

# ASUN calls for reinstatement of prayer

By Andrea Kaser  
Staff Reporter

Members of ASUN reasserted a stance taken by the previous senate on prayer at graduation ceremonies. This time around, the bill calls for a student to give a nondenominational prayer rather than announcing a moment of silence.

Keith Benes, president of the Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska, said hav-

ing a student say a prayer that was not offensive to anyone would remove the stigma of having state-imposed prayer and be more representative of students' wishes.

Bill Snyder, senator for the Department of General Studies, said ASUN should accept the compromise on the moment of silence and urged senators to oppose the bill because ASUN should remember to respect minority rights in a majority-ruled society.

Cara Catlett, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, said having a student say the prayer removed the obstacle that initially brought about the idea to remove invocation. That obstacle was a Supreme Court ruling that said anything besides student-sponsored prayer at high school graduations

was unconstitutional.

In other business, a bill to change a bylaw in the ASUN constitution split the senate 13-13. The bylaw change would have allowed a designated member of each of the six ASUN recognized minority groups to act as nonvoting members on subcommittees of the Human Rights Committee.

James Collura, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences and sponsor of the bill, said the proposed change in the bylaw was a gesture to the groups, who already felt alienated from ASUN.

But Brian Kubik, speaker of the senate who makes committee appointments, said there were other ways to include minorities than

changing a bylaw. Anyone interested in the subcommittees should go through the process of appointments, he said.

Because bylaw changes require two-thirds approval of the senate, the bill failed. In place of the bill, the senate passed an emergency resolution encouraging minorities to apply for voting positions on subcommittees.

Senators also passed a bill thanking Hillary Rodham Clinton for her recent visit, as well as bills opposing the proposed minus grading system and student seating at football games, and they passed a bill in favor of student input on teacher evaluations. The senate changed the UNL Football Migration Game from Colorado to Kansas.

## Strike

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schedules were changed about one year ago, he said.

"They want to change the work week," he said. "They want us to work any time without overtime."

Al Cameron, an 11-year veteran of the plant, said he thought all 700 strikers had been fired, which made him scared and uncertain about his future.

"Everybody's scared," he said. "We all got house payments and new babies on the way."

Officers from the Lincoln Police Department have been on the scene since the strike began, Lt. Allen Soukup said. Soukup described the strike as peaceful, with the exception of name calling and rock throwing.

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# Gay marchers bring back attitude

## Protesters' pride overcomes fear

By Andrea Kaser  
Staff Reporter

The 50 UNL students who participated in the gay march in Washington, D.C., are back with a new attitude, said leaders of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association.

"It's incredibly empowering seeing all those people and having control over an entire city," said Lise Johnston, co-chairwoman of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln GLSA.

David Bolkovac, co-chairman of GLSA, said the mass demonstration last Sunday gave gays and lesbians a chance to be themselves without feeling inhibited.

"If they wanted to hold hands on the subway or give their partner a kiss on the street, they could, because everyone around was queer," he said.

An estimated 300,000 people

**“If they wanted to hold hands on the subway or give their partner a kiss on the street, they could, because everyone around was queer.”**

—Bolkovac  
co-chairman of GLSA

marched on the National Mall Sunday, and about 1.8 million supporters of the gay movement showed up for the weekend-long demonstration, Bolkovac said.

About 200 Nebraskans marched under the state banner, he said, and more Nebraskans marched under different banners such as the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Johnston said the event enabled some students, who were previously afraid, to take pride in their sexuality. They no longer feel they have to apologize for it, she said.

Both Johnston and Bolkovac said America couldn't get away with dis-

criminating against homosexuals anymore.

"For those of us who are (discriminated against), we're not going to take it," Johnston said.

"This is something the Capitol can't ignore anymore," Bolkovac said.

Members of GLSA said they were considering a local march to the State Capitol to demand that Gov. Ben Nelson install the AIDS task force he promised last September.

They also plan to lobby against LB395, a bill they said would make it legal for employers to terminate employees based on sexual orientation.

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