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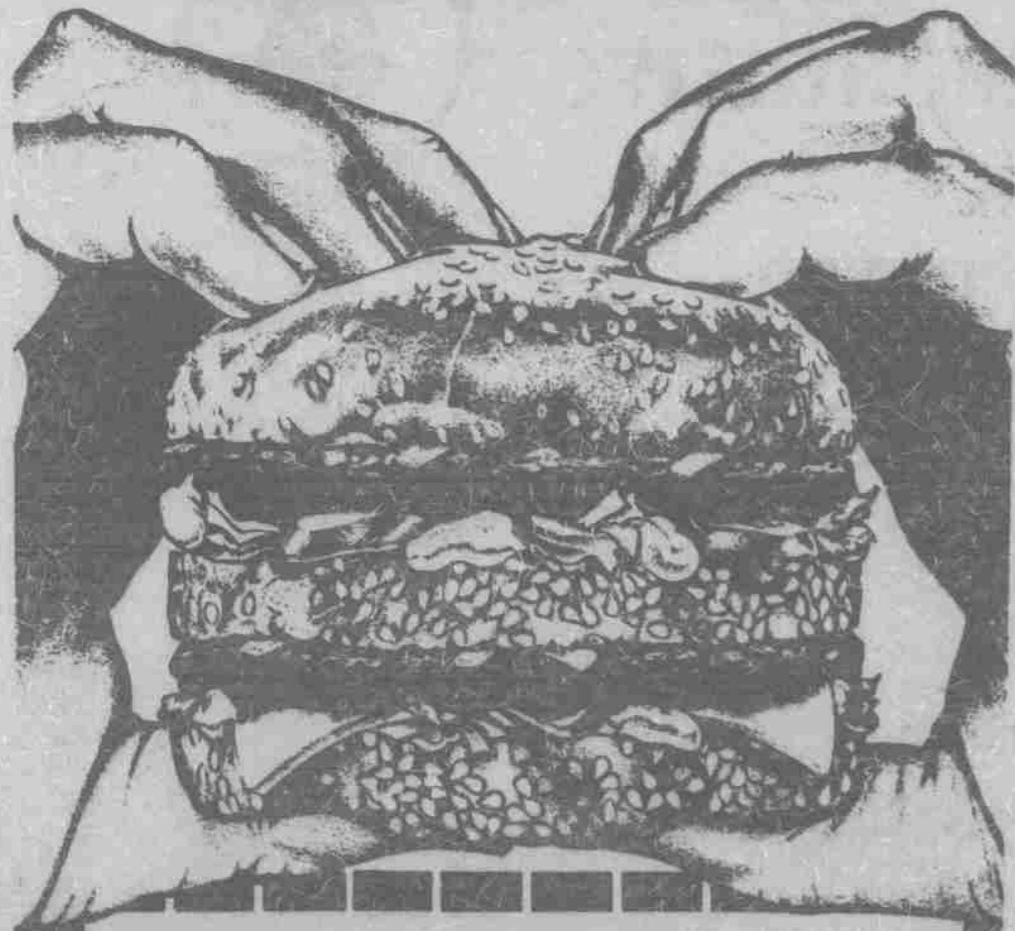
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Commonwealth depositors say they hope Kerrey will debate

By Brad Gifford
Senior Reporter

Commonwealth Savings Co. depositors interviewed after Newt Copple's press conference said they hope Gov. Bob Kerrey and State Banking Director Roger Beverage accept Copple's invitation for a public debate.

They were quick to add that they were not lining up behind Copple, but said if he could unearth more information about the 15-month-old Commonwealth mess, he had their blessing.

All the depositors interviewed said they think more will be uncovered about Commonwealth's demise.

"I think there's some merit in his allegations," Richard Twiss of Lincoln said. "As depositors, we have no alternative but to be hopeful."

"He might have something in some of his claims," LuVern Duemey of Lincoln said. Duemey said that since Copple didn't divulge — only alluded to — new evidence, the press conference was "hardly worth my time."

Hazel Weimer of Lincoln said a scandal is brewing. "It's going to be a Nebraska Watergate before it's ended," Weimer said.

Copple's contention that some bankers and high-ranking Nebraska governmental officials conspired to cover alleged wrongdoings may have some merit, she said.

"Bankers, judges and lawyers are just like this," Weimer said, crossing her index and middle fingers. "They're like one big fraternity."

"I bet right now they're all in a huddle," she said.

During Copple's speech, one unidentified observer whispered to another, "Paul Amen (former banking director) is the nut. He's the one that ought to be brought up on charges."

Weimer agrees. She and her husband moved to Wyoming in September, 1983, about one month before Commonwealth was closed by the state banking department. Weimer said that before they left, she and her husband asked

Amen whether they should take their money to a Wyoming bank and whether Commonwealth was in good shape.

"He said there was 'no problem' at Commonwealth," she said.

The Weimers came back to Lincoln and rented an apartment after the institution's collapse Nov. 1, 1983.

If she had known what was ahead, she said, she and her husband would not have moved.

"We would have stayed right here, where the action is," she said.

Although Copple promised to schedule another press conference and "blow the lid off this scandal once and for all," if Kerrey and Beverage refuse his invitation, Twiss said he would rather see the information surface in a debate.

"I would like to see the simultaneous reactions," Twiss said.

"I just hope that he follows through," Weimer said. "And I hope that Kerrey and Beverage accept his invitation."

"It might open a keg of worms," she said.

Keating...

Continued from Page 1

Second vice presidential candidates Jeff Fishback of Target and Doug Kasperek of Change will face each other in a run-off election March 20. Fishback received 1,112 votes to Kasperek's 941. The two will run against each other again because the victory margin was less than 10 percent.

Keating said Target will back him "100 percent."

"To be a more effective party we need him," he said.

The close presidential race reflected how things went in the college senatorial races.

Target candidates captured 14 senatorial slots and Change, 11.

"It should be a diverse senate and I'm willing to work with all the ASUN

senators," Keating said.

For presidential candidates Kevin Goldstein of Change and Tim Burke of Look, it was their second presidential defeat in two years.

Goldstein said he was disappointed but happy with the increased support he received from last year.

Goldstein said the residence hall turnout also pleased him.

"We brought out a lot of new voters and got the people out of the halls," he said.

Keating said he also was pleased with the voter turnout.

"When you increase the student vote by almost 1,000, you've got to be proud," he said. "This should encourage students to utilize ASUN."

Keating will take office April 3.



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