

Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Changes evaluated Advice to Scudder on vetos

What's in a name? Enough to make the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) change its name to UNL Student Government. At the Daily Nebraskan we call them UNLSG now. Unless ASUN (oops) UNLSG president Chris Scudder vetoes the bill.

And why change it? Scudder said for clarity. People not familiar with the university didn't know what ASUN was or stood for. Senators also were tired of students rearranging its letters to form a variety of undesirable acronyms.

There is nothing wrong with ASUN wanting to change its name. In fact, it's a nice change of pace. Only ASUN should not use the words "student government" because it isn't a student government. Scudder even said that ASUN is run like a government but without governing powers.

The DN editorial page editor, Jim Rogers, racked his memory and recalled that three former ASUN presidents, Renee Wessels, Rick Mockler and Dan Wedekind, did not consider ASUN a student government. Each one said that ASUN was a "service organization."

And that is precisely what it is. Scudder said she wasn't sure if she was going to veto the bill. We urge her to. It appears the senate made a hasty choice in choosing a new name.

We also would like to urge Scudder to reconsider vetoing the controversial alcohol bill. ASUN voted to advocate serving alcohol at ASUN installations. Scudder said she will veto the bill for two reasons: She didn't like the clause dealing with attendance by invitation only, and she felt the bill undermines the research of the alcohol com-

mittee formed last semester. True, the installation should be open to everyone, but the bill would not undermine the committee. If anything, it would probably help more than hinder. The bill shows that the students are serious about taking a look at the alcohol policy.

Last semester the DN carried an editorial criticizing the Board of Regents for allowing alcohol in the Bob Devaney Sports Center for Gov. Kay Orr's inaugural ball. We said that if the regents can allow alcohol for this function, an event such as ASUN installation should also be allowed alcohol.

Finally, Scudder said she is not going to veto the bill to add a gay/lesbian survey to ASUN's electoral ballot. Good and bad points here. Question two of the three-question survey appears to be the only substantial question. It reads: "Do you favor the funding of a gay/lesbian council with student fees?" A viable question since it affects all students. However, question one, "Are you a homosexual," gives students a chance to misrepresent themselves on the ballot. Last year ASUN ran into trouble when students marked themselves as Native Americans. The "harmless joke" ended up embarrassing several people.

Question three, "Would you attend the events of such a council," would be hard to answer because students are not familiar with the programming that would be available.

Scudder also said she felt questions one and three were not pertinent, but left them on the ballot at the urging of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association.

The DN hopes students take the questions seriously.

Editorial

What's whatchamacallit up to?

Student-council decisions combine the good, bad and ugly

Last week the UNL student council (whatever they may be calling themselves this week) was subject to an inexplicable and probably acute spasm of decisiveness that took everyone, especially the senators themselves, by surprise.

They changed their name. It's no longer ASUN: It's UNL Student Government now. Apparently the senators were tired of hearing their organization referred to as ANUS, (of course, you can still call them that if you feel it fits — it just won't be quite as funny now). Overall, the name change was a good idea. Student Government is unambiguous and dignified, and nobody will answer "gesundheit" when you say it out loud.

Their next idea wasn't so good. A bill was passed calling for three questions to appear on this spring's Student Government (can I call it UNLSG yet? Thank you.) ballot designed to gauge support for the proposed gay/lesbian committee. The questions are:

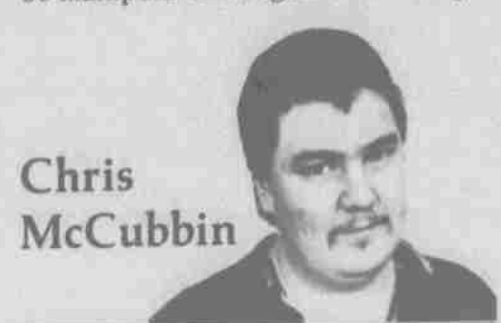
- Are you a homosexual?
- Do you favor the funding of a gay/lesbian committee with student fees?
- Would you attend the events of such a council?

I have the least problem with question two, since I'm always in favor of giving students a voice in how their money is to be spent. In the case of such a controversial proposal as this, though, I think there are issues of freedom and justice that should take precedence over even the most vociferous mass disapproval. (Assuming: uch disapproval even exists.)

Question three is rather amazingly dumb, since nobody has any idea yet when the events of this highly tentative committee would be. All this question really asks is: "Are you already prejudiced about the events of such a

council?" If lots of students answer "no" to question three, I think that's a pretty good indication that this campus is in desperate need of a positive, organized and sanctioned gay/lesbian organization.

And question one is simply incredibly offensive. The only possible answer to this question, even on an unsigned ballot, is "none of your damn business." Ex-ASUN speaker Jerry Roemer said that the questionnaire will only either be manipulated or ignored. He's right.



Chris McCubbin

Hopefully this bigoted abortion of a bill will never see the light of day, but if it does pop up on the ballot it should definitely be manipulated. I call upon every open-minded individual on this campus, regardless of sexual preference, to answer "yes" to question one.

It's rather surprising that Doug Weems, the same senator who sponsored the above-mentioned atrocity, came up with one of the very, very few undisputedly excellent ideas to come out of the whatchamacallit senate in a recent memory. Weems proposed a bill stating that alcohol should be served at the UNLSG installation — an annual UNLSG event that takes place on campus.

The UNL alcohol policy provides for alcohol to be served at certain organized functions. According to the letter of the policy, the UNLSG installation should be such a function. Traditionally, however, permission has only been given to serve alcohol at events which

either exclude students entirely or appeal to a much lower percentage of students than non-students.

Weems's proposal is designed to conclusively test whether students actually have the same rights as non-students on this campus. It's an example of Student Government taking a firm stand and going out on a limb for the interests of the student body — two things that our fearless leaders have not been remarkable for.

Of course, in the wake of this courageous action there's massive willies in the ranks of UNLSG and a strong desire to wimp out. UNLSG president Chris Scudder has promised to veto this excellent bill, justifying her gutlessness with the unbelievably weak and pathetic excuse that if Weems wanted to make a statement he should have done just that.

For far too long ASUN has been issuing empty statements that the real powers of this university can all too easily ignore. The issue at hand is minor but vitally important to the whole issue of students' rights. Scudder and many of the UNLSG senators seem to assume that this perfectly reasonable and legal request will be contemptuously rejected out of hand by the regents. If the regents are indeed capable of such a blatantly discriminatory action, I want to know about it.

Of course it may not happen that way at all. Somewhat to my surprise, I seem to have a considerably higher opinion of the Board of Regents than most of the UNL Student Government. I think it more likely that, when presented with this request, the regents will respond, "Sure, kids. Have fun. Make sure you card everyone, OK?"

This bill is a chance for UNLSG, and maybe the Board of Regents as well, to regain some much-needed confidence of the students of UNL.

Letters

Projects and programs defended

Nursing program shouldn't be axed

In response to the editorial "Cutting Necessary, Amputation Beats Bloodletting," (DN, Jan. 20), I would like to point out the irony in the example used by the Daily Nebraskan. The DN stated that "it's not as though Roskens is saying these are the most expendable programs at NU." If these are not the most expendable, then why are they being cut? The Lincoln campus of the College of Nursing is one of the programs that is "not the most expendable" but has been targeted by Roskens for elimination.

Some people in Nebraska may not realize that the Lincoln campus of the College of Nursing is not a separate school but an extension of the UNMC College of Nursing. We have one dean, one administration and one curriculum. To eliminate the nursing program on the Lincoln campus would be to cut one-third of the students and faculty of the College of Nursing at a time when a severe shortage of highly skilled nurses is developing. There is an actual shortage of skilled nurses in southeastern Nebraska at the present time. According to the American Nurses Association, baccalaureate-prepared nurses will be in demand by 1990.

The Lincoln campus of the College of Nursing provides an opportunity to RN students who wish to further their education with a baccalaureate (four-year) degree and to undergraduates for education in a traditional university setting.

The Lincoln campus serves Lincoln by providing student nurses in community agencies, hospitals, doctor's offices, public schools, retirement centers, short-term care facilities and the American Red Cross.

The DN also stated, "But his (Roskens) main duty is to preserve the vitality of NU as an entire entity. And if a toe or a finger must be cut off to

prevent disease in the entire body, much as we're attached to the toe, it's better that it goes." But anyone in the health field knows you just don't go around chopping off toes and fingers. The Lincoln campus of the College of Nursing is a good, viable toe. Cut the ones that have gangrene. Better yet, why not get to the heart of the problem and perform a triple bypass on the central administration?

Jennifer Acker
junior, BSN
nursing

No tuition perks for UNL coaches

I was pleased to read the editorial dealing with the proposed new benefit package that would allow tuition-free attendance for children of certain employees. My first thought when I read the original proposal, which targeted faculty, administrators and coaches, was: "Why coaches?" I think A-line personnel, who already receive a slightly different benefit package than other employees, would be the logical dividing line. A call to the Athletic Department's business office confirmed that not all coaches have A-line appointments. But LB157 does not differentiate; it simply lumps all coaches together.

Coaches are already well-compensated for their contributions to this university. Many excellent professors have served Nebraskans for decades in their respective disciplines, only to retire at half the pay of a new basketball coach!

Priority should be placed upon retaining current and recruiting new good professors and administrators. Sen. Jim McFarland's original proposal — minus the coaches (or at the very least, those who are not A-line) — should be supported by all who care

about quality education, research and service from our university. I say this as one who would potentially benefit if the package were broadened to include B-line personnel, since I agree with the editorial's comment: "But how many institutions are going to bid away the director of Publications and Campus Postal Services?"

Pamela J. Murray
administrative assistant
AGNET

Athletic Department help commended

As a concerned student of the university, I would like to vocalize my support for the proposed campus recreation center indoor practice facility. This project will greatly enhance the recreational facilities available to all students, and it is one that will positively impact the quality of student life at UNL.

The current state of university recreational facilities makes this project both timely and necessary. Certainly, it comes as welcome news to those of us that frequently utilize present university facilities.

The application of Athletic Department revenue to a non-Athletic Department project, the campus rec center in this case, is a unique opportunity that will significantly benefit the university student body. The Athletic Department's willingness to lend its support to this project is not only commendable, but indeed it makes such a significant undertaking a possibility.

The campus rec center/indoor practice facility represents the caliber of recreational facility that UNL deserves. It's an addition that I heartily support.

Bryan Robertson
senior
business

Building rec center would be best solution

The article "Hofmeister proposes to open pools" (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 22) has some serious misconceptions and facts that must be clarified.

First, the article leaves a great deal of ambiguity in the nature and sponsorship of the two proposals mentioned. There were actually two distinct proposals offered; one was presented to Vice Chancellor John Goebel by the University Pool Committee on possible

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solutions to the swimming pool availability crisis this campus is currently experiencing. The second was my individual proposal, which was also incorporated in the University Pool committee's proposal above, and was offered to Chancellor Martin Massengale in early December before the welcomed news of a new student recreation center, concerning the possibility of opening parts of the Bob Devaney Sports Complex to students, faculty and staff to handle some of the load of this campus's recreational needs.

It further needs to be clarified, because we are now in a historic time of actually seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and finally escaping from the very bottom of the Big Eight in

recreational facilities, that we praise ASUN for their continual work on this issue and the Athletic Department for their accepting a surcharge on football tickets to make possible this project.

In no way am I advocating that we (the students) start to pay homage to the Athletic Department for their amazing deed, but to simply appreciate their efforts to afford students the possibility of a new and warranted recreation center without dipping into the state coffers.

It should be further noticed that it is not my contention or the intent of ASUN to push with vigor for the opening of the Devaney Center when a new recreational center for UNL is just around the corner. This is not to say that I or ASUN will drop the issue of open Devaney use, but at this time and under these most favorable conditions for students it would be best to accomplish completely one major leap for students before the extensive negotiations of another.

A recreational center for students, faculty and staff is certainly in the best interest of our university community, and now is the time to make this long-awaited necessity tangible.

Dan. J. Hofmeister
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journalism/political science