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WEATHER:

Thursday, mostly sunny, high mid 50s, light SE breeze 15 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, low mid-30s, Friday, high 55-60.

INDEX

News Digest 2
Editorial 4
Divisions 5
Sports 13
Classifieds 15



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

UNL Chancellor Martin Messengale talks with journalist and former U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb before Kalb's speech Wednesday.

Kalb: Reporters are 'surrogates'

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

Former journalist and U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said that despite the public's view that journalists are pushy, reporters should press harder to disclose government actions and policies.

Kalb, who gave the year's final Cooper-UNL series lecture Wednesday, said journalists are the "surrogates" of the American public and need to pry into government affairs so Americans know what their government's policies are.

Kalb worked for CBS and NBC news from 1962 until 1984. He was a State Department spokesman in 1985 and 1986.

Having had first-hand experience, Kalb said the government unnecessarily covers up issues when it should discuss its policies and get feedback from citizens.

"An administration should disclose more and classify less," he said, so the public will understand policies.

"You cannot create a policy that is in full collision with what America stands for and what Americans perceive of the world," Kalb said, referring to the Vietnam War, when the U.S. government ignored public sentiment.

He said the State Department gives its spokesmen carefully-previewed answers for reporters' questions, with obscure back-up categories of answers labeled "If pressed," and "If pressed further," in case reporters are persistent.

However, information is sometimes withheld for legitimate national security reasons, Kalb said.

But the government does hide facts for ridiculous reasons, he said, or for no other reason than to avoid embarrassment. Spokesmen often respond to questions by telling journalist old news.

"There's a heavy percentage of responses . . . that are suffering from acute anemia."

When the government will not disclose

information, he said, reporters should dig for it, pressing spokesmen until they talk. If the spokesmen won't talk, reporters should find the information themselves, he said.

"The fact that the doors are locked doesn't mean that you (reporters) stop being aggressive," he said.

The nosy image of the press is a product of planning by the White House, he said.

Former President Ronald Reagan staged confrontations with the press near helicopters and noisy areas to make reporters seem rude to television viewers, Kalb said.

"That's precisely what the White House wanted them to think."

In response to a question about how aggressive the Soviet press has become under glasnost, Kalb said Soviet reporters write about the evils of Stalin and the stagnant Soviet economy, but are still restrained by the government.

"There is still the quick, brutal hand of censorship," Kalb said. "The idea of criticizing Gorbachev is a no-no."

Student control of fees rejected

By David G. Young
Staff Reporter

ASUN Sen. Brian Svoboda said he thinks students will gain more control over student fees in the future despite action taken by the Committee for Fees Allocation Tuesday night.

CFA voted 6-1 to reject a bill submitted by Svoboda that would urge changes in bylaws of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to allow for direct student allocation of University Programs and Facilities Fees.

'I get a sense that the natives are getting restless.'

--Svoboda

Under the current structure, UPFF allocations go through the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, Chancellor Martin Messengale and the NU Board of Regents.

Svoboda said he thinks this system probably will change.

"I think that there will be questioning of the student fee process in the future," he said. "For ASUN's sake, it should be ASUN who takes a lead in this move."

"I get a sense that the natives are getting restless," he said, "that people want change in student government. I hope that student government realizes this before it's too late."

If the bill had been passed, Svoboda said, it completely would have changed "the attitude of the student body that ASUN has no power."

"I want to give (ASUN) something to do that has a real binding effect," he said. "I think that can only be done through a structural change."

Svoboda said he was surprised CFA members questioned the bill.

"It says something to me about the ability of our student leaders to engage in thoughtful debate," Svoboda said.

CFA member Jill Durbin said giving students total control over student fees would cause more problems than it would solve.

"I don't think people at UNL would want CFA to have total control," she said. "If I had total control, I'd have to quit school to look at these budgets."

Svoboda disagreed.

"I think that argument is a kind of red herring," he said. "It implies that CFA is not doing an adequate job now with the student fee process. If CFA is doing its job now, it should be able to do its job regardless of who is making

See CFA on 3

Regents meet nationally to discuss issues

By Eric Pfanner
Staff Reporter

Six members of the NU Board of Regents were among 1,500 regents and trustees from around the United States who gathered in Boston last weekend to discuss issues affecting higher education.

Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said that at one meeting she attended dur-

ing the Association of Governing Boards for Higher Education Conference, the consensus of governing board members was that student regent votes should be unofficial.

Donald Fricke of Lincoln, Robert Allen of Hastings, Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn, Don Blank of McCook, and Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City also attended the conference, which lasted from Saturday to Tuesday.

Skrupa said those who said they supported the unofficial student vote

in the meeting opposed official votes because they were a "conflict of interest" for the student regent, Skrupa said.

At some universities, she said, student regents are not chosen by student vote. At the University of Maryland, student regents are chosen by a "selective process" of the regents, she said. If candidates are reviewed favorably, she said, they can be "eligible to become part of the club."

Skrupa said she is glad NU student regents are elected by the student body because in the past, the elected student regents have done an "outstanding" job.

Hansen said the conference was divided into two parts. Sessions Saturday and Sunday were for new regents, while sessions Monday and Tuesday dealt with specific problems faced by governing boards, he said.

Skrupa said one interesting session concerned the effects of student

loans on society. Some speakers said women and minorities have difficulty paying back student loans on time.

Therefore, she said, these speakers proposed starting payback programs for these loans two years or more after graduation, instead of after six months, as is commonly done now.

Some of the sessions also con-

See REGENTS on 3

ASUN rejects bonuses for three legal services employees

By Ryan Steeves
Staff Reporter

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Wednesday night struck down a proposal to give \$150 in bonuses to three employees of Student Legal Services.

Senators voted 17-3 against the resolution proposed by Committee for Fees Allocation member Keith Malo. Some senators and ASUN

President Jeff Petersen said it is an inappropriate way to allocate money.

The proposal would have given a \$50 bonus to Shelley Stall, director of legal services, Susan Tast, part-time attorney, and secretary Mary Herres.

Sen. Missy Peters, a member of CFA, said the services' employees "performed their duties beyond the job description by far" and deserve the bonus.

Peters, who represents the College of Arts & Sciences, said the attorneys

get paid much less than Lincoln attorneys. A bonus would have shown that senators appreciate the employees' performance, she said.

The \$50 bonus is half the amount of an earlier bonus approved this year for two other ASUN employees, Peters said.

ASUN voted on March 8 to appropriate \$100 to Marlene Beyke, ASUN director of development, and Paula Allen, ASUN executive/senate secretary.

Sen. Chip Dreesen of the College of Arts & Sciences said the appropriation to Beyke and Allen was approved for performing extra duties after Jackie McCullough, an administrative assistant for the Government Liaison Committee, resigned Jan. 16. Dreesen said employees in legal services have simply performed their job.

Sen. Jill Durbin of the College of Arts & Sciences said ASUN should allocate more money to employees through budgets, not bonuses.

"But now we need to be realistic about how we spend our money," Durbin said.

Sen. T.K. Olson of the College of Law voted for the bill, saying the employees deserve the bonus for handling an increased workload. Olson said it takes an enormous amount of time to prepare that many cases.

"There's a tremendous amount of work," he said, "and I think some reward is in order."