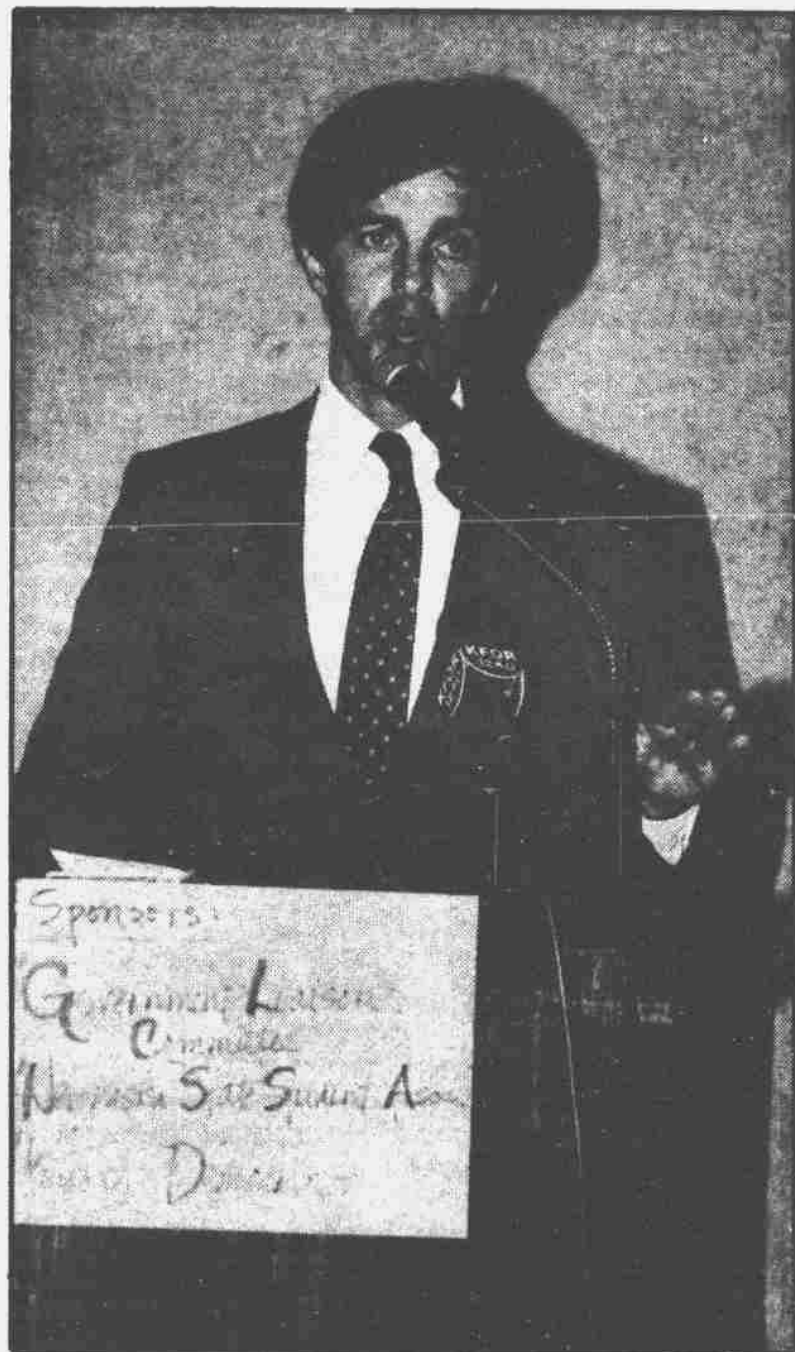


Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday, September 15, 1982

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 82 No. 17



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Kerrey speaks to UNL students in the Nebraska Union Tuesday.

Kerrey attacks current farm policies

By Eric Peterson

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Kerrey answered questions about agriculture, abortion and student aid Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. Kerrey's talk, sponsored by ASUN's Government Liaison Committee, the Nebraska State Student Association and the Nebraska Young Democrats, highlighted a voter registration drive sponsored this week by GLC and NSSA.

Kerrey attacked the Reagan administration's agricultural policy. He noted that Reagan's secretary of agriculture, John Block, had said last year that the strong should survive in the agricultural economy, and that the government should simply stay out of the way. In fact, Kerrey pointed out, government is deeply involved in agriculture and has often thwarted farmers in the past. "Agriculture is a spoiled, pampered child," Kerrey quoted Block as saying, and then quoted Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone's remark that Block is a bright light in Washington.

"Every sector establishes prices for itself except agriculture," Kerrey asserted, adding that agriculture is not in trouble because other countries are doing a better job, but because of government actions.

Kerrey insisted that the administration's "Food as

a Weapon" policy — tying agricultural exports to politics — is damaging to farmers.

"It makes it very difficult for us to survive when we've got that sort of policy."

Kerrey noted that the administration called a recent corn sale to Taiwan a "godsend." Kerrey said, "It's not a godsend when we sell \$2 corn."

Kerrey said he favors cash incentives for land set-asides. The set-asides are intended to reduce agricultural surpluses by paying farmers to leave land fallow.

"The basis is to make certain we've got independent producers. The tremendous inventories we have now make it questionable when farm prices will improve."

Kerrey said it is difficult to tell if the state can afford to make up for federal financial aid cutbacks.

"The governor's pushing everything back beyond the next election makes it difficult," Kerrey said the people of the state need to recommit themselves to the importance of superior education.

Kerrey said his abortion position hasn't changed, although perceptions of it have during the campaign. He reiterated that he is personally opposed to abortion and will attempt to constrict it at the state level, but is opposed to a federal constitutional amendment banning abortion.

Senate asks Regents to clarify bylaw

The UNL Faculty Senate asked NU Attorney Richard Wood to clarify the NU Board of Regents bylaw on political activity by faculty members at its meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The Senate, meeting for the first time, voted to ask the regents' bylaw committee to either change or clarify the bylaw.

The bylaw states that faculty members have the right to participate in political life, however, each faculty member must perform the duties of his or her position at UNL without any interference from outside activities.

In March, UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale also asked Wood to review the bylaw about political activity.

One faculty member affected by the bylaw is Mike Steinman, a Lincoln city councilman and UNL political science professor. The Senate has formed a three-man committee to generate ideas to change the bylaws.

The Senate asked the regents' bylaws committee to either clarify or change the bylaws. The Senate also requested a three-man committee to come up with ideas to change the bylaws.

Continued on Page 2

UNL student alcohol use near national average

By Vicki Ruhga

The percentage of students consuming alcohol at UNL is similar to the percentage at other college campuses across the country, said Dave DeCoster, UNL dean of students.

The Chronicle of Higher Education conducted a survey of college deans and found that 75 percent of college students drink, and between 10 percent and 15 percent have alcohol-related problems.

RHA president Tom Mockler said an alcohol survey conducted within the residence halls last year showed that 75 percent of UNL students drink. However, the alcohol abuse is twice the national average, at about 20 percent, he said.

Alcohol consumption by minors was slightly higher than the overall rate at 85 percent, and the off-campus rate was 90 percent, Mockler said.

"I think the deans surveyed were a little conservative in their estimates," DeCoster said.

DeCoster said research done directly with college students showed an alcohol consumption rate of 85 percent for freshmen, with an increase each year the student is in school. Ninety percent of seniors drank at some point in their college careers, he said.

Alcohol use is not a new problem on college campuses. Of the college deans surveyed by the Chronicle, 95 percent felt that drinking habits had not changed significantly since the mid 1970s.

Rates constant

"For the past 30 years, alcohol consumption rates have remained relatively constant, with a few slight increases," DeCoster said. "However, there is no question that right now, alcohol is the most popular drug."

Mary Kramer, coordinator of the alcohol education program in the UNL residence halls, said there has been less marijuana use than there was six years ago. However, alcohol has always been the number one drug problem, she said.

DeCoster said the freshmen group, which probably has the least experience with alcohol, is usually the most affected.

"They are out of the hometown, family

environment and have more freedom in all areas, including drink," he said. "They tend to make more mistakes and overindulge."

Kramer said current procedures for a student who constantly has alcohol problems is to refer the student to a

community organization, such as the Lincoln General Hospital Independence Center.

Staff trained

"The residence hall staff has gone through the training sessions offered by the

Independence Center," Kramer said. "They watch for students who sleep through classes or fight with students after drinking."

Kramer said when a behavioral problem occurs, such as drinking in the halls, the staff tries to move away from disciplinary action. They take the position of helping the student by referring him or her to a community group, she said.

DeCoster said the best solution was to stress responsible drinking behavior on the part of the student.

"The emphasis should be on how drinking behavior affects other objectives of life, such as the student's goal to be successful in terms of academic pursuits.

"We don't necessarily emphasize abstinence, but we do stress responsible drinking and a healthy lifestyle," DeCoster said. "I think it's the most reasonable approach."

Control supply

Mockler said the most reasonable solution would be to sell alcohol in the union, the bartenders could more easily control the age of drinkers and thereby control the supply. However, he said he was not sure if this would have a dramatic influence on alcohol abuse in the residence halls.

There is no real way to distinguish between responsible and irresponsible drinking," Mockler said. "Student assistants cannot always help students because if they find a student drinking, they are required to write him up. This creates an awkward situation."

Mockler cited several colleges which have adopted a liberal policy completely legalizing alcohol on campus. However, in many cases this resulted in a rash of abuses, he said.

Eventually the colleges adopted a more restrictive policy. They usually limit the places alcohol can be used after considering the number and ages of people present, Mockler said.

"Once alcohol is legalized, the entire university staff has a basic alcohol education program," Mockler said, "the effects of alcohol are better known and responsible drinking behavior is promoted."

Alcohol consumption comparison

