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RHA approves 1.9 percent increase in room, board rates

By Lauri Hopple

UNL students who plan on living in a residence hall room next year will have to pay more for a room.

During their first meeting of the year Wednesday the Residence Hall Association unanimously approved the Office of University Housing's projected 1.9 percent room and board rates increase for July 1983 through June 1984.

Director for Housing Doug Zatechka was present at the meeting to answer questions of any of the 14 RHA representatives.

Treasurer George Phillips questioned housing's requirement to "always stay in the black." Zatechka said that policy results from housing's bond holders' need for investment security. Also, a budget planned to stay out of debt forces better fiscal accountability and management, he said.

RHA also voted down a proposal to make a definite statement on the issue of planned nuclear waste shipments on Burlington Northern railroad tracks near the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls. A statement will not be made until more information on planned precautions and possible hazards is available to RHA.

RHA Executive Assistant Steve Bray and Secretary Tish Mockler will attend Lincoln City Councilman Eric Youngberg's conference on nuclear waste Jan. 31.

Mockler said, "Just because we have ammonia being shipped through Lincoln now is not an excuse to start shipping nuclear waste. RHA is trying to educate students about nuclear waste."

Bray said that Youngberg "basically wants people to call the city council to tell them that there is a big concern (about nuclear waste)."

RHA President Melba Petrie said she plans to invite Youngberg and Burlington Northern railroad representatives to an RHA meeting so they can present information regarding waste shipment.

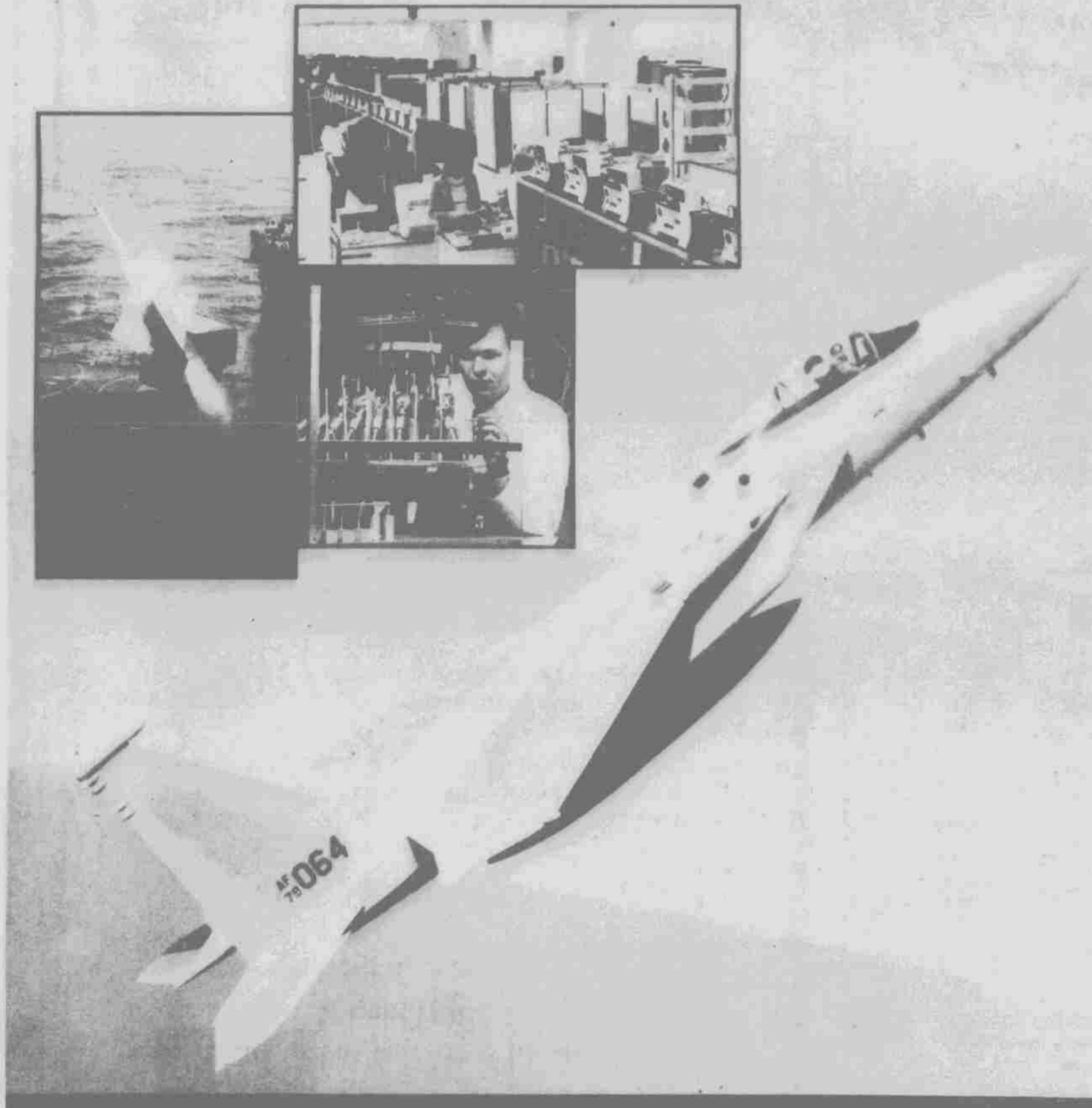
Upcoming RHA campaigns and elections also were discussed. Campaigning is authorized after Jan. 31, the first day to officially file for a ballot spot. The last day to file is Feb. 18.

Interested students must have at least a 2.5 GPA and have lived in a residence hall for one semester, Richard McKinnon, assistant director for resident education and housing adviser for RHA, said. Student housing staff members, such as student assistants, are not eligible to run for an executive RHA position, McKinnon said.

To run the elections and polls, and set up debates between executive candidates, RHA appoints an electoral commission headed by Vice President Kathy Mach. Representatives from each UNL residence hall, appointed by the hall president, also will serve on the commission.

Sunil Dewan, RHA representative from Selleck Quadrangle, was appointed chairman of planning for an "Adopt-a-Foreign-Friend" program, in which an American student would explain the campus to an assigned foreign student, helping him get acquainted with life at UNL.

Freshman Heidi Burklund was approved unanimously as a new Nebraska State Student Association representative.



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