

ASUN wants union store included in student fees

Whether or not a union-owned convenience store could reduce student fees is the main topic for tonight's meeting of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

With the planned expansion of the Nebraska Union, a convenience store will be owned and operated by the union, not a national chain.

And ASUN President Shawntell Hurtgen said she hoped the new convenience store would be placed in the student fees budget.

Then, if the store generates profits, student fees for the Nebraska Union might be reduced.

"This is something that is a few years into the future," Hurtgen said. "But I think it's important to set the

precedent on this now before it becomes a moot issue."

The convenience store would not open for at least two semesters, as construction on the union extends into 1997.

"There's potential even at this early stage to generate support from students, or if they find it disagreeable, to voice their feelings against it," Hurtgen said.

She said that at this point, ASUN would make only a recommendation for the store to be placed under the student fees. The final decision would be almost a year away.

— Kasey Kerber

Nelson backs tax bill

Gov. Ben Nelson has given his endorsement to a property tax bill advanced by the Revenue Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

Nelson told the media during a teleconference Tuesday that he had reviewed LB1114 and would support the bill, which would limit the property tax rates that could be levied by local governments.

The bill contained some of the ideas he introduced earlier this session, Nelson said. The bill still would cut local spending, avoid a tax shift and involve local control.

Nelson said he would be working with Revenue Committee Chairman Jerome Warner of Waverly to see that those three key points of the bill were enacted.

He said he also would work at

reviving some of his other property tax relief proposals, including a provision that would outlaw underfunded mandates.

At any rate, Nelson said, something needs to be done this session.

"Hopefully the balance of the Legislature will find that, although they may not agree with every aspect — it does the job," he said.

It is important that the Legislature did something with the bill this session to keep citizens from having to choose from one of three property tax petitions that will be on the November ballot, Nelson said, none of which he supports.

Debate on LB1114 should begin next week.

— Ted Taylor

Dole

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Looking ahead, Dole said he had thought only "in a loose way" about picking a running mate.

But in an intriguing comment, Dole brushed aside Colin Powell's statements that he would not be interested, predicting the retired general "would suit up again" if asked to serve.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich was at Dole's side under a victory rally banner that said "Changing America Together."

"Get Bill Clinton out of the way and we will get the job done," Dole said.

On past primary nights, Dole has said little about rivals except to urge them to quit. He said anew he hoped Forbes and Buchanan wouldn't help Clinton by being spoilers.

But he also offered an olive branch: "We've listened and we've heard strong messages," echoing Forbes' theme of economic growth and Buchanan's emphasis on middle-class economic anxiety.

Indeed, Forbes' dismal night — third-place or worse everywhere but

Florida — had him talking of quitting. The millionaire publisher said he needed "a win or something akin to a win" in next week's Midwest primaries to stay in for California's March 26 contest.

Reporters caught up with Buchanan as he tried to enter his Ohio hotel through a kitchen entrance. Taking note of Forbes' comments, Buchanan said: "It is a two-man race after next week. Buchanan and Dole all the way to San Diego."

There was also some sobering news Tuesday for Dole. Three new national surveys showed Clinton with double-digit leads in head-to-head matchups. They also showed Dole would suffer if Ross Perot mounted another independent candidacy.

"Once we get a nominee and he is out there focusing on Bill Clinton instead of getting beat up in primaries every day then we will turn this around," Dole said.

In the week ahead, Dole said, he would focus squarely on the Democratic incumbent — "Veto Bill" — and his rejection of GOP plans to balance the budget, cut taxes for families and investors, and reform welfare.

Speed

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bers questioned contained these penalties for motorists exceeding the posted speed limit by:

- Six to 10 mph, \$50 on the interstate and \$15 on the state's two-lane roads.

- 11-16 mph — \$100 on interstates, \$30 on highways.

- 16-20 mph — \$200 on interstates, \$50 on highways.

- 21 mph and up — \$250 on interstates and \$100 on the highways.

Chambers asked the Legislature how that separation of penalties made sense.

"You put the harshest penalties where the roads are the safest," he said.

"Why stay on the Interstate and drive 200 mph and get a ticket for \$250, when you can drive 200 on the state highways and only be ticketed \$100?" Chambers said.

"All the work we've done so far on

901 would be in vain if the bill passes without this amendment," he said.

Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice introduced an amendment to Chambers' amendment that increased the cost of speeding tickets more than two-fold while maintaining a single schedule of fines.

Maurstad's amendment, which was adopted 25-3, raised the penalty for motorists exceeding the speed limit by 11-15 mph from \$30 to \$75; 16-20 mph from \$50 to \$125; and 21 mph and up from \$100 to \$200.

Those fines doubled the penalties proposed in the Chambers amendment.

Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. Doug Kristensen of Minden said if motorists wanted to drive faster, they should have to pay the price.

Kristensen, who supported the Maurstad amendment, said people shouldn't be driving 90 mph anyway.

"But if they do, they're going to have to face the punishment for that."

The bill awaits debate in select file, where more amendments could be adopted.

Amend

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only a slight variation of that."

But Transportation Committee Chairman Doug Kristensen of Minden said that the rural highways were just too dangerous for the kind of speed Wickersham's amendment proposed.

"The two-lane highways are inherently dangerous," he said.

The motion to reconsider the amendment failed by a 24-16 vote.

But lawmakers later adopted a similar amendment from Indianola Sen. Owen Elmer that would give the Department of Roads the power to raise the speed limit to 65 when traffic patterns and highway design conditions apply.

Elmer said conditions on many of the two-lane highways could handle the higher speeds and that the Department of Roads would make adequate assessments of any roads before raising the limit.

— Ted Taylor

Rally

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GayLesBiTrans Student Association, formerly known as the Gay/Lesbian Student Association.

The Rev. Martin Williams of Harvest Tabernacle Church in Omaha, replied that discrimination against homosexuals was not comparable to discrimination against blacks or other ethnic minorities. Skin color is not a choice, he said, but homosexuality is.

The keynote speaker — the Rev. Kevin Hutchinson of Trinity Interdenominational Church in Omaha — said he was at one time involved in homosexual relationships, but going against God's natural laws had not fulfilled him.

Since then, he has married, and he said homosexuality was not genetically predisposed. God made man and woman to go together, he said, and society should not try to deviate from that.

"I don't believe we're in a place to change His rules," Hutchinson said.



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Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm
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