

UNO student regent receives fines, reprimand

By Eric Gregory

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Mike DeBolt has been named UNL student Regent after having been through an election, a runoff election and a protest hearing before the Student Election Commission.

After voters failed to provide a 10 percent margin lead for any of four candidates in the Oct. 29 through 31 election, a runoff election was held Nov. 18 and 19 between the two top candidates, Jim Corson and Mike DeBolt. DeBolt defeated Corson 386-220.

Corson then filed a protest alleging that DeBolt and his campaign agents made slanderous statements about him to hundreds of students. These included referring to him as a jerk, saying that he has only a 2.0 grade point average and that he is carrying only three credit hours.

The protest also alleged that DeBolt posted campaign signs in the UNO Student Center that were larger than the permissible size. Under Election Commission rules, posters cannot be larger than 14 inches by 22 inches. Anything larger is considered a banner and candidates are allowed only one banner each.

The final allegation accused DeBolt and his agents of

campaigning inside of designated polling areas, which according to Corson is another violation of student government election rules.

"I'm carrying more than three credit hours, my GPA is higher than 2.0 and I don't think I'm a jerk . . .," Corson said.

DeBolt denied slandering Corson and referring to him as a jerk, but did admit to making a comment about Corson's GPA and credit hours. According to DeBolt, the incident began during the first election when, "a friend of Jim's came up to me and said she was voting for me because Jim has a 2.0 GPA and is only carrying three credit hours," DeBolt said.

When asked in the runoff election what his GPA is and if he knew Corson's, DeBolt repeated what he had heard publicly. DeBolt described the statement as "an of the cuff comment that was blown way out of proportion."

DeBolt said he wasn't sure if a person's GPA or credit hours is a relevant issue or not, but that "to participate in athletics you have to carry 12 credit hours and keep a certain GPA. My perception of student government is the same. Academics come first . . ."

Regarding the charge about oversized posters DeBolt admitted that, although he didn't

know it at the time, he displayed four posters that were larger than the permissible size. "There's about 20 pages of rules and regulations and I guess I missed that one. It was purely an oversight," he said.

Campaigning too near the polling areas "was probably the one thing I was guilty of. They didn't have them marked off clearly enough," DeBolt said.

The protest was heard by the Student Election Commission in a public hearing Nov. 27th in the Milo Bail Student Center. Dan Brodkey, student election commissioner, presided at the hearing.

The commission found DeBolt guilty of slander because of the comment on Corson's GPA and credit hours. They also found him guilty of displaying oversized posters. DeBolt was fined \$25 for each offense and reprimanded.

Brodkey said a candidate would have to be found guilty of something "more drastic, like falsifying records," to warrant overturning an election. He said he thought the commission's punishment was appropriate and added, "There's never been a student fined for this before. Hopefully it will set some precedent and keep people in line in the future."

Corson disagreed with the appropriateness of the ruling saying, "I was the one who was damaged and their fining him \$50

doesn't help me any.

lem once he got to know them.

When asked if his credibility has been hurt, DeBolt said he didn't think so, but he thought Corson has a stronger backing in the student senate. He added that he was optimistic about working with the senate and didn't think there would be any prob-

DeBolt said the election could have been decided the first time around if the voter turnout had been larger. According to DeBolt, UNO has about 16,000 students. About 700 voted in the first election and about 600 in the runoff election.

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Who's News

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs at UNL, has been named the nation's outstanding adviser to fraternities and sororities for 1984.

Her selection as the recipient of the Robert H. Shaffer Award was announced by the Association of Fraternity Advisers during AFA's recent annual meeting.

The award recognizes "outstanding service and dedication to the promotion of fraternity and sor-

ority ideals."

Anderson is a native of Plainview. She has both a bachelor's and master's degree from UNL.

She has coordinated and directed all UNL fraternity and sorority programs as director of Greek Affairs at UNL since 1978. In addition, she is a past national president of Mortar Board and has served as a member of numerous campus and community committees.

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