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Campaigns no longer competitive, speaker says

By Michaela Pieler

The amount of money spent on political campaigns is threatening an important component of American democracy, a UNL professor told a group of international students.

Political elections are no longer competitive because office holders have better chances to be elected than their challengers, said William Avery, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Incumbents are usually supported by political action committees, from which they receive a lot of money for their campaigns.

Incumbents have a tremendous advantage in raising money," he said. That doesn't even allow their challengers a serious challenge. But a democracy needs competitive elections."

In 1992, incumbents had four times more money than their opponents, he said, and 10 times more PAC money.

In 1993, 93 percent of all incumbents won re-election. Eighty percent of them had been unopposed, partly because their opponents didn't have enough money for a campaign, Avery told about 20 UNL international students in the International Affairs student lounge Friday.

Avery's seminar on the financing

of political campaigns was part of IA's democracy program for international students. Avery is a member of Common Cause, a nationwide lobbying

organization that aims at giving the public greater force in influencing

To give political opponents a serious chance, Avery said, the amount of money candidates are allowed to receive from PACs should be limited. So far, they are only limited in how much they can receive from one committee, but there is not an aggregate limit, he

"If you're not going to change the rules by which we play, you're not changing anything," he said.

Today, candidates have to calcu-late one-third of their budget for TV advertisements, he said. They need \$8,000 to \$10,000 just to get started on one statewide poll, he said. In 1976, successful Senate candi-

dates spent \$610,000 for their cam-

paigns, Avery said. In 1994, that sum had increased to \$4.5 million.

When Sen. (James) Exon (D-Neb.) first campaigned, it was sufficient for him to go around Nebraska in his sta-tion wagon," Avery said. "He shook hands in coffee shops and won the election.

Avery said a campaign-financing reform must include a means to "provide candidates with clean campaign resources.'

Congress has passed campaign finance-reform three times, Avery said, but each bill was vetoed. Avery said he had little hope that similar legislation would pass this session.

Kelter

Continued from Page 1

istry, Kelter said, his students know how to evaluate their instructor objec-tively.

"It (student evaluation) is not based on the number of A's," he said. "My grades are the same as other science teacher's grades.'

education major in the hands-on chem-zon.

istry class, said she hated chemistry until she took Kelter's class.

"I've learned more in this class than any other," she said. "He teaches at our level and not over our heads."

Kelter said the course was successful in making students who were shy about science confident enough to teach it to others.

He said he saw many new programs Cheryl Wall, another elementary like the hands-on course on the hori-

Rader

Continued from Page 1

was offended by the use of alcohol and sexual activities in residence halls.

cellor, said the ruling surprised her because she didn't think the policy violated Rader's right to practice his

Rader still went to class, partici-pated in athletics and even ate in UNK's Piester's ruling stated that living at

that people who have a religious objection to the policy could go to a renew the rights of religious students in universities across the nation. different university. Judge Piester's in universities across the nation. ruling stated that statement showed there was a section of people not wel- ministrators across the country and come at UNK, Downing said.

Johnston said the policy of requiring freshman to live on campus was not meant to discriminate against religious students but was based on research and knowledge.

We make decisions and judgments Gladys Styles Johnston, UNK chan- in students' best interest all the time,"

> University officials said during the trial that the policy put students in a better academic environment and made

Piester's ruling stated that living at food service with the same students CSF "would likely produce an enviwhose behavior he frowned on, she ronment much more conducive to aca-Johnston testified during the trial dence halls."

"This will provide guidance to adstudents of deep religious faith."

GET A JOB.

The Daily Nebraskan is now hiring for all Fall 1996 staff positions. Applicants must be enrolled in at least six credit hours and must have at least a 2.0 GPA.

Stop by the DN, room 34 in the basement of the Nebraska Union and pick up an application. Applications for all positions are due Tuesday, April 16 at 5 p.m.

The following positions are available:

- X Staff news reporters
- x Staff sports reporters
- X Staff A&E reporters
- X Copy editors
- X Staff photographers
- X Night production
- **X** Typesetters
- X Web page designers

UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admission or employment programs, and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same