

Daily Nebraskan

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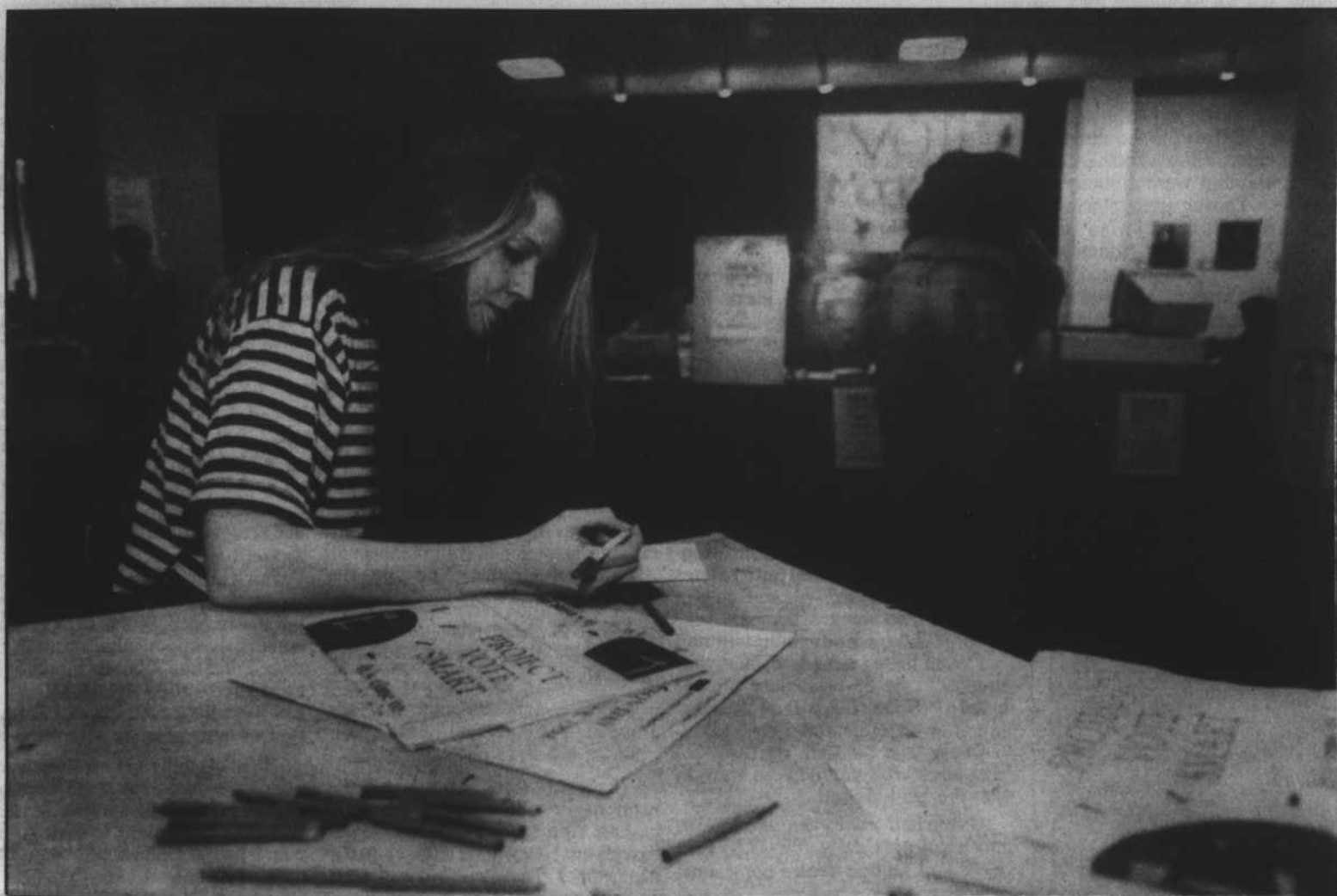
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Sarah Skiles, political science major, participates in the ASUN mock election Wednesday afternoon.

Jay Calderon/DN

Students not likely to vote

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

With a week remaining before the Nov. 8 election, the whirlwind of campaigning has produced a pretty consistent sentiment among most college students.

Ho hum.

John Hibbing, a political science professor, said 18- to 24-year-olds, the largest age group at the university, were least likely to vote in an election.

He said in a mid-term election such as this, where only around 35 percent of those eligible actually voted, the number of 18- to 24-year-olds voting would dip even lower.

Members of this age group don't vote because they didn't have roots in the community, Hibbing said. They don't have children in the schools; they don't own homes, and they haven't had to pay a lot of taxes.

Citizens without a clear stake in the political system won't participate, he said.

Also, Hibbing said, students often split time between school, work, living at school and living at home. He said those factors could keep people from registering and voting.

Pam Ronne, a sophomore psychology major, said she would not vote because she had not registered.

"I've been lazy," she said. "I don't

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Stoney, Nelson win mock election

By Nick Wiltgen
Staff Reporter

If Wednesday's mock election at UNL was any indication, the upcoming general election may be a close one.

In the mock election, which was sponsored by ASUN, Republican candidate Jan Stoney took the senate seat with 54.5 percent of the vote. Her opponent, Sen. Bob Kerrey, captured 45.5 percent of the votes. Kerrey leads Stoney in statewide polls.

Students cast 169 ballots in the election, which was held from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the student unions, said Shawntell Hurtgen, chairwoman of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's Government Liaison

Committee.

Students voted for candidates in the gubernatorial and senatorial races. They also voted for the candidates in their congressional district.

Hurtgen said GLC organized the election to increase student awareness about the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

In the gubernatorial vote, incumbent Gov. Ben Nelson defeated Republican challenger Gene Spence. Nelson got 96 votes, or 57.4 percent of the vote. Spence, who has said Nelson would probably win the general election, earned 68 votes, or 40.7 percent.

Write-in gubernatorial candidate Ernie Chambers earned three votes, or 1.7 percent.

In the 1st Congressional District, eight-term incumbent Rep. Doug Bereuter won over Democratic challenger Patrick Combs, with 86 votes or 76.7 percent of the vote. Combs earned 26 votes, or 23.3 percent of the total.

In the 2nd District race, Jon Christensen earned 60 percent of the vote while Democratic incumbent Peter Hoagland got 40 percent.

In the 3rd District, Rep. Bill Barrett defeated Democratic challenger Gil Chapin by taking 83.8 percent of the vote, or 26 ballots. Chapin earned just five votes, or 16.1 percent.

Hurtgen said the mock vote was the culmination of a three-phase GLC project to increase voter involvement.

During the first phase, the group tried to get students to register to vote. Secondly, GLC supported the national Project VoteSmart program at UNL. Project VoteSmart is a non-profit group that spreads information about candidates.

The final step was the mock election.

Hurtgen said these steps were taken to make students aware of the upcoming election and to encourage them to take part in it.

"I think it's hard to encourage students to vote because no one's winning anything right now," Hurtgen said. "I think if we make people aware an election is coming up soon, we've reached our goal."

Taxes, university heat up Legislature race

By DeDra Jansson
Senior Reporter

Robert Van Valkenburg says he's obsessed with defeating Sen. Don Wesely in the race for the Legislature's 26th district seat.

"I'm not obsessed with getting Don Wesely's seat," Van Valkenburg said. "I'm obsessed with getting him out of it, because we can't afford him."

Wesely, who is chairman of the Legislature's committees for health and human services and for banking, has held the seat since 1978.

But Wesely said he could lead the state through many tough issues.

In the last 16 years, Wesely said he passed about 300 bills dealing with a wide range of issues. All of those bills helped Nebraskans, he said. "I consider that a big accomplishment," Wesely said. "I've had a lot of success in the Legislature. I've done a lot."

The senator said he had passed many bills improving health care in the state. He said he was working on additional health-care bills that would provide health-care coverage for more Nebraskans.

He said he also introduced the governor's welfare bill and pushed for cost containment for Medicaid, a large part of the state's budget.

In addition, Wesely said he had worked on several economic development proposals, including some that created jobs and tax credits. Wesely was chairman of the economic development committee during

the 1980s.

Both candidates said funding for the University of Nebraska should be a priority for the Legislature.

Van Valkenburg said NU's funding should not be increased but reallocated within the university.

"We have layer upon layer of unnecessary bureaucracy in the university," he said. "When the president of the University of Nebraska makes as much as the president of the United States, it's obscene. When the dean of the law college makes more than the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, it's obscene."

Van Valkenburg said he would push the Legislature to take money from administrators and reallocate it to faculty and other departments that needed it.

"People are more interested in the classroom rather than the conference

room," he said.

Tuition would go down if the university eliminated its unneeded bureaucracy, Van Valkenburg said.

"Education is the senior responsibility of American society, and we have to attend to it," he said. "But that's not to say we have to be wasteful spenders while we're doing it."

Wesely said he was a long-time advocate for the university.

He said the Legislature fought a never-ending battle to meet the funding needs of the entire state. Meeting NU's funding needs is a central part of that battle, he said.

The university has tremendous need for more money, Wesely said.

"There are those who argue that the university has lots of money and can make cuts, but from what I've seen, that's not my perception," he

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Police to examine relations

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

No scope or timetable has been set for reviewing the relations between university and Lincoln police, the university police chief said Wednesday.

Chief Ken Cauble said the review process requested by Chancellor Graham Spanier could take as long as a month or as short as a day, depending on which parts of police policy, called the Mutual Aid Agreement, were considered.

Spanier's request came after he received a report last week from the Special Committee to Review University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Policies and Procedures.

The chancellor created the committee to review the University Police Department's role in the Oct. 1 death of Francisco Renteria.

On Sept. 30, University Police Officer Charlotte Veskna mistook Renteria for a man violating a protection order. Renteria died the day after police attempted to arrest him.

After reading the committee report on the incident, Spanier requested that university and Lincoln police reword the agreement between the two agencies.

Spanier wants to narrow the university's jurisdiction in off-campus intervention to "situations of

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