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RHA approves proposal giving halls more money

By Vicki Ruhga

A financing proposal was the subject of heated discussion at Thursday's Residence Hall Association meeting in Harper Hall.

The original proposal would return all refrigerator rental revenue, which currently finances RHA, to the Office of Housing. In turn, the office would give RHA and hall governments \$9 per year per student, rather than the current \$8, which is given to each hall government, said Melba Petrie, RHA president.

RHA would take a maximum of 10 percent off the top of the revenue, and the remaining amount would be given to the hall governments, for an increase of about 10 cents per student, she said.

RHA members were concerned about a provision in the proposal that would have allowed the RHA council to approve the budget or refer it back to the hall government within two weeks.

"This would be restricting hall government powers," said RHA member Patrick Edwards. "RHA could come back and tell us to change our hall government budgets if they don't like it."

RHA member David Klosterbuer suggested an amendment that would allow the hall governments to approve RHA's budget. However, the members abandoned the proposal because it would have slowed the budget approval process.

A motion made by RHA member Doug Stoehr was passed to eliminate the approval of the residence hall budgets by the RHA council.

In addition, the original proposal called for the RHA's surplus money and the hall governments' surplus to revert to a general fund. The money in the fund could be used by any group, or residence hall good idea, Petrie said.

RHA added an amendment that stated that each residence hall's funds for the general fund could be ear-

marked for certain projects, provided there are certain time limits and the RHA finance committee approves of the project.

Tom Lauder, RHA alternate member, substituting for Dave Edwards, gave a report on the Food for Thought forums held earlier this week.

Lauder said that overall the program was a success. The total turnout for the four forums was about 50 people, and housing speakers and food service managers cooperated, he said.

RHA adviser, Richard McKinnon, said that the forums were a positive experience, and there was good feedback and ideas expressed for the students. For example, the office of housing will be working for more food toppings in the Abel-Sandoz complex and other suggested improvements.

RHA recommended that each complex work with the maintenance staff to put up suggestion boxes for more student feedback.

Similar issues face students at helm of ISU government

Eric Peterson

Student government at Iowa State University in Ames faces many of the same problems that UNL students confront. Cutbacks in federal financial aid to students, for example, have become the issue with which Hallie Still, president of Iowa State's Government of the Student Body (GSB), is most concerned.

"One of our main priorities this year is financial aid," Still said. "We've organ-

ized "three women and one token black."

The GSB is working on a textbook policy, Still said, with the aim of slowing textbook turnover and establishing department-wide texts in some cases.

"Every semester they change the book and then the student gets stuck with a book they can't get rid of," she said. Another GSB project is an election this week about whether to retain Iowa State's present system of plus and minus grading, Still said.

She noted that draft registration has been controversial on the Iowa State campus, but in a different sense than on most college campuses.

"This has not been a very popular issue on campus," she said. A fracas resulted when the Iowa State student senate voted to send \$20 to the legal defense fund of Rusty Martin, University of Northern Iowa student president and the second Iowan to be indicted for draft evasion. The controversy arose because some students questioned spending any money for his defense, Still explained.

Mixed representation

Still said the student senate has had a mixed system of representation since last year. Student senators are now chosen by college and also by living area. She said the change from exclusive representation by college was made because of domination in student government by fraternities and sororities.

Still said there is an Iowa statewide student lobbying agency, which is similar in concept to the Nebraska State Student Association, called the United Students of Iowa.

She said about 15 percent of Iowa State students voted in the last GSB election, which compares with the 10 percent of UNL's student body who voted in the last ASUN election.

Eye on the Big Eight

ized a couple of Financial Aid Days in between the regents' meetings."

She said the GSB is asking for more financial aid at the university level to cope with higher tuition for the Iowa university system. She said their message to the Iowa regents is, "If you're going to raise the tuition on us, at least give us some more financial aid."

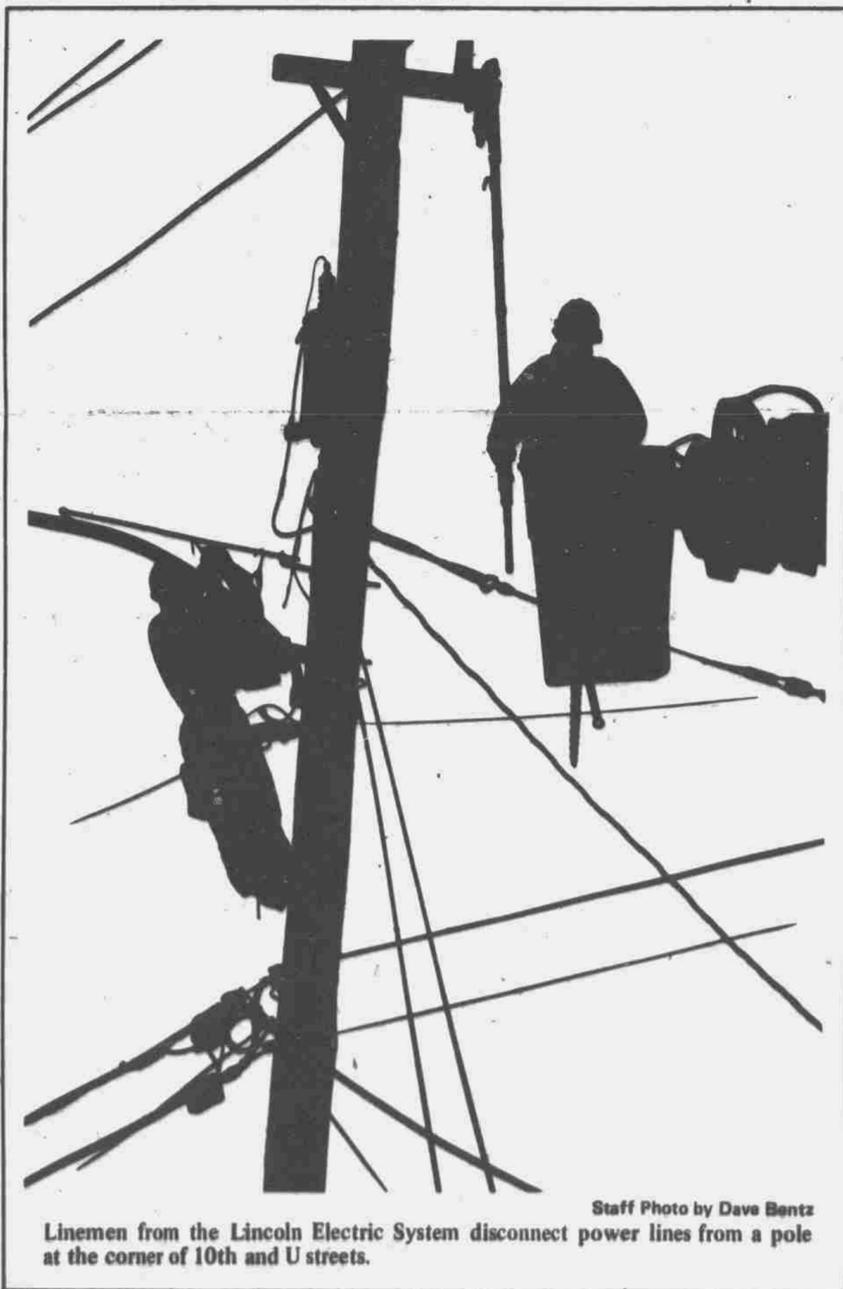
Still noted that the Iowa regents are appointed by the governor of the state. She said the regents' attitude toward student government at Iowa State is patronizing.

"Many times, you feel kind of frustrated... though it's not real bad, it's improved from last year," she said.

Systems similar

Still said the Iowa regents control a university system similar to Nebraska's. The system includes Iowa State, the University of Iowa in Iowa City, the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, the School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs and the School for the Blind in Vinton.

Still said Iowa has nine regents, includ-



Staff Photo by Dave Bantz

Linemen from the Lincoln Electric System disconnect power lines from a pole at the corner of 10th and U streets.

Everything you've always wanted to eat and less

By Jeff Goodwin

As the song says, you can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant. Now, thanks to a study created by an instructor in the UNL department of human nutrition and food service management, diners at the restaurant, 311 N. 70th St., have the option of ordering reduced portions of their dinner meal. The smaller portions cost \$1 less.

Phyllis Staats is responsible for the new policy. Staats is working for her doctorate, and the project forms the basis of her dissertation.

"I basically wanted to find out if customers would take the reduced portions if they were given the option," she said. "So far the response has been very good from the public."

Staats said she approached several restaurants in Lin-

coln before Alice's.

"I just happened to approach Alice's at the right time," Staats said. "Mr. (Eriling) Schroeder (owner of Alice's) was looking for ways to get more customers."

Staats said the project was an extension of a study about smaller portions she started two years ago at the East Union.

"We found at the time that it was mostly females taking the smaller portions, although there were also males who did," she said.

Henri Opp, a manager at Alice's, said the reaction from customers has been favorable.

"The ones that are taking advantage of it do enjoy it," he said.

Opp said Alice's had been considering offering smaller portions for some time.

"We'd been toying with doing something like that and then they (UNL) came along with the idea," he said.

Opp said Alice's has had no financial loss result from serving smaller portions.

"The difference in price is made up in the smaller portions," Opp said.

Staats said the study, which began shortly after Halloween, nearly is complete.

"We've pretty much got all of the data compiled," she said.

Staats attributed the popularity of the smaller portions to a different attitude toward health care.

"We all are thinking more healthy all the time," she said. "People are not as active as they used to be, and they realize that they just don't need as much."