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Weather: Partly sunny and warmer again today with a high of 33 (1C). Partly cloudy and not as cold tonight with a low of 10 (-12C). Thursday, partly sunny and colder with a high of 26 (-3C).
Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

Toobee or not toobee, a toy? ...Page 10

Winter sports make cold fun...Page 14

'Change' announces ASUN candidacy

By Gene Gentrup
Senior Reporter

The Change Party announced its candidacy for ASUN on Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. The election will be March 13.

Kevin Goldstein, a senior business major and Change's candidate for ASUN president, said the party believes strongly in "advancing the rights of student."

Goldstein, first vice-presidential candidate Jill Fager, a sophomore nursing major, and second vice-presidential candidate Doug "Gonzo" Kasperek, a sophomore majoring in secondary education, said students should be able to determine student policy wherever and whenever possible. One of those policies, Goldstein said, is the NU Board of Regents consideration of the budget proposed by the Committee for Fees Allocation. Goldstein said CFA spends two semesters preparing the budget before it is passed on to the ASUN senate. After the senate approves the budget recommendation, it is sent to the UNL Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Once the vice chancellor approves it, the budget is sent to the chancellor, who considers the budget, revises it or approves it and submits it to the regents, he said.

"These students spend hundreds of hours on the budget and their recommendations can be changed without reason," Goldstein said.

"We want two votes on the proposal, one vote on chancellor's proposal and one vote on CFA's original proposal."

Fager, an ASUN nursing senator, said students "need to have greater input into monetary decisions, especially those dealing with capital construction."

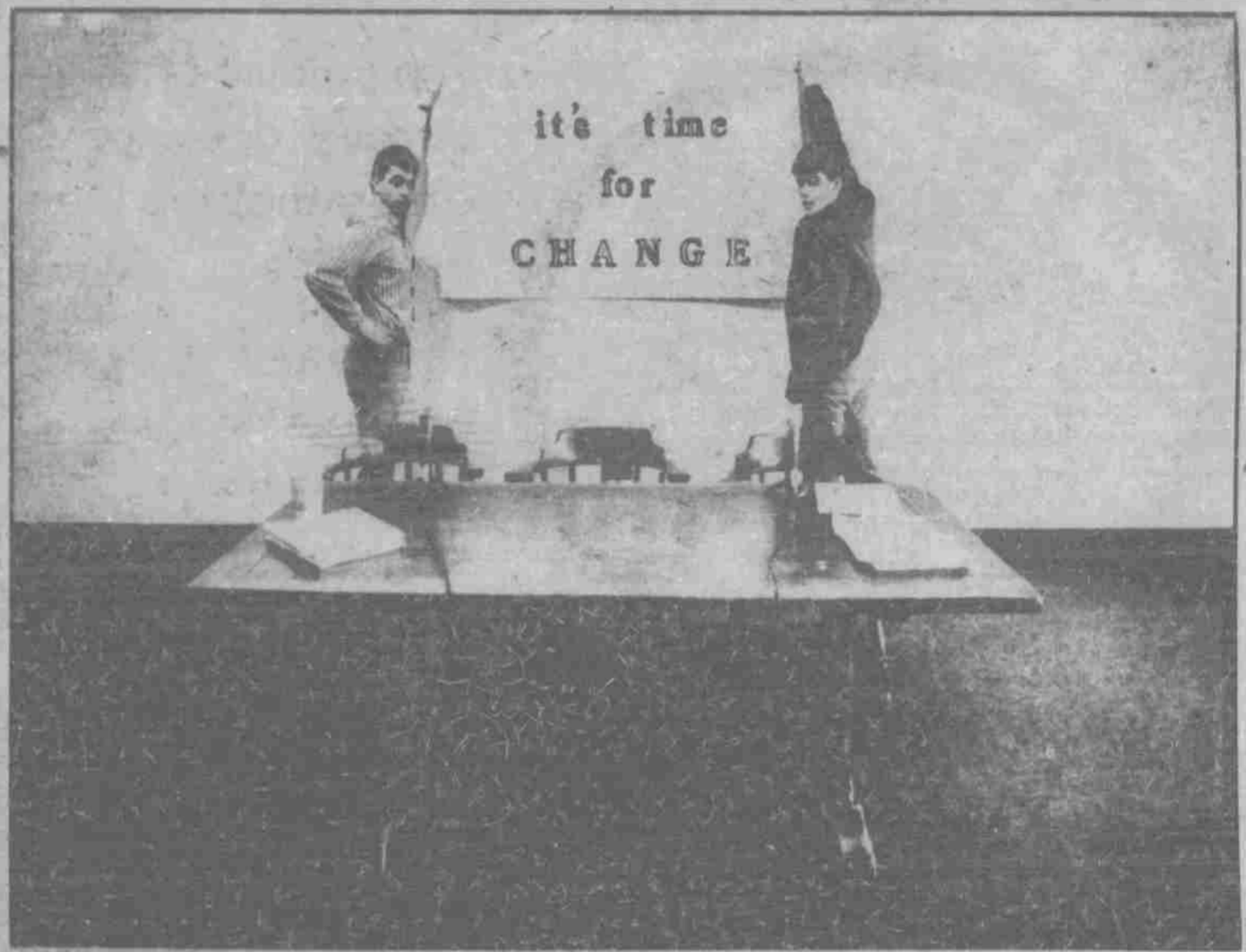
Fager said students should vote on the proposed UNL Recreation Center "only when given up-to-date information."

"We support this project as soon as a majority of students approve a specific proposal with a definite level of funding and estimate of the corresponding increase in student fees," she said.

Goldstein said Change supports 24-hour access to the union during final's week and supports the "satellite registration" program now in the planning stage.

He said the party's "20/15" proposal would combine the current method of ASUN elections by colleges with an election by living units. He said other than the regular "by college" election process, five additional students would be elected from off-campus residents, five from residence halls and five from fraternity and sorority houses.

Goldstein said his party has a "good cross-section of people" from all parts of campus life. Goldstein said he is an off-campus resident, while Fager is from a sorority house and Kasperek from a residence hall.



Joel Sartore/
Daily Nebraskan

Above: Mike Saphir, left, and Kyle Hansen wait for some tape to post the "Change" Party sign. At left: Goldstein, Fager and Kasperek.

Project extends teacher, student relationship

By Tim Boughn
Staff Reporter

The relationship between students and faculty members can extend beyond the academics of the classroom, thanks to a project sponsored by UNL's Counseling Center.

Whether they meet on campus or go relax in a hot tub, the Student Development Mentoring Transcript Project pairs students and faculty members — called mentors (tutors) — to talk about the students' career and personal goals, said Vernon Williams, the project's coordinator and Counseling Center director.

But the meetings are not restricted to talk about goals. Some student-faculty pairs go to plays, sports events, art exhibits or other activi-

ties. Williams and the student he acts as mentor for, Virgil Waterman, once got together for a meeting in a more relaxed, less academic setting — a hot tub.

Waterman said the program gave him "somebody to talk to about things I didn't have anyone else to talk to."

Susan Dietrich, a junior marketing major, also compliments the program.

"It's kind of a cold, cruel world if you don't know anyone," she said.

Dietrich has been in the program for three years and now is assistant coordinator of the project, recruiting faculty participants and doing clerical work. Her mentor is John Breckenridge, assistant director of counseling.

"John is my friend on campus, an inside friend. I can complain to him," Dietrich said. Breckenridge helps her deal with all the "red tape" of attending the university, she said, and he will be helpful as a reference when she goes out job hunting.

Dietrich said the faculty members have a one-to-one relationship with students, unlike in the classroom, where no one knows anyone. Robert Brown, professor of educational psychology, said it helps to give professors a different perspective on the students.

"It's a different kind of thing than academic advising or the classroom where you have to grade the student at the end of the semester," Brown said. Brown and David DeCoster, dean of students, began the project in 1979.

Williams said that evaluations of the project show it changes some of the faculty members' ideas on how they want to work with students.

"It made me question if I was over-protecting students," Williams said.

Seventy students and 50 faculty members are involved in the project. Project coordinators match students and faculty based on their similar interests. Williams said students are not necessarily matched with faculty who teach in their major.

"If it looks like the mentor has some relevance to a student, we match them up," Williams said. Students interested in participating in the project can contact the Counseling Center, Seaton Hall 1316.

Legislature Briefs

● If you want to tell senators what you think about the proposed "Fager board," go to the Constitutional Revision and Recreation hearing Thursday at the Capitol, room 1018. That group will debate resolutions calling for a merger of the NU system with the state colleges and regional colleges under one governing board.

● One more majority vote will roll out Neill Sen. John DeCamp's branch banking bill on the governor's desk.

● Senators voted 24-18 Tuesday to advance LB281 to the last stage of legislative consideration.

DeCamp's bill, modified by the Banking Committee, would allow banks to acquire unaffiliated branch institutions in the state. Banks could form a branch only by merging with or buying an existing bank. Originally, the measure specified that banks could acquire up to 20 percent of the state's total deposits. To satisfy committee members in favor of branch banking and also those who prefer to maintain the current deposit limit of 9 percent, senators agreed to raise the limit to 11 percent.

● Nebraskans might get the chance to tell their senators when to go to work.

The Legislature voted 28-5 for first-round approval of a resolution that would move the first day of the 90-day sessions from early January to the second Monday in December. If LB23 garners two more favorable votes, it will be placed on the November 1986 general election ballot. The 60-day sessions still would begin in January of even-numbered years.

Economist says decreased incomes, interest rates push farmers to 'limit'

A financial crisis grips much of the U.S. farm sector and UNL ag economist Bruce Johnson said he thinks depressed farm income levels, debt service problems and high interest rates are pushing many farmers to their financial limits.

In the February issue of "Business in Nebraska," a publication of the Bureau of Business Research in the College of Business Administration, Johnson traces the growth of the ag debt since 1960. The farm debt load has multiplied tenfold since that time, jumping from \$1 billion in 1960 to more than \$11 billion today.

Sources for farm loans have shifted during the past 25 years. Johnson said Federal Land Banks have become the largest lender for farm real estate — in 1984 these institutions provided 42 percent of farm real estate funds to

Nebraska borrowers.

The role of Production Credit Associations also has expanded during the period. PCA's have doubled their share of non-real estate ag debt since 1960. Individual lenders remain prominent. On the other hand, bank and insurance company loan volume has dropped, while Farmers Home Administration and Community Credit Corporation lending has varied.

Interest costs have mushroomed, Johnson said. Interest rates on ag real estate and non-real estate debt in 1980 were twice the 1960 levels. As a production expense, interest is second only to the cost of livestock acquisition.

Farm income has not kept pace with the growth of farm debt. During the 1960s and 1970s, Nebraska farm opera-

tors carried an average of \$3 to \$4 of debt for every dollar of net farm income. But by 1982, the debt-to-income ratio had risen to nearly \$12 of debt for every dollar of net farm income, Johnson said.

In other words, a \$20,000 net farm income was accompanied by a debt load of nearly \$250,000 on the average. Debt buildup and growing interest costs had diminished operators' remaining net income. Total net farm earnings in the 1980s have averaged less than 80 percent of the annual levels of the 1970s in nominal dollars and less than 60 percent in constant (purchasing power) dollars.

Johnson theorizes that readily available, reasonably priced credit of the past placed Nebraska farmers in a vulnerable position.