

Fair and Sunny today with a high of 88. The extended forecast calls for more sun, with daytime highs reaching the 90's on Saturday.

## Women's coach Beck looks for dedication

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## Union files complaint against petition drive

By Colleen Kenney and Dan Costello  
Staff Reporters

The Nebraska Farmers Union is filing a complaint against a group called the Citizens to Restore the Constitution, alleging that the group pays petitioners, including UNL students, to collect signatures for the repeal of Initiative 300.

Initiative 300 prohibits non-family corporations from operating on Nebraska farm and ranch land.

Nebraska law states that petitioners cannot be paid a salary for their efforts; however, petitioners are eligible for up to \$50 a day plus 20.5 cents per mile for travel, meals and lodging.

David Kunz, a Lincoln businessman and paid-coordinator organizer of the repeal drive, said that although no receipts were being kept by the petitioners, all are being paid for only reimbursements.

"There's a definite difference between

reimbursed expenses and being paid per diem," Kunz said. He declined comment on the criteria used to determine reimbursements.

Other petition drives in Nebraska have paid volunteers for their expenses, Kunz said.

"There isn't anything unique to this drive," he said.

Marty Strange, co-director of the Center for Rural Affairs, said that when the initiative was added in 1982, about 1,700 volunteers for The Friends of the Constitution, a group that backed Initiative 300, were used but no one was paid for expenses.

A former UNL student who asked not to be identified said she attended an orientation session for petitioners at the Hilton Thursday morning. She said that an official at the session told the petitioners that how they calculated their expenses was their "own business." There were about 50 people attending the meeting, she said.

"They were really trying to throw a

pitch," she said.

She later called Kunz and explained that she could only work at nights. Kunz told her she could only make up to \$20, she said.

"However, he was careful, too, in saying it was only for expenses," she said.

In a press conference Thursday morning, Larry Hall, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, said the union is "pushing this all the way to the attorney general for prosecution."

Strange said the reimbursed expenses should be documented.

"You can make any expense a reimbursement, but that doesn't make it one," Strange said. "It's pretty clear that people who are going there are looking for a job."

A petitioner outside the Nebraska Union told a reporter Wednesday she was recruited to collect signatures through a temporary employment agency in Lincoln. She refused to give her name or answer questions, as did all other petitioners contacted by the

Daily Nebraskan.

Initiative 300 was added to the Nebraska constitution by a 1983 vote. Backers of the repeal drive need 55,000 valid signatures from registered Nebraska voters by July 3 for the issue to be put on the November ballot.

"Nobody is voting for anything right now," Kunz said. "We're just getting people to sign the petition." He declined to say how many signatures have been collected.

About 25 petitioners are out at one time during the day working two shifts, collecting signatures in downtown Lincoln and on campus, Kunz said. Petitioners are also collecting signatures from door-to-door, Kunz said.

While all of the petitioners declined to comment, students and citizens around the canvassed area did comment. All these who were questioned by a Daily Nebraskan reporter said they did not know petitioners were paid up to 50 dollars a day. Many said they thought the petitioners were strictly

volunteers, and received no compensation.

Alvera Bade, a UNL graduate student from Beatrice, said that the reimbursement volunteers receive made no difference to her whether she would sign the petition or not.

She said the reimbursed petitioners would not pressure people to sign because they "don't have as strong of an opinion as someone who goes out without pay, but for the purpose of getting it on the ballot," Bade said.

However, Marcy Hellingner, a UNL junior from Mitchell, said the petitioners should not be paid.

"I very definitely think it would sway someone's opinion if the person did not know ahead of time whether the petitioners were being reimbursed," she said.

Debbie Kelly, a UNL staff employee from Lincoln, said knowing the petitioners got reimbursements did not

See INITIATIVE 300 on 3

## Actor finds audition similar to police line-up

Analysis by Craig Anton  
Staff Reporter

Working as a waiter in hopes of someday becoming a well-known actor has its pitfalls: The endless and defeating auditions, the increasing costs for resumes and 8 x 10s, not to mention all the facial surgery. Is it worth all the pain?

The call came on my answering machine: "Craig, this is Robert, your agent. The Jackie Beavers Agency is casting a major beer commercial Tuesday and Wednesday. Get over there and make me rich. Remember to be bold and to make an impression. Take a twelve pack to the audition. Also, Hal in New York says that he's still interested in you. He said he has an opening for you, something like a cold day in hell."

With bold in mind, I put on my "fish shirt" from the Starvation Army, ate a bowl of Fruit Loops and headed out for the big audition. Arriving at 1:30 p.m., I sat in the car for a few minutes and waited for the nausea to subside. The nervousness had begun.

The Jackie Beavers Agency was filled with rugged men endowed with muscles, tanned bodies, mustaches and tattoos. The men applying for this commercial all met the requirements as specified by the agency. These men had "the look."

"The look" was important to Anne Hamilton, casting director for HKM Production Co. from Los Angeles.

"The blue-collar cowboy, hot off the farm or hot out of agricultural school, with an appearance of 25 to 27 years old, that's what Miller Beer is after," said Hamilton.

The men waiting in the hallway all fit the description, and, if not, they would make a great looking softball team. Then there was myself, a 6 foot 5 inches, 155-pounds of pure flesh and bones. I would make a fine batboy for that softball team. After two hours of nervous yawning and burping, they finally called my name, along with two

other guys, and we walked in the office.

What followed was similar to a police line-up.

"Please look into the video camera, please state your name, phone number, age, turn profile left, profile right. OK, thank you," said Hamilton. Then the intense question-answer session began.

"So what do you do, Craig?" asked the director. I thought to myself, "Could you make the questions a little more vague?"

"Student." A brilliant one word answer. So far so good.

"Have you ever worked on a farm?" she asked.

"Sure, I farm a small acre of marijuana near Crete." She did not even crack a smile. She had heard it all. Within the two-day audition period, Hamilton had interviewed over 350 men.

The two other actors and myself were then given farm caps and seated together on stools. Hamilton gave us further instructions, "OK guys, it's been a long day of farming, you're sitting near the combine, go ahead and talk about your day."

We were dumbfounded. I began talking about how that "tornado was bigger than ol' Thompson's barn..."

OK, thank you, gentlemen," said Hamilton, whose lunch had just arrived from Pontillo's.

Disillusioned and deflated back in the crowded hallway, someone recognized me and said, "Craig, how'd it go?"

"How'd it go? Oh fine, it went fine. I think it's in the bag." I said with sarcasm, holding back tears of humiliation.

Anne Hamilton will audition in Kimball and Ogallala later this month and eventually the ad will be shot in Scottsbluff or Montana. The commercial and the new product from Miller Beer will come out sometime this fall.

For now the audition is over and my life returns to normal. I now wait impatiently for the congratulatory message on my answering machine and a cold day in hell.



Jackie Beavers, Anne Hamilton, and Anton look for a "blue-collar cowboy... hot out of agricultural school."

Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan