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Wrapping up



Michelle Paulman/DN

Dan Warner, a coordinator for Sen. Bob Kerrey's campaign, gets a jump on cleaning out his office the day after the election. Volunteers must clear out the headquarters by Tuesday, Warner said, and they will spend the next two months picking up yard signs.

Campaigners reflect on season

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

For many campaign workers, the days after the election felt much like the days after Christmas.

Campaigners' post-election emotions included satisfaction, disappointment, stress and relief — all at the same time.

Joe Kelly, campaign press agent for Gov. Ben Nelson, summed up his thoughts about the campaign in three words: "It was great."

Nelson defeated challenger Gene Spence by a 48 percent margin to earn another four years in office.

Kelly has worked on numerous campaigns, he said, but he had suspended his career as political animal for several years. His return to politics and Nelson's campaign this year was simply "for something to do," he said.

Kelly said he was pleased with every aspect of the campaign.

"I think we ran a positive campaign, especially internally," he said. "Everyone involved worked eagerly, promptly and with real enthusiasm. The total cooperation of the candidate and volunteers was terrific. I have nothing to complain about."

Doug Patton, campaign communications

director for Jon Christensen, said the nights of the primary and general elections were "emotional high points" that he would not soon forget.

Christensen defeated incumbent Peter Hoagland in a tight race to take the 2nd District House of Representatives seat. The margin of victory was about 1,800 votes.

"Obviously, I'm elated to have been a part of such an extraordinary campaign," Patton said. "With all the changes that were made in government this year, I really feel like I have taken part in history."

The Christensen campaign was Patton's first serious involvement with politics, an experience he called positive.

"It's exciting; it's a lot of work," he said. "But it's not just a job; it's an opportunity to make a difference and to be a part of history in the making. Looking back, it doesn't seem like work at all."

Those who supported losing candidates had the extra challenge of dealing with the fact that their hard work didn't lead to victory.

Jack Cheloha, campaign manager for Patrick Combs, said he had mixed feelings when he looked back at the campaign. Combs was defeated in his bid for the 1st District seat in the House of Representa-

tives.

"It's hard not to feel disappointed after going through so much," Cheloha said. "The candidate, the volunteers, they have all worked very hard over the past year, and to come up short was very disappointing."

Although the loss was disappointing, Cheloha said, the experience was positive. "I was glad to have had the opportunity to develop personal relationships with both the candidate and all of the volunteer staff," he said.

Winding down the campaign was an extensive process that required legal, mental and physical actions, Cheloha said. The few days after the campaign will be spent packing boxes, paying bills, filing reports and thanking supporters.

Brent Rose, campaign manager for Spence, said ending a campaign always was a difficult experience.

"Campaigns are just like a game," Rose said. "Win or lose, it's always hard to walk away."

Strong personal relationships developed during the campaign, he said.

"There are no glory jobs in a political campaign," he said. "Everyone is working side by side, trying to get the job done."

City issues no-tolerance gang policy

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Lincoln is quietly at war.

"We will not cede one house, one block, one neighborhood to gangs," Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said. "We stand for an absolute no-tolerance policy."

Casady said Thursday that gang activity still was in its early stages in Lincoln, and that's how he wanted it to stay.

Casady's statements came at a press conference following the release of the department's stepped-up approach to dealing with gangs: "Gang Activity in the City of Lincoln — A Strategy for Prevention and Response."

Mayor Mike Johanns said communication was the key when it came to battling gangs. Ignoring the issue wouldn't make it go away, he said.

"We would be less than candid with our community if we attempted to say that we do not have gang activity in the city of Lincoln," Johanns said. "But that does not mean we, as a community, need to surrender to that activity."

More than 50 police officers also attended

See GANGS on 3

4-H committee won't be asked about its vote

By Matthew Walte
Senior Reporter

Members of a committee who voted to change a 4-H camp's policy regarding sexual orientation will not be questioned about their actions, the director of affirmative action and diversity said on Thursday.

The committee, which oversees a 4-H camp in Gretna, voted 20-15 last month to remove sexual orientation from the camp's nondiscrimination policy.

Eric Jolly said the committee members had a right to voice their opinions.

"People have the right to vote," Jolly said.

But their vote was meaningless, University of Nebraska-Lincoln spokeswoman Phyllis Larsen said. The committee had no right to narrow the nondiscrimination policy, she said. They must comply with the university's policy, which includes sexual orientation.

Ray Massey, however, was removed last Wednesday from a search committee for a new director for the Southeast Research and Extension Center, which oversees programs such as 4-H.

Massey came before the camp committee, of which he is not a member, and proposed to

See 4-H on 3

New regents work on strategies, goals for university

Hassebrook plans to focus on Nebraska farm families

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

After learning of his victory in the 3rd District regent race, Chuck Hassebrook began looking to the future.

Hassebrook defeated challenger Keith Vrbicky by a narrow margin in a tightly contested race that Vrbicky described as "positive ... with integrity." Hassebrook won 52 percent of the vote.

Hassebrook said that once seated, his main concerns would be the ones he emphasized in

the campaign.

"Obviously, I'm glad to have won," Hassebrook said, "but now I have to start on the more serious problems I see in the university system."

Hassebrook said he had set goals but still was considering strategies.

He will focus much of his attention on average Nebraska farm families, a group he thinks has been underrepresented in the past, Hassebrook said.

"I plan on trying to refocus agricultural programs to more accurately address the family farm and the problems it faces," he said.

Rising tuition costs must be curbed to make higher education affordable for average Ne-

See HASSEBROOK on 3

Miller to request study of administration efficiency

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

The newly elected 4th District NU regent already has a strategy to battle the university's budget crunch in 1995.

Drew Miller said he wanted to cut administrative costs to fund other areas of the university, such as the libraries and engineering programs.

Miller defeated two-term incumbent Nancy Hoch on Tuesday by winning 54 percent of the vote.

He said his first move would be to create a

regent subcommittee to evaluate the efficiency of the University of Nebraska administration.

Miller said his background in business, education and public policy gave him a sound base for implementing his plan. Miller was a manager of special projects and corporate planning for ConAgra and is chairman of the Sarpy County Board.

Another issue the regents may address next year is a proposal to create a separate engineering college in Omaha, he said. The board is scheduled to decide the issue before the new members take office.

But Miller said the new board could reconsider the proposal. Even if the board sticks with the December decision, members still will have

See MILLER on 3