

ASUN rejects faculty suggestion to discontinue use of down slips

By Kema Soderberg
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

ASUN voted unanimously Wednesday night not to eliminate down slips for a one-year period. The resolution was brought to the council by the faculty senate and, if passed, may have gone into effect this year.

Sen. Ken Bukowski said some faculty members do not think down slips are necessary because students who attend classes usually know how they are doing and those who skip classes can guess the grade they are getting.

Sen. Ross Davidson said some students need down slips as an incentive to do better. He said this especially is true of some freshmen. Down slips, he said,

"hit them like a sledge hammer" and "wakes those people up a little bit."

Sen. Paul Charelli said he is concerned that some students actually do not have any idea how they are doing in classes because their work is not returned to them. He said down slips force the faculty member to make an estimate on students' grades by mid-semester.

Down slips also give students a chance to see if a grading mistake has been made up to mid-semester, Sen. Laura Harvey said. She said it is easier to correct an error at that time than at the end of the semester.

Because of the long weekend, no other business was brought to ASUN. However, Mark Scudder,

president, reported during a personal interview last Friday that the council is:

- Looking into the administration's suggestion to make summer orientation mandatory. Scudder said some senators from their areas won't be able to take time off from summer jobs.
- Hoping to get started on bookstore construction.
- Suggesting that a Student Recreation Center be put on a list for priority construction.
- Planning for the Government Liason Committee to sponsor a voter registration drive on Sept. 10 to 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booths will be set up in the Nebraska Union on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at the East Union Thursday and Friday.

'Space invaders' await Union home

Computers are space invaders and, in the Nebraska Union, space is hard to come by.

Mary Marcy, president of the Union Board, said a new computer room may satisfy the needs of women and handicapped persons but would reduce lounge size and could displace television viewers.

"Anytime we install a new project or service we displace someone," Marcy said. "Who do we displace?"

Under the new option, computers would be put in the television lounge across from Union Square. Reconstruction could make the center available 24 hours and make it accessible to the handi-

capped. Television viewers would be moved to the northwest corner of the lounge.

However, television viewers at the south end of the lounge may also be moved. Marcy said this space may be needed for programming because the lounge will be smaller.

Marcy said the plan is an alternative to revamping the first floor women's lounge. The board decided to convert the lounge last February despite 178 signature gathered in protest to the change.

Marcy said the board doesn't think the first plan is bad, but thinks the second plan shows a stronger commitment to the handi-

capped. However, she said other buildings on campus will have computers available for the handicapped. The Union is not legally required to provide the service, she said.

Mark Edens, second vice president of ASUN, said most handicapped students live in Selleck Hall. He said it would be easier for them to get to the union than other buildings. Accessibility to the building's computers is important, he said.

Both ASUN and Panhellenic Association support having computers in the Nebraska Union, but neither has said which plan it prefers.

Wire Report

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Chernenko, 72, appears after extended absence

MOSCOW — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, who has been out of public view for more than seven weeks, appeared in a film on Soviet television Wednesday. The official television film showed Chernenko walking unaided but appearing flushed and unsteady as he delivered a four-minute speech and awarded medals to three Soviet cosmonauts at a Kremlin ceremony. Chernenko, who turns 73 this month, has not been seen in public since he was reported to have gone on vacation July 15 and there had been growing speculation in Moscow that he was seriously ill.

Commenting on Tass reports about the ceremony, issued several hours before the television broadcast, Western diplomats said Chernenko's reappearance would dampen speculation about the gravity of his health problems. In his speech, Chernenko made a fresh appeal to the United States to accept Soviet terms for negotiations on a treaty banning the militarization of outer space, Tass said.

Cattle antibiotics may hurt humans

BOSTON — The widespread practice of feeding antibiotics to cattle to speed their growth creates potentially deadly bacteria that can infect humans, the Federal Centers for Disease Control reported Wednesday. The report in the New England Journal of Medicine also said the bacteria themselves are immune to antibiotic treatment. The study, which said 17 people became sick and one died because a herd of South Dakota cattle was fed antibiotics, is a blow against the U.S. cattle industry. The 30-year-old practice of using antibiotics in animal feed has been a boom to the U.S. livestock industry and pharmaceutical companies. For years, scientists have warned that the constant presence of the antibiotics in those animals could encourage bacteria to develop a resistance to the drugs. Researchers feared that the resistant strains would then begin to infect humans, making it difficult for doctors to cure them. Since 1970 the Federal Food and Drug Administration has tried to restrict the practice. But each time Congress has blocked the attempt, accepting the industry's argument that there is no solid evidence to back up scientists' fears.

Dr. Scott Holmberg and his colleagues at the CDC in Atlanta say they now have that evidence. The drug-resistant illness surfaced Dec. 13, 1982, when a 29-year-old South Dakota woman and her 3-year-old daughter became severely ill after eating hamburger. When they were hospitalized, doctors found they were suffering from salmonella, a type of bacteria responsible for food poisoning. Inside the bacteria, CDC investigators would later identify a tiny ring of genetic material that made the bacteria immune to antibiotics. That ring served as a fingerprint that let investigators track the resistant bacteria across six states and eventually pinpoint the dairy herd owner who had helped create the resistant strain by feeding small amounts of antibiotics to his cattle.

Mondale announces freeze plan

PORTLAND, Ore. — Walter Mondale carried his peace offensive from a polite audience of war veterans in Salt Lake City Wednesday morning to a lusty crowd here that roared approval of his proposals for a nuclear arms freeze. The Democratic presidential nominee told both groups that as president he promptly would invite the Soviet leaders to summit talks in Geneva to negotiate a mutual, verifiable freeze of the arms race. He told an American Legion convention in Salt Lake City that he would declare a unilateral pause on all nuclear and space weapons testing and invite the Soviets to do the same. In Portland, despite a steady rain, thousands of people cheered Mondale and his running mate Geraldine Ferraro, who joined him here after her own swing through the Pacific Northwest. Mondale pressed his attack on Reagan as the only president since the atomic bomb was first dropped who has failed to negotiate an arms control agreement.

Reagan defends religious stand

NEW YORK — In an exchange of letters with writer and television producer Norman Lear, President Reagan has defended his stand on prayer in public schools and has emphasized that he is not using his office as "a pulpit for one religion over all others." Religion remains a central issue in the presidential campaign despite attempts by Reagan's advisers, who view it as a "political hot potato," to play it down. The president has been accused of exploiting his religious beliefs and deliberately blurring the separation of church and state. He recently has come under attack on the issue from Democratic rival Walter Mondale. Reagan said he can recall no instance when he tried to convert others "or impose my beliefs on those of other faiths." It was true, one of his letters said, that he had addressed a number of religious groups, but always at their invitation. The letters, three from Lear, were written in May, June and July. Reagan replied twice.

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