



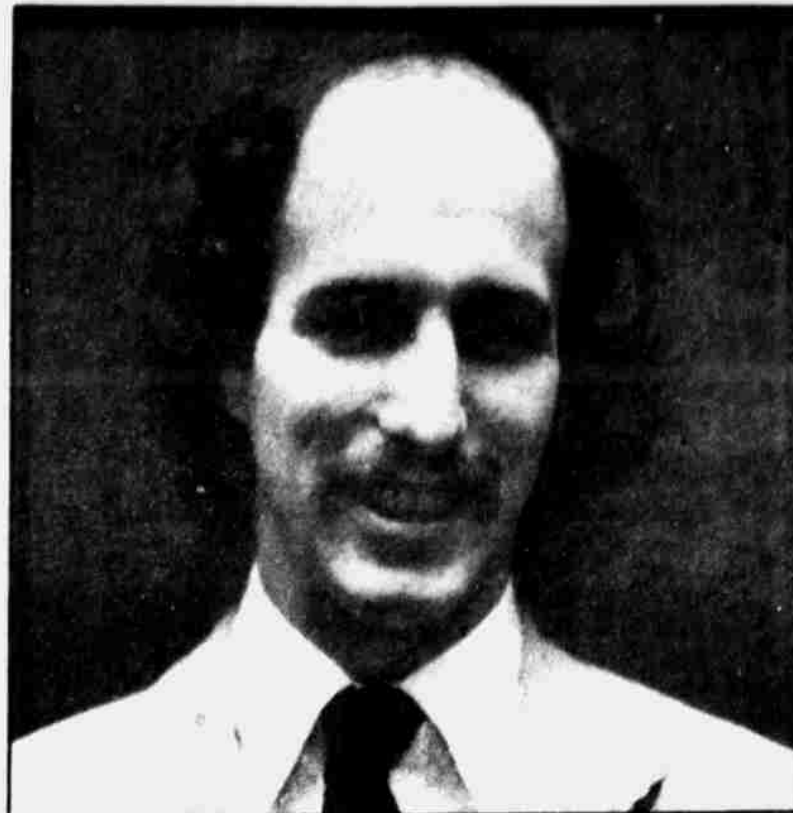
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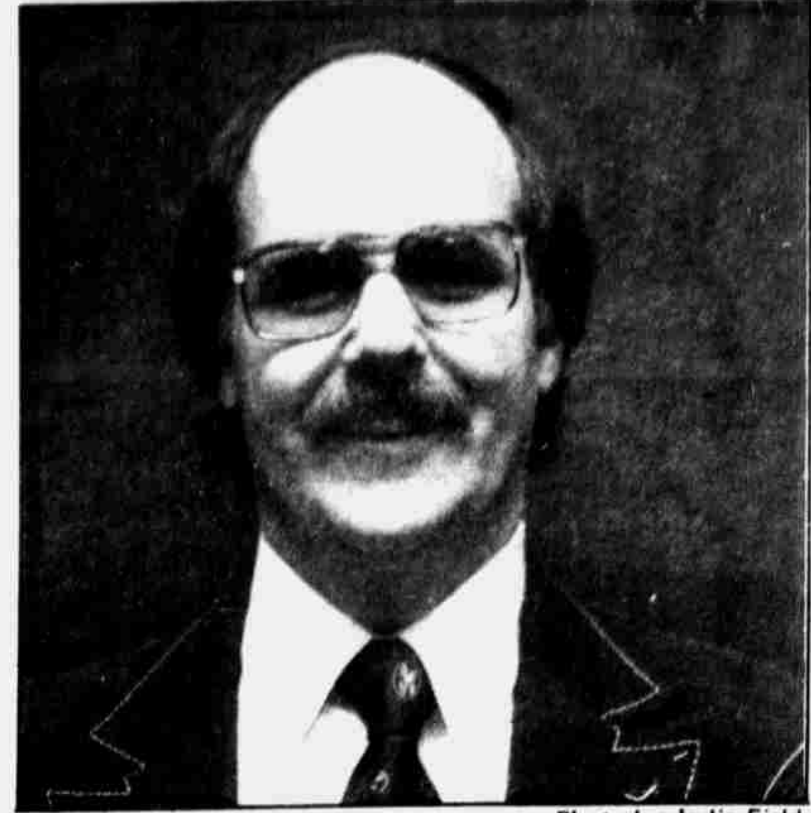
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Mike Burk

Photo by Jodie Fields



Paul O'Leary

Photo by Jodie Fields

Director, lobbyist begin NSSA work

By Eric Peterson

The newly formed Nebraska State Student Association, of which UNL and Peru State College are currently members, has added out-of-state expertise to its ranks. The association has hired Mike Burk as executive director and Paul O'Leary as legislative lobbyist for the statewide student lobbying group.

Burk's major activity will be coordinating NSSA activities and communication between the member campuses. He has been student president at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania, chairman of the Board of Student Government Presidents in that state and is an executive board member of the National Alliance of State Student Associations. He has been at work for the NSSA about two weeks.

O'Leary was a consultant in education and training programs for the Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years and taught for six years at community colleges in

Maine and Iowa in environmental studies. He has been researching NSSA issues for a month.

Both men agree that extra funds for higher education will be hard to squeeze out of the Nebraska Legislature. "There's a projected \$10 million shortfall, and it's hard to predict what's going to happen," O'Leary said. The reference was to a \$10 million shortfall in projected state revenue which was discovered last week. It would endanger the resolve of some legislators to add to the 5.9 percent increase in the NU operations budget originally proposed by Gov. Charles Thone, O'Leary said.

"It seemed likely that there would be some compromising," he said, adding that news of the shortfall has changed the political situation.

There are two perspectives about the shortfall, O'Leary said.

"Some people have wanted to increase the state (personal) income tax from 15 to 16 percent, to make up some revenue since federal income taxes have dropped," he said. "And some people want to decrease the state budget another \$10 million."

O'Leary said some non-money educational issues have a better chance for the attention during this legislative session. LB628, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, would prohibit sex discrimination in all public and private institutions in the state. The bill is co-sponsored by Sens. John DeCamp of Neligh, Gerald Koch of Ralston and Tom Vickers of Farnam.

Burk said another bill important to education is LB496, an amended version of which would establish a state student loan authority that would make money available to students at market interest rates. NSSA officials object to the proposal because they believe market interest rates are too high, especially for poor students.

"We hope that it won't be put through this year, simply because it's got to be worked out," Burk said.

Burk, NSSA board member Nette Nelson and legislative assembly chairperson Deb Chapelle will attend a United States Student Association lobbying conference in Washington, D.C., from Feb. 26 to 28, Burk said.

"We'll go over some strategies and meet with the congressional delegation to talk about educational issues and try to persuade them to vote along with us on some budget issues," he said.

DN receives All-American

The Daily Nebraskan has received an All-American honor rating for the eleventh consecutive semester from the National Scholastic Press Association and the Associated Collegiate Press. The highest rating was given for the first semester 1981-82 edition.

Four out of five marks of distinction are necessary for a publication to receive an All-American rating. The marks are awarded by the judges for lively, appealing and creative work. The Daily Nebraskan received four marks of distinction in the areas of coverage and content, writing and editing, opinion content and design.

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Presidential candidates discuss ideas on different alcohol policy

Ideas for a new alcohol policy at UNL were discussed by members of the True, Real and Working Coalition parties at a debate Tuesday night in the Harper Hall Lounge.

The debate was sponsored by the Harper-Schramm-Smith Education/Culture Committee. About 25 people attended the debate.

Dave Milo Mumgaard, presidential candidate for the Working Coalition, said the university ban on alcohol in residence halls is hypocritical because it is general knowledge that drinking goes on.

"We need to approach it (drinking) realistically," he said.

Mumgaard said he supports a policy formulated by the Residence Hall Association that would permit alcohol in the halls, but said the policy must encompass the entire university.

Dan Wedekind, Real Party presidential candidate, said alcohol is in the residence halls, but efforts should be made to make sure the policy is acceptable to housing officials before it is brought to anyone else.

The True Party believes the current RHA-sponsored plan is not satisfactory because it contradicts state law by allowing minors to drink. Mike Ford, the party's presidential candidate said.

"It's not a mature attitude," Ford said.

He said the university policy should parallel state law and forbid minors to drink.

Students attending the debate asked how the candidates proposed to lower tuition rates at UNL.

Wedekind said tuition won't decrease at UNL until state funding for the university increases. To do this, he said the senate should get involved more with lobbying groups.

"It's very important we be effective with the state Legislature," Wedekind said.

Ford said the university wastes too much money and that a lot of unnecessary spending is found in the administration.

The STUPID II Party was invited to the event, but didn't attend.