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Groups decry MX 'madness'



Staff photo by Dana Davis

Merle Hanson

By Christopher Barbach

Opponents of the MX missile gathered Wednesday at the State Capitol to decry the planned production and deployment of the weapon.

Congress has approved the MX, but has not yet passed funding for it.

Spokesmen for the groups represented at the press conference at the Capitol said they hope to prevent passage of a House of Representatives bill that would appropriate funds for the missile.

Should the House approve MX funds, the missiles will be deployed in western Nebraska and Wyoming silos.

The MX is a highly accurate missile, designed to destroy Soviet land-based missiles in their silos. Because of its possible deterrent value, President Reagan has dubbed it "Peacekeeper."

Critics of the MX claim it will destabilize and thus escalate the arms race, while proponents claim its first-strike capability will create a formidable deterrent.

Those who spoke at the Capitol, representatives of 16 Nebraska peace, agriculture, women's and religious groups, sided with the MX critics.

"I have great difficulty in not crying out that this is madness," said Merle Hanson of Newman Grove, vice president of the U.S. Farm Association.

"I remember pretty well all of the promises since 1945," Hanson said. "The A-Bomb was gonna do it; we were going to be safe; then we had the H-Bomb. Then Kennedy talked about a missile gap or bomber gap that didn't exist. Now this administration has gone beyond deterrence."

The Rev. Warren Krend of the United Church of Christ, Nebraska Conference, also questioned the

MX's role as a deterrent. Krend said development of the MX, Pershing II and Trident nuclear missiles moves the United States "past a defensive system onto a first-strike basis." That is immoral, he said.

Other religious leaders echoed that sentiment, including Bishop Monk Bryan of the United Methodist Church, Nebraska Conference.

The MX missile is a particularly vicious development, that turns life-giving plowshares into death-dealing swords, Bryan said. "Those who live by swords also die by swords," he said.

Betty Olson, Coordinator for Nebraskans for Peace, said the MX represents a qualitative step in escalating the arms race.

"With the increased threat that the MX represents, a launch-on-warning response by the Soviets seems almost inevitable," she said.

Ada Munson, state chairperson for Nebraska Coalition for Women, said peace is not simply the absence of war.

Military spending, and MX funding in particular, is weakening the U.S. economy and taking money away from domestic programs, Munson said.

She also said the MX will not improve U.S. defense but will spur the Soviet Union to move ahead with the arms race.

"We can no longer use military means to resolve our ideological differences," she said.

Jeff Tracy of Nebraskans Opposed to the MX, who coordinated the press conference, said he believes the people at the Capitol represented a majority of Nebraskans. Tracy cited polls taken in June 1983, that showed 45 percent of Nebraskans opposed MX production and deployment in the state; 42 percent were in favor of it. Fifty-five percent of the western Nebraska residents polled opposed the missile.

Second vice president of ASUN steps down

By Jann Nyffeler

ASUN second vice-president Bill Buntain announced his resignation at the weekly senate meeting Wednesday.

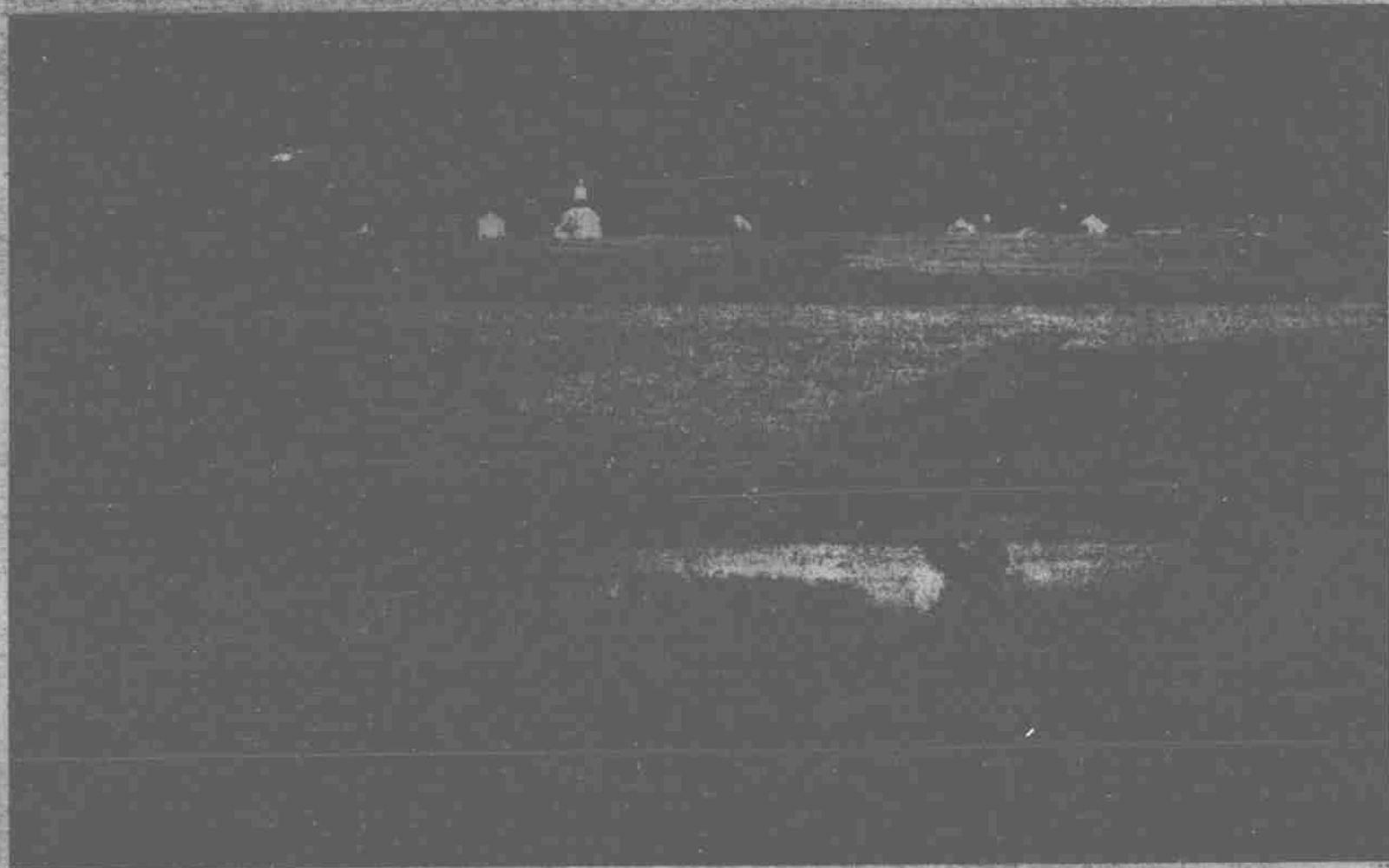
Buntain said personal reasons, including his position as Campus Activities Program major concerts coordinator, prompted him to make the decision.

"I didn't want it to be a blow-off," Buntain said. He said he doesn't have enough time to be as effective in both offices as he would like.

Kay Hinn, a senior engineering major, was appointed to replace Buntain. She was appointed by president Matt Wallace and approved by the senate. Hinn had been a senator for 2 1/4 years. She served as Campus Life committee chairperson.

She also has been on the Parking Advisory Board, the Government Liaison Committee, the Engineering College Executive Board Homecoming parade chairperson and she is a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.

Continued on Page 8



Staff photo by Jerry McBride

Nebraska autumn

Gray skies and stubbled fields, as in this scene north of Lincoln, signaled the advent of fall this week in Nebraska. Cooler temperatures arrived right on time as the end of a long, hot summer officially ended Wednesday.

Roskens: Resource cuts limit quality

By Jim Berryman

The University Association for Administrative Development kicked off its 1983-84 school year with a luncheon meeting Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.

UAAD is a 170-member organization composed of professional and managerial employees of UNL, whose primary function is to promote professional development, UAAD president-elect John Burbank said.

Wednesday's meeting was highlighted by NU president Ronald Roskens, who responded to questions previously submitted by members of UAAD. The questions involved controversial issues currently

affecting UNL, including the budget and relations with the Nebraska Legislature.

Budget limitations by the Legislature have severely affected UNL and its ability to continue as a quality university, Roskens said. The major reason for the lack of funds, he said, is the current economic situation in Nebraska.

"The university as a total has been underfunded," Roskens said. "The circumstances are not as bright as we might hope."

"You and the members of the faculty are being asked to continue to function on the same amount of money and not receive anything more than maybe a pat on the back," he said. "Unfortunately a pat on the back doesn't buy groceries."

Continued on Page 8

Inside

- "Peewee," a hobo staying in Lincoln, describes life on the streets in this week's Kaleidoscope Page 9
- UNL professor, pianist Larry Lusk talks about his art and recent tour Page 12
- Penn State secures its hold on the top spot in the Bottom 10 Page 16

Index

Arts and Entertainment.....	12
Classified.....	18
Crossword.....	18
Editorial.....	4
Off The Wire.....	2
Sports.....	16