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NU may consider total divestment

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska may consider full divestment of South Africa, an administrator said.

"It's under discussion right now whether we (administrators) propose to the Board of Regents whether we go one, two or three steps forward," James Van Horn, NU associate vice president for administration, said at an apartheid awareness panel Friday.

Van Horn said he thought the university had watched its portfolio carefully. But he admitted that the university still invested in companies that might be considered questionable, such as General Electric, Westinghouse Inc., and General Motors.

"Those stocks are in our portfolio because we have not had any policy to have them removed," Van Horn said. "I guess I'll just have to sit down and review the list of names."

"We do try to make healthy decisions, but it's not possible without expertise which we're building on," he said.

Robert Hitchcock, a visiting assistant professor of anthropology, said the university has to use the information provided by companies, which are not always truthful about their investment practices.

"That's not the fault of the university, that's the fault of the system — it's the system that needs to be changed," Hitchcock said.

Hitchcock said many have argued that the university system should not divest of South Africa.

The biggest argument, he said, is that South Africa is changing and NU should be at the forefront of an anti-apartheid country.

But Hitchcock said he visited South Africa last week and people still are being arrested.

South African President F.W. de Klerk revoked the separate amenities act that restricted blacks from sharing beaches and public restrooms, he said, but more needs to be done.

"Doing away with legislation just doesn't hold water," Hitchcock said. "Things haven't changed all that much."

Dane Kennedy, an associate professor of history at UNL, said divestment gets results.

"Any sort of criticism that comes from the West has an undermining force," Kennedy said.

Criticism makes South Africans doubt the legitimacy of the system they've established, he said.

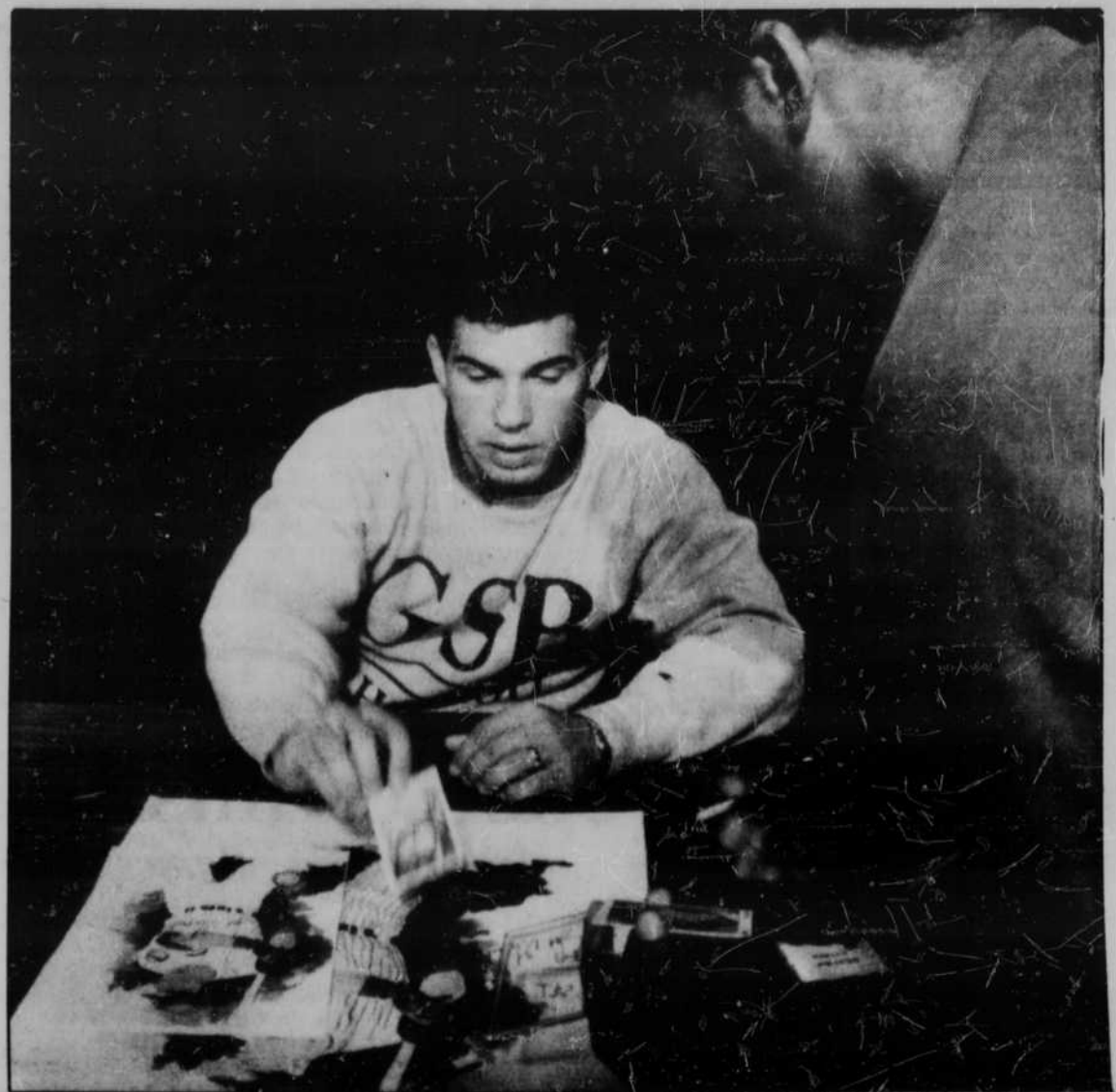
"The United States has been at the forefront of this movement," Kennedy said.

Steve Schueth, vice president of socially responsible investing for the Calvert Group, said a few years ago Nebraska had taken a leading position on divestment.

Calvert invests in companies that meet its financial, ethical and environmental criteria. The group avoids any company with direct or indirect ties to South Africa.

Nebraska may have fallen behind on divestment, Schueth said.

"I sense . . . they became pretty satisfied with that position and since then things have overtaken them," he said.



Take me out to the card show

Joe Girardi, catcher for the Chicago Cubs, signs baseball cards, copies and an original watercolor picture of himself for Eron Keely on Sunday. Keely drew the artwork and also had a display of other professional athletes he has drawn at the Sports Card Show IV, which was this past weekend in the Centennial Ballroom at the Nebraska Union.

Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

Spending lid opponents urge blue protest by fans

By Kelly Ann Kennedy
Staff Reporter

Students organizing opposition to the proposed 2 percent lid are hoping Nebraskans won't be seeing red at the Nebraska-Colorado game Saturday.

The Students Against 2% organization is planning "Wear Blue Against CU," encouraging students and faculty members to wear blue, instead of the Cornhuskers' traditional red, to show their opposition to the lid.

The proposed amendment, which will go before voters in the Nov. 6 election, would limit state and local government spending increases to 2 percent a year. University officials have said it would devastate UNL's operation.

The Association of Students of the Univer-

sity of Nebraska passed a bill Wednesday encouraging ASUN senators and others at the university to wear blue to the football game.

A wave of blue instead of red might help reach more people with the message to vote against the lid, said Shawn Burnham, chairwoman of the Government Liaison Committee.

"Because the game will be televised on ESPN, it will be seen all over. It will be very effective if students get involved," she said.

The television coverage of students wearing blue, Burnham said, will show Nebraskans the true color of the 2 percent lid.

"It could make a huge impact and might make people think twice about the 2 percent lid," she said.

Doug Oxley, an organizer of Students Against 2%, agreed.

"We are looking to have students get their opinions out so the state knows how students feel about the 2 percent lid," Oxley said.

Oxley doesn't expect that wearing blue will affect people who are in favor of the 2 percent lid, but "it could affect people who are undecided on the issue."

Burnham and Oxley stressed that the effort is not meant to be unresponsive of the football team.

"We want to strongly emphasize that this is an action to wear blue against Colorado and the 2 percent lid. We are not at all trying to be unloyal to Nebraska football by wearing blue," Oxley said.

Blue was chosen because it is a common color and contrasts with red, Burnham said.

"Just to even have the student section look blue and red would make this successful," Oxley said. "I think there is a lot of support on campus and a lot of students and faculty who will wear blue if they know about this."

Such protests have taken place before at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. On Oct. 27, 1979, students wore blue to a home football game to urge improved educational quality at UNL, Oxley said.

Students Against 2% is advertising the blue campaign on campus by distributing fliers. They also plan to run advertisements and make announcements to fraternities and sororities, Oxley said.

Speaker says minorities need economic clout

By Stacey McKenzie
Staff Reporter

It is time minorities "grabbed the bull by the economic horns," said Freeman Davis, director of the Minority and Women's Small Business Assistance Center in Lincoln.

Davis spoke Sunday on the economic empowerment of people of color at the Culture Center.

It is time that minorities started helping themselves by investing in their youth and not "casting their older generation to the wind," he said.

See DAVIS on 6

MAMA's Magic Mailbox

Group to publish newsletter for servicemen

By James P. Webb
Staff Reporter

An association of like-minded writers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is trying to reach out to servicemen stationed in the Middle East through down-to-earth Nebraska prose, the group's founder said.

David Hibler, an assistant professor of English, said the Middle American Manuscript Association plans today to mail the first edition of its 12-page weekly newsletter, MAMA's Magic Mailbox.

Students with friends or relatives in the Middle East can special-address a newsletter or send a handwritten note from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at a booth in the Nebraska Union, he said.

The first edition of the newsletter

contains a short poem, a brief description of how the newsletter came about and two essays. One portrays the emotional pitfalls of a young woman who compares real relationships with dreamlike ones and the other gives a firsthand account of a young man's firsthand experience with snakes.

Hibler said that after he became aware that troops were severed from human support channels, it seemed a practical solution for college students to begin creating a bond with servicemen of the same age and culture.

The final product is a "cross between a personal letter from home and a real Nebraska experience." And unlike the outpouring of support letters nationwide, the newsletter is perhaps the first national effort to link college students and U.S. troops in

the Middle East, he said.

In doing so, Hibler said, the newsletter will entertain troops who are "bored out of their socks" and educate writers at the same time.

"We're trying to service the human needs over there apart from the political question," Hibler said.

While the troops provide the MAMA writers with a "known audience," Hibler said, the troops also can write something and send it to Hibler to be included in the newsletter.

In fact, he said, any UNL student can write for MAMA's Magic Mailbox. The only guideline is that the writing be non-political and upbeat in nature, he said.

"We're more of a loose-knit collection of people. More than anything else, we just share our particular philosophy on composition," Hibler said

of MAMA.

Hibler, who composes the newsletter electronically, said the group is attempting to cut the newsletter's production cost so that as many troops as possible can receive it.

Under the limited budget of his department, 144 copies of each weekly issue will be published, Hibler said. But by the end of the year, he said, he hopes to publish 12,000 copies and eventually print 144,000 copies with the help of corporate sponsorship.

For 15 years, MAMA has been trying to muster a national following of writers that share its philosophy, and this project is probably the best chance it will have of getting national attention, Hibler said.

"We intended to make a difference in the national art world," Hibler said. "We still do."