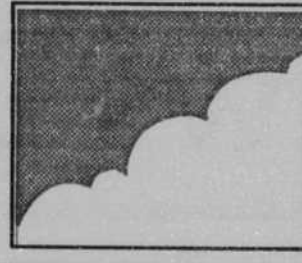


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WEATHER

Today, partly cloudy with morning flurries. Temperatures steady in the mid-20s with a north wind 20-30 mph. Mostly cloudy tonight with the low 0-5. Friday, mostly sunny but cold with the high 20-25.

ASUN president says quotas not constitutional violation

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Reporter

The membership quota set to fill two student government committees does not violate an ASUN constitutional bylaw, ASUN President Phil Gosch said.

Gosch said he will defend the committees' representational apportionment, which is being challenged by UNL law student Clark Sackschewsky. Sackschewsky filed a request Tuesday for the Student Court to examine the legality of the quotas set to fill the ASUN Racial Affairs and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual committees.

Whether the membership quotas set in Bylaws M and L violate a student government bylaw and Nebraska statute as contended by Sackschewsky, is a matter of interpretation, Gosch said.

Bylaw L states that the Racial Affairs Committee will consist of one Native American, one Caucasian American, one African American, one Asian American and one international student as selected by the Appointments Board.

Under the provisions of Bylaw M, the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Committee will consist of one heterosexual, one gay, one lesbian and one bisexual.

According to Sackschewsky's statement to the Student Court, Bylaws M and L place limitations on committee membership, which is a violation of Bylaw 1.

Bylaw 1 states: "ASUN may not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments on the basis of a person's age, race, national origin, color, gender, creed, handicap, sexual orientation or place of residence."

Sackschewsky's statement also said the quota system violates one of the Nebraska Revised

Statutes, which reads: "No person shall be deprived of the privileges of this institution (University of Nebraska) because of age, sex, color or nationality."

Gosch countered that Bylaws M and L did not violate state law because that only applies to committees which have the power to allocate student fees.

"The committees serve in advisory capacity and do not violate state, university or ASUN constitutions or statutes," he said.

Business Sen. Shawn Smith, one of the authors of the legislation creating the committees, said he wanted to double-check the bylaws and make sure there are no violations.

Smith said he would defend Bylaws M and L if they are constitutional, and he thought those bylaws may be amended if the student court finds ASUN in violation of its constitutional bylaws.

Business Sen. Tim McAuliff said he thought the bylaws would be amended if the court rules they violate the ASUN constitution. But he said he was sure there wasn't a problem.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous and nitpicky," McAuliff said of the allegations that the quotas were not legal.

The students who make up the committees are not getting a fair voice in student government, McAuliff said, and the bylaws solve some of that problem.

"The committees were set up not as a restriction, but as an opportunity," for all students to be represented, he said.

Although Kendal Garrison, president of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association, said he had no problem with the bylaws, he was concerned about the fate of the committees.

"The way it's set up is a way to get equal representation," he said.

Civilian casualties mount in gulf

DAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Allied warplanes, in a pinpoint bombing that sent shock waves far beyond Iraq, destroyed an underground shelter in Baghdad on Wednesday, and officials there said 500 civilians were killed.

The United States called it a military command center, not a bomb shelter.

By nightfall, 14 hours after the pre-dawn attack, crews still were pulling charred bodies, some of them children, from the demolished structure, an Associated Press correspondent reported from Baghdad. Distraught relatives crowded the smoke-filled streets.

Iraq's health minister, Abdel-Salam Mo-

ammed Saeed, described the precision bombing as "a well-planned crime."

But the U.S. command in Saudi Arabia, and later the White House, said the subterranean concrete facility had been positively identified as an Iraqi military command-and-control center.

"We don't know why civilians were at that location," said Marlin Fitzwater, President Bush's spokesman. American officials blamed Iraq's leadership for the tragedy, saying it had put civilians "in harm's way."

The AP correspondent, Dilip Ganguly, inspected the ruins with other journalists and said he saw no obvious sign of a military presence.

Another new report of civilian casualties came from Jordanian refugees who reached their homeland Wednesday from Kuwait. They

See WAR on 3

Instructor's discovery alters view of Antarctica's past

By Michael Hannon
Staff Reporter

A recent discovery by David Harwood, an assistant professor of geology at UNL, is altering accepted views of Antarctica's ancient past.

Harwood, who returned from Antarctica last week, found a deposit of fossilized leaves that is 2 1/2 to

three million years old.

The finding contradicts some geologists' assumptions that the continent was covered by a sheet of ice during that period.

The previous view of Antarctica was based on oceanic conditions and a series of assumptions that linked those conditions to conditions on the Antarctic continent.

Harwood said ideas of Antarctica's

past, based upon those mistaken assumptions, will have to be rewritten.

"We have to go back to the drawing board to try to come up with a new set of assumptions," he said. "The real significance is that it changes the way we need to think about Antarctica in the past. This vegetation suggests that the climate there (from three to 40 million years ago) was never as cold as today."

The new theory, formulated by Harwood, was developed by looking directly at the rocks and fossil record of Antarctica.

Harwood's theory poses that the ice sheet was unstable and that it melted and reformed 10 to 15 times in the period from 40 million to three million years ago. According to Harwood, the water released from such a melting would be sufficient to raise

the sea level by 120 feet and cover most of Florida.

This was Harwood's fourth trip to Antarctica. On previous occasions, he has made other discoveries to support the idea that Antarctica was a warmer continent in the distant past.

About seven years ago, he found fossil microorganisms that only could

See DISCOVERY on 3

THURSDAY



Diversions features the healing arts from many lands. Page 7

What's old, new and blue in weddings. See the Wedding Supplement.

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Arab students criticize U.S. gulf policy

By Carissa Moffat
Staff Reporter

United States involvement in the Middle East is an extension of a policy that began after World War I to divide the Arab world, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student from Iraq said.

"For more than a year, Iraq has been rebuilding its armies, and the United States was looking for a chance to dismantle and destroy this effort," Nadeem Yousif said Wednesday at a Nebraska Wesleyan University fo-

rum about the Persian Gulf war.

Yousif, a doctoral candidate in English, said the Arab world was united from the 16th century until 1927 under the Ottoman Empire.

In fact, he said, Kuwait once was a part of Iraq, but in 1927, the British and French divided the Arabs into many countries, a policy the United States is continuing.

Iraq's attempts to unify the Arab world have frightened the United States, which doesn't want another world superpower, Yousif said.

He said the Arab countries' one

resource that could make them a superpower — oil — is the reason the United States now has troops in the Persian Gulf.

"The Arab world is rich with oil, and this oil is a curse," he said. "Young men and women are getting killed by ruthless leaders because of oil."

Zafer Abrass, a UNL architecture graduate student from Syria, said oil was the reason Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

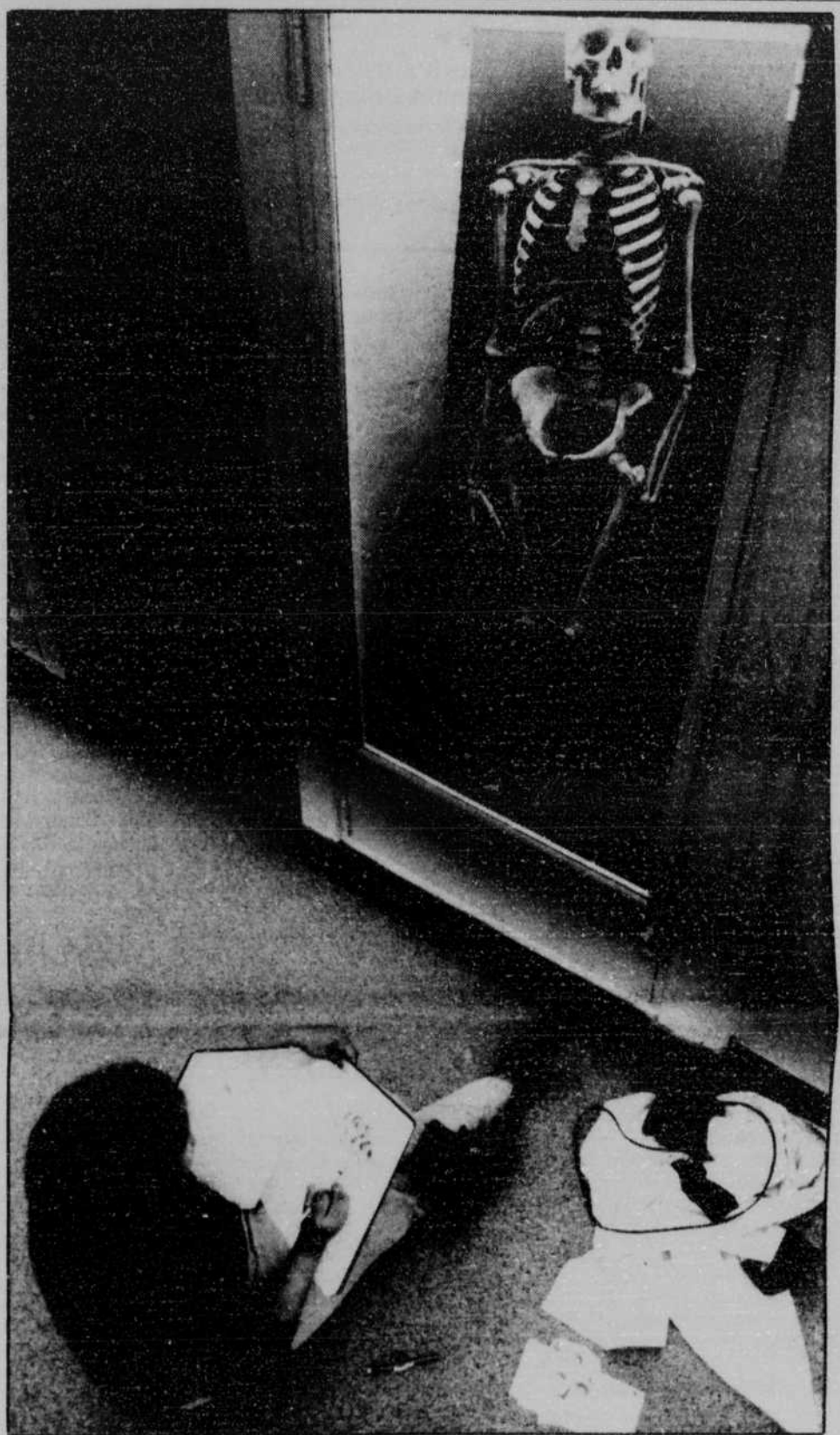
Kuwaitis were overproducing oil and driving down world prices, and they ignored Iraqi President Saddam

Hussein's peaceful attempts to warn them, he said.

Then, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, he said, the United States refused to negotiate with Iraq.

But Yousif said oil is not the only problem in the Middle East. The U.N.'s treatment of Israel also has worked against the Arab world, he said.

"Israel has taken more than it was granted in 1947, and the United Nations didn't go and kick them out," he said. "So you see the double standard of the United Nations."



Joe Heinze/Daily Nebraskan

No bones about it

Peggy Jones, a master's of fine arts student, draws the skull of a human skeleton model Wednesday in Morrill Hall.