

# Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901 VOL. 95 NO. 120

**WEDNESDAY** 20<sup>th</sup> 1996

**WEATHER:**  
**Today - Windy and cold, light snow. Northwest wind 20 to 30 mph.**  
**Tonight - Possible flurries. Low around 8.**

March 6, 1996

## Dole seizes commanding primary lead

By John King  
The Associated Press

### Race narrows for Republican rivals

Sen. Bob Dole swept eight primaries on Tuesday, seizing an overwhelming lead in the Republican presidential race.



GOP voters blocked Pat Buchanan's conservative challenge and turned the party's attention to November.

"We'll return conservative leadership to the White House," Dole told cheering supporters. "And I will be very proud to carry that banner."

Dole's victories were so overwhelming that two lagging rivals — former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar — were preparing to quit the race on

Wednesday.

"I always felt in my heart it was going to happen, but you never know until the people vote," Dole told The Associated Press, flushed with confidence that his third bid for the GOP nomination would be successful.

"Tonight we have proven the Republican Party is not spinning apart but coming together," Dole told a victory rally in Washington. He said the mission for Republicans now was to defeat Clinton.

"Tonight we found a leader," Dole said.

Dole won primaries in Georgia, Vermont, Connecticut, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, Colorado and Rhode Island — a "Junior Tuesday" primary sweep. There also were caucuses in Minnesota and Washington to

begin choosing their convention delegates.

Dole entered the night with 91 delegates and was winning at least 174 of the 208 at stake. That gave him at least 265 delegates, more than a quarter of the way toward the 996 needed to clinch the nomination. Publisher Steve Forbes was a distant second, with 63 delegates.

Dole predicted his lead would bulge even more after New York's primary Thursday and then again in next week's "Super Tuesday" contests in Texas, Florida and five other states. New York awards 93 delegates; 362 are at stake the following Tuesday.

"I think we are in a very strong position to win the nomination," the Senate majority leader said, and for once there was no voice in dissent.

Dole's victories were even more striking in their size. In Maryland, Colorado, Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island, Dole won by 2-to-1 margins. In Massachusetts and Maine his lead was over 20 points. Only Georgia was relatively close — and Dole was beating Buchanan by eight points there, a state Buchanan had framed as critical to his fast-fading nomination hopes.

Some GOP leaders said the race was all but over.

"If he doesn't have it wrapped up, he's close," said Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. He urged others to clear the field: "There's no need to keep fighting among ourselves."

Buchanan vowed to fight all the

See PRIMARY on 3

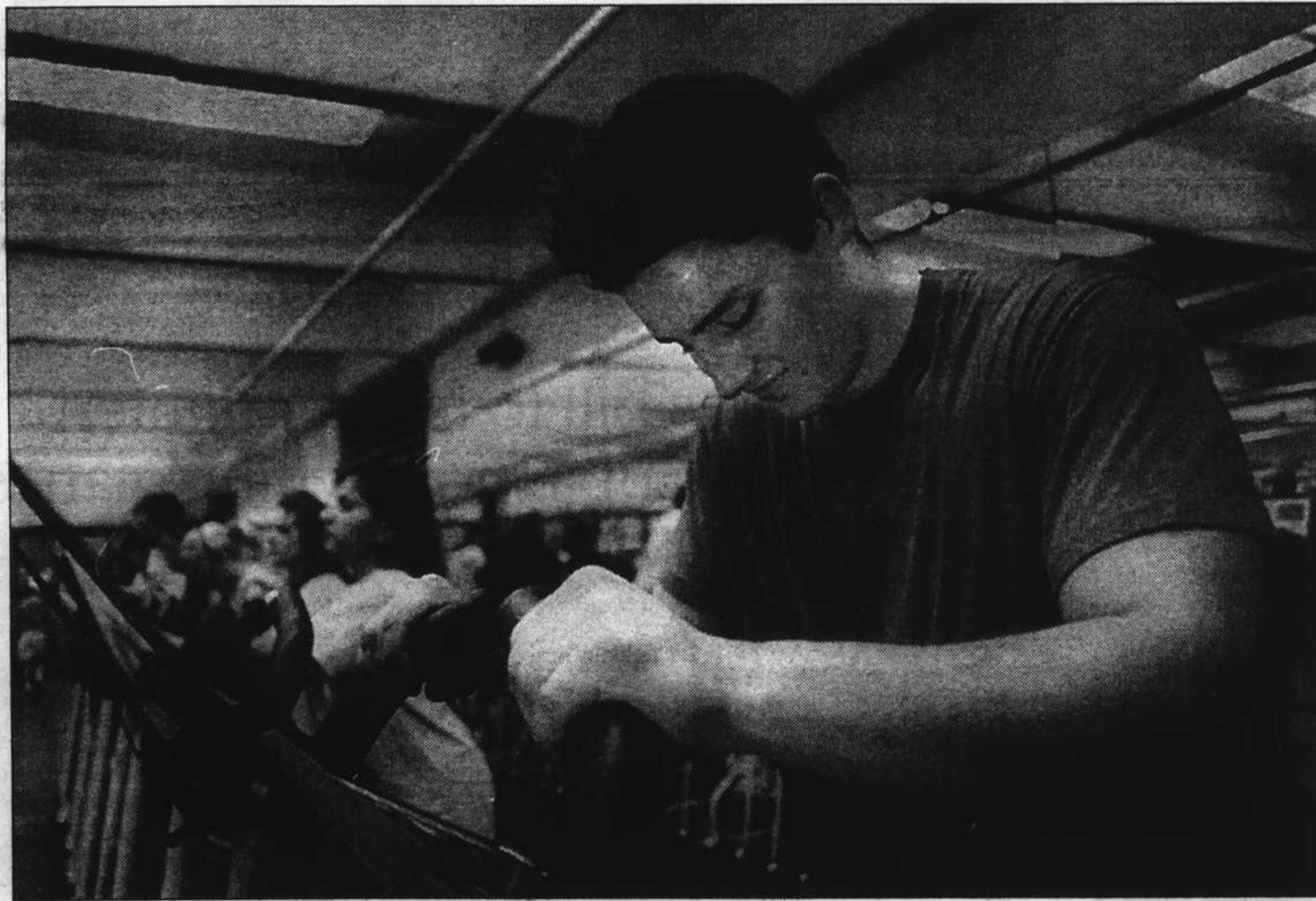
## Delegate Count

The following delegate count does not include delegates who are non-committed.

Bob Dole	259
Steve Forbes	63
Patrick Buchanan	44
Lamar Alexander	10
Alan Keyes	1

Source: AP Aaron Steckelberg/DN

## STEPPING IT UP



Matt Miller/DN

Brian Bazata, a junior accounting major, works out on the stair stepper at the Campus Recreation Center Tuesday afternoon.

## Parties finish campaigns as voting begins

By Chad Lorenz  
Senior Reporter

ASUN candidates and officials again showed their differences in the last day of politicking before students headed to the polls, ending a lackluster campaign season.

Polls open today at 8 a.m. across campus and will close at 8 p.m.

Officials in the two parties vying for victory in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska election again distanced themselves from each other and made one last pitch to voters.

Kevin Gregorius, second vice presidential candidate for OFFICE, said the party's campaign strategy was to show students it could change ASUN.

"Our goal was just to inform students that they did have a legitimate choice," he said.

Gregorius said OFFICE candidates targeted student groups on campus not represented well by ASUN, such as the Residence Hall Association and the International Student Organization.

He said those groups, particularly residence hall governments, appreciated that OFFICE would be there to represent them throughout the year, not just during the election.

Campaigning showed students the OFFICE

See CAMPAIGN on 6

## Many Nebraska candidates face little opposition

By Chad Lorenz  
Senior Reporter

Running for political office in Nebraska is slowly becoming an outgoing trend, one UNL political science professor said.

Robert Sittig said a greater-than-usual number of races in Nebraska are uncontested this year because elected government positions are not seen as appealing to potential candidates.

"The benefits of public service no longer are worth the cost of public service," Sittig said.

Candidates for statewide and national office were required to file in Nebraska by March 1.

One-third of state senators up for re-election face no opposition. Gov. Ben Nelson is running uncontested in

the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate.

Reps. Doug Bercuter and Jon Christensen face no Republican opposition in their races for U.S. Congress, and Rep. Bill Barrett faces no opposition in either the primary or general elections. Patrick Combs and James Martin Davis face little opposition in their Democratic primaries.

"That's somewhere between surprising and embarrassing," Sittig said.

Sittig said the complications of campaigning made running for political office unappealing.

Candidates have to invest massive amounts of time and money into political campaigns, Sittig said, and criticism during the campaign makes the job even more unattractive.

Adam Branting, deputy director of

the Nebraska Democratic party, said candidates could be discouraged by the low level of pay and high level of stress that came with the job.

In races where Democratic candidates are uncontested in primary elections, other candidates don't join the race because the party is satisfied with the candidate running, Branting said.

"Sometimes the caliber of the candidate is so good, you would vote for him yourself."

Chuck Sigerson, chairman of the Nebraska Republican party, said Republicans encouraged more candidates to run, even when a strong candidate was running.

Sittig said voters benefited from having more candidates in the race.

"How is a voter supposed to evaluate choices if there's only one choice?"

## In the clear

An unusually large number of candidates will make it through the primaries unopposed.

- U.S. Senator** (unopposed)  
Democrat - Ben Nelson
- Republican - Don Stenberg
- Republican - Chuck Hagel

- U.S. Congress - 2nd District**  
Democrat - Jess Pritchett
- Democrat - James Martin-Daves
- Republican - Jon Christensen (unopposed)

- U.S. Congress - 1st District**  
Democrat - Marlin Pals
- Democrat - Patrick J. Combs
- Republican - Doug Bercuter (unopposed)

- U.S. Congress - 3rd District**  
Republican - Bill Barrett (unopposed)

Source: Lancaster County Election Offices

Aaron Steckelberg/DN