's suit, the commission said that no candidate or party was informed that it was permissible to put up posters before Feb. 10.

Doug Brooks, a commission member, asked McAllister during the hearing if, when he talked to Fager, she just reiterated the rule specifying when signs could be posted or if she specifically told him he could go ahead and post the signs.

McAllister replied that Fager had told him it was all right to post the signs.

Wedekind said if the Real Party is penalized by the commission, it would not accept the punishment and probably would appeal to the Student Court.

Council promotes black student unity

By Ward W. Triplett III

Editor's Note: This is the first of stories about the annual Big Eight Council on Black Student Government. Tomorrow's Daily Nebraskan will feature a story on black campus groups and a story about past mayor of Atlanta, Maynard Jackson.

The Big Eight Council on Black Student Government, currently the only such governing body in the United States, decided at its winter meeting Saturday to form a coalition with black students from states outside the Big Eight in order to help spread national unity for black students.

The council, which has three black students from each of the member schools, met for the fifth annual conference on black student government. The conference drew about 350 students to the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa.

Until Saturday's 6-0 vote, black students from schools such as Mankato State, Minn., and Emporia State, Kan., were welcome to come to the conference, but had no voting power at the council meetings.

"I have been to conferences where there was talk about doing this, but nothing was ever done," said Doreen Charles about opening the conference to schools outside the Big Eight. Charles was council chairperson and is a UNL student.

"I think it is defeating our purpose if we don't expand, for our ultimate goal is a national unity with all black students," Charles said.

Roles to be decided

She added that the council will decide during its spring meeting in Oklahoma State what the role of the other schools will be. Voting privileges at the council meetings was one of the main arguments about the motion. Aside from the aforementioned schools, Iowa, Hutchinson Junior College in Kansas, UNO and two other Minnesota schools sent representatives.

"I don't think anyone wants to be a part of something they have no power in," said Major Topps, assistant director of the Mankato State black student organization.

"But we want to work. We come not to take power from you, but to be a part in what you're trying to do. For a lot of black students in (predominately) white schools, the Big Eight is like a dream come true," Topps said.

"The 10 schools of Minnesota have a state conference for black students already," Topps said. "What we want to do, and what the Big Eight should want to do, is begin pushing this nationally. We would need you in order to do this," he said.

In other council action, a letter of protest against the cutting of financial aids was passed after a proposal by the University of Missouri. The letter, which will be sent to President Reagan and each state congressman, was signed by the delegates and chairperson at the conference.

Membership fee proposal

In other action, the board voted down a proposal to charge membership fees to schools that failed to attend the conference. Charles said the proposal would have penalized a school for being poor, which defeated the whole purpose of the council.

Colorado, the school which sponsored the conference last year, was still \$2,000 in debt from the conference, and opted not to attend this year. With the Kansas delegation missing the Saturday meeting, the vote on the membership fee ended in a 3-3 tie, which left Charles to cast the deciding vote.

In the council's final action, members chose Nebraska to sponsor the 1983 conference. Charles said the conference will place an extra burden on Nebraska because extra students will attend now that the meetings are open to students outside the Big Eight.

"Instead of around 300 to 400, with the extra schools invited and Colorado, we can expect at least 600 to 700 to be there," Charles said.