

Weather:

Today, the skies will be partly cloudy with south-southeast winds near 10 to 15 mph. The high should be in the mid to upper 20's. The low will approach 10. Moderating temperatures for the weekend.

Rockin' Billy parties in past

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Fighting Cyclone lets dust settle

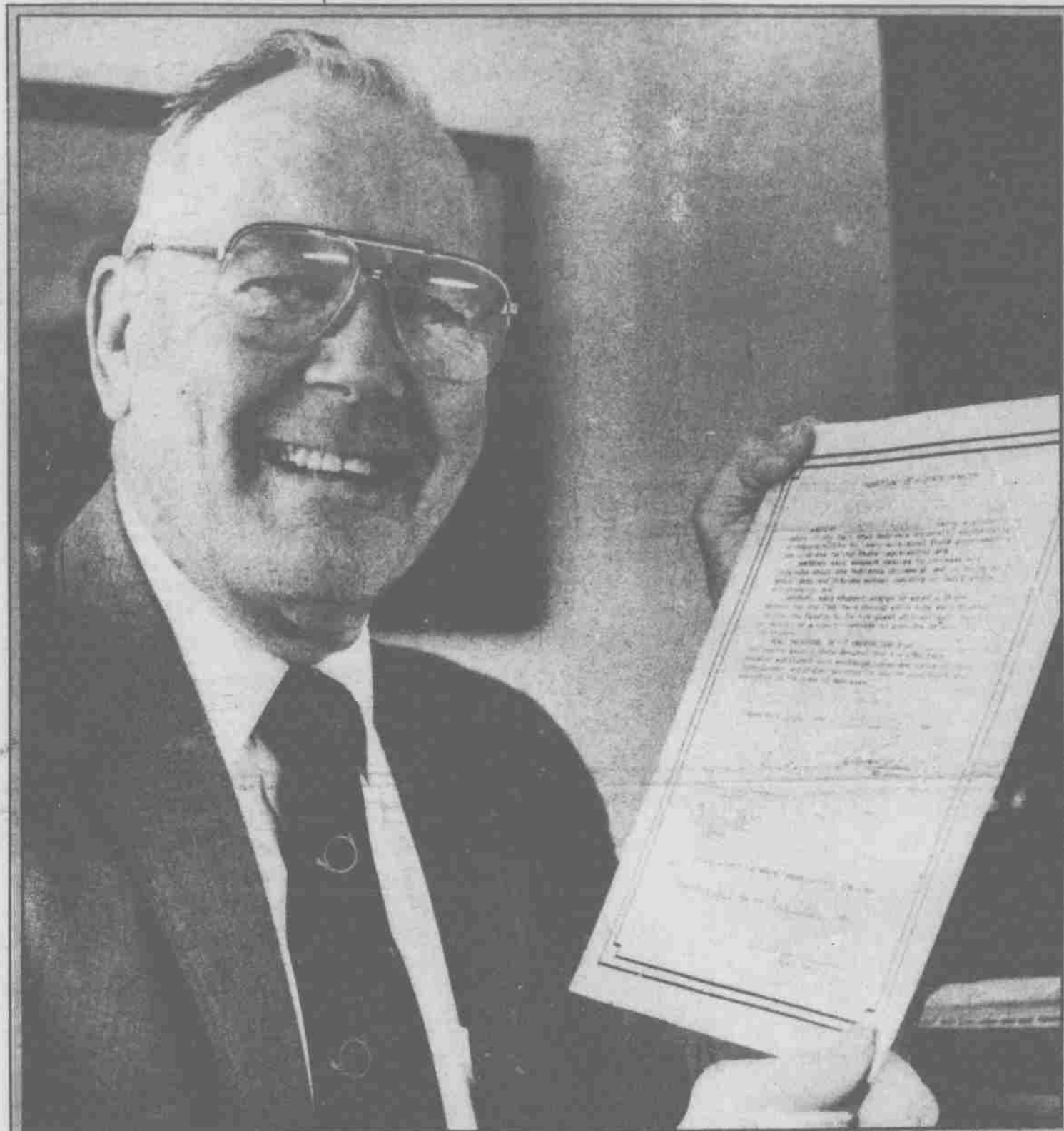
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Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

A legislative link

Sen. William Nichol of Scottsbluff holds his "adoption papers" given to him through UNL's adopt-a-senator program. Each year UNL students are matched to state legislators and continue to meet with each other throughout

the year. ASUN President Gerard Keating said the program provides "a communication link" between the university and the Legislature. Nichol is Keating's adopted senator.

Kerrey says NU comments poorly timed

By Diana Johnson
Senior Reporter

Gov. Bob Kerrey said comments made by NU officials attacked "the wrong body for the university's problems."

Kerrey referred to statements made by members of the NU Board of Regents and some administrators that he said blamed the Legislature for budget woes. The comments, made during the Legislative Appropriation Committee hearing Wednesday, were poorly timed, Kerrey said.

"I hope it doesn't come back to haunt them, but it may," Kerrey said in a press conference Thursday.

Kerrey said regents and administrators told state legislators they were to blame for the university's deterioration.

Kerrey suggested that administrators, regents and legislators "show some constraint" in making accusations.

"Let's not start shooting back and forth," Kerrey said. "The problems of

the university are not attributable to the men and women of the Legislature."

Rather, Kerrey said, the state's troubled economy and an increasing student enrollment caused the university's budgetary problems.

State and private colleges and technical schools are not exempt from problems similar to NU, he said.

But, Kerrey said, the negative aspects of NU are overlapped.

"We should focus on the things we're doing well," he said. "We should feel good about the things we are doing right."

Kerrey cited personnel at UNMC as an example.

"We've got the best physicians in the world . . . someday we will be as good as Harvard (medical school)," Kerrey said. "Let's focus on people that are outstanding at the university."

"We should have pride instead of feeling blue."

Amendment to appoint NU regents rejected

By Todd von Kampen
Senior Reporter

Thursday's death of a constitutional amendment that would give the governor power to appoint NU regents probably ended chances for student regents to gain a vote this year, ASUN President Gerard Keating said.

Senators failed on a 22-22 vote to advance LR32CA, which first was introduced last year, to the final stage of floor consideration. Bills and constitutional amendments that fail to advance from the second stage effectively are killed. The amendment needed 25 votes to advance.

As debate began, supporters of a plan to give one student regent a full vote on the NU Board of Regents decided not to offer the plan as an amendment to LR32CA. Neligh Sen. John DeCamp began to speak in favor of the amendment, but decided in mid-speech to withdraw it because he felt he lacked the votes for passage.

"I saw it was a loser," DeCamp said afterward. "I don't take a shot at things I don't have a reasonable chance of winning."

Keating said student leaders agreed to drop the amendment because they did not have enough time to circulate it among all senators. DeCamp was planning to offer the amendment later before the Legislature failed to advance LR32CA, he said.

The amendment originally was drawn up to answer legal objections to LR309CA, which would have given the three student regents one combined vote.

Although supporters would like to offer their revised plan as an amendment to LR306CA, Keating said, the

original amendment is unlikely to be debated this session because of a lack of time.

"Practically, it's through for this year unless the session is lengthened," he said. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn April 15 unless 40 of the 49 senators or Gov. Bob Kerrey move to lengthen the session.

During debate on LR32CA, supporters argued that appointment of regents would represent the first step toward making government more efficient. Omaha Sen. Vard Johnson said such a move would benefit the state's economy because it would save tax money.

"You and I have committed over the long pull to 3,600 different local governments," Johnson said. As long as Nebraskans refuse to give up the power to elect regents and similar bodies, he said, "we continue to remain in the 1950s and the 1960s and the 1970s."

Opponents said they heard little support from constituents for changing the present election system. Scottsbluff Sen. William Nichol, speaker of the Legislature, left the podium to tell senators an appointed board would be less responsible to the people.

"Any governor of this state could stack the board of regents just as any board he appoints members to could be stacked," Nichol said.

Student leaders plan to research the student regent amendment and prepare to introduce it again in the next Legislature, Keating said. Although his term will expire before the next session, he said, he feels the way has been paved for a student vote.

"People know about it," Keating said. "The issue's raised, and I'm confident the support is there. Time is on our side."

Party calls ASUN 'moronic'

SCUM starts race in restroom

By Eric Gregory
Staff Reporter

The SCUM party officially announced its candidacy for ASUN Thursday in the men's restroom on the main floor of the Nebraska Union.

Presidential candidate Jon Johnston said SCUM stands for "Student council is useless and moronic."

Johnson, a sixth-year art major, said the "prime mission" of SCUM is to "provide frustrated egocentrics a chance to feel important while accomplishing nothing worthwhile for students."

Kurt Klanderud, a sixth-year architecture major, said ASUN operates like any U.S. high school student council. Klanderud said the student regent "simply serves as a token, powerless representative on the NU Board of Regents."

Because of this, party members said, the SCUM party will not campaign for ASUN president, vice president and second vice president, but for Student Council president and vice president.

The candidates also will not acknowledge the acronym ASUN during their campaign, Klanderud said.

"The SCUM party feels that ASUN should be treated like the student council it is," Klanderud said.

Geoff McMurty, a junior broadcasting major, said he feels the combined experience of SCUM party candidates offers an edge over the other candidates.

Between them, the candidates are experienced in the dealings of the bursar's office, intimately acquainted with police procedure and able to find the best parties on any day of the week, McMurty said.

If elected, the SCUM party proposes the following:

- A merger with the University of Kansas.

- "UNL students will have a respectable institution to attend and Kansans will have a respectable football team," SCUM members said.

- The transfer of Morrill Hall's dinosaur skeletons to the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

"That way they'll be taken care of,"

SCUM said.

- Scholarships for UNL cheerleaders.

- Flagrant disregard for UNL's alcohol policy.

"The policy won't be changed by administrators, so why bother?" SCUM said.

- The return of Texas to Mexico.

But SCUM may have problems enacting their proposals. SCUM has been removed from the ASUN general election ballot because the party did not attend a mandatory meeting for ASUN candidates on Feb. 12, Johnson said.

The party has met all the other requirements to be on the ballot, Johnson said, and they have asked the ASUN Electoral Commission to reverse the decision.

With the sound of a toilet flushing behind him, Johnson said the decision to announce the SCUM party candidacy in the men's restroom was not a symbolic gesture.

"They wouldn't give us a room," McMurty said.