



Robin Trimarch/DN

Students walk across the campus of the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

No respect

UNK neglected, 'shut out' of NU system, students say

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

KEARNEY — Trying to gain a state's respect has become a full-time pursuit for some students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

And few recognize that quest more than UNK's newly appointed and outgoing student regents.

See related stories on Pages 6 and 7

Andy Stock, a junior Spanish major from Lincoln, took over UNK's student regent position last Tuesday night, replacing Kevin McCully, who had served the previous year. Even before he was installed as UNK's student body president, Stock had heard comments from several students.

Most have been frustrating ones. "Some people have a real identity crisis here," Stock said. "Students sometimes feel

like UNK is being shut out or ignored, like we're just along for the ride and we don't really count."

Many of the 8,600 students at UNK chose to come to Kearney over the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or the University of Nebraska at Omaha to learn in a smaller environment than Lincoln or Omaha could offer.

Stock, who graduated from Lincoln East High School in June 1990, simply wanted to get away from home.

"I came out here to live on my own," he said. "If I would have stayed in Lincoln, I would be hanging out with my same friends from high school, doing the same things I did then, and I wouldn't have gotten to meet as many new people."

But there was a time when Stock would have been less enthusiastic about his stay in Kearney. After his sophomore year, he almost transferred to UNL, frustrated by scheduling problems that made it impossible to

register for some of the classes he needed — a result of underfunding.

That makes it easy to understand why UNK's budget tops Stock's list of irritations.

"We're drastically underfunded," he said. "Right now, we have a very sparse class selection. Our teachers are teaching more classes than they should, and this forces students to hang around here for six years or so to get their degrees, rather than four or five, just because they can't get into the classes they need."

"And with any more budget cuts, those six years could turn into seven."

Nevertheless, Stock insisted that UNK was better off since it became part of the NU system.

As part of the university, he said, UNK's name change would help him and other students find jobs after graduation, particularly if their search takes them outside of

See REGENT on 6

Candidates clash on budget tactics at ASUN debate

Car accident keeps Benes from representing VOICE

By Sarah Scalet
Staff Reporter

ASUN candidates debated theories and platforms Thursday evening, despite a car accident that prevented VOICE's presidential candidate, Keith Benes, from attending the debate.

Andrew Sigerson, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said Benes was in Bryan Memorial Hospital in Lincoln.

Benes was admitted for overnight monitoring after suffering a severe concussion when his car apparently hit a tree near 40th and St. Paul streets. Benes was en route to the debate when the accident occurred.

The debate indicated agreement by both parties on the issues of sexual assault and harassment and student football seating.

Both said sexual harassment was a major problem that deserved ASUN attention. Regarding football seating, both parties said students should not have to sit in the worst areas of the stadium.

Steve Dietz, PARTY presidential candidate, opened the debate by saying many false allegations had been made against his party.

He said VOICE was bothered by PARTY's non-traditional style.

"They are scared students will hear me," Dietz said. "Not just listen to me, but hear me."

He called for a change in the status quo and said PARTY wanted to give the government back to the students.

"ASUN needs an attitude change and that's what we represent," he said.

Trent Steele, VOICE's first vice presidential candidate, said that as elections approached, parties tended to become nervous.

"(Dietz' opening remarks) were the most desperate, negative comments I've heard since I've been in politics at UNL," he said. "I don't even know where to begin."

Steele said PARTY had few female candidates and no candidates from East Campus or the residence halls. VOICE's ticket is 52 percent women, and candidates from a wide range of residence halls and greek organizations, he said.

Steele said VOICE was running a positive campaign and had talked with many residence hall and off-campus students.

Debate questions, submitted by members of the audience, included issues of budget cuts at UNL and unlimited spending in ASUN elections.

Leslie Strong, PARTY vice presidential

See DEBATE on 2

Three Big Eight schools to face budget woes

5 percent budget cut to lessen UNL's quality, university officials say

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

With an almost \$7 million budget cut looming over the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, some college officials have braced themselves for the worst.

John Peters, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is one such official.

Peters said further budget cuts would cause his college to take drastic measures.

When the Legislature's special session ordered a 1.5 percent cut last November, he said the arts and sciences college made about \$560,000 in cuts to accommodate.

It resulted in larger class sections, less opportunities for students to get into required classes and

elimination of such events as the all-state music program. It also led to cuts in the actuarial science department, he said.

"We've done what we can do with the first round of cuts, and I think we've done a pretty good job," Peters said.

If the university goes along with the proposed 5 percent cut in the current Legislative session, Peters said, consequences could be hard to handle for a college that teaches 58 percent of UNL's courses.

"If we get cut again, well — we're out of strategy for that one," he said. "It would have a devastating effect if we get our budget cut again."

If the proposed cuts are passed by the Legislature, Peters predicted severe problems with students getting into required classes and delays in graduations resulting from losses in faculty.

"We will be jeopardizing the investment of the people of Nebraska," Peters said.

The College of Arts and Sciences has done everything in its power to cope with the first round of cuts, Peters said, and another round

See CUTS on 3

OSU, Colorado confronting difficult cuts, while three schools expect budget hikes

By Kara Morrison
Senior Editor

Three Big Eight universities, including UNL, face severe or potentially severe budget cuts, while three others expect budget increases.

Ray Downen, provost of Oklahoma State University, said a 9 percent budget cut for his school, recently mandated by the state's legislature, was surprisingly severe.

"It's going to be very destructive," he said. "A lot of long-time, faithful employees are going to lose their jobs."

Downen said OSU had been bracing itself for about a 5 percent cut. The University of Nebraska is facing a proposed 5 percent budget cut

next year. The University of Colorado at Boulder also is preparing itself for a substantial cut. But Kansas State University, Iowa State University and the University of Missouri are receiving budget increases.

Pauline Hale, director of public relations at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said CU was expecting bad news from its legislature next month.

"It's difficult not knowing what's coming, but knowing it's not going to be good," Hale said.

Hale attributed budget problems to a "state-wide fiscal emergency" and said problems were complicated by an amendment that prohibited increasing taxes and limited spending on all government agencies — including education.

Hale said CU's chancellor indicated the cuts at the university were expected to be too significant to sustain across-the-board cuts. Instead, Hale said, entire programs probably will have to be sacrificed.

But Downen said 8 percent of OSU's budget

See BIG EIGHT on 3

