

ASUN

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Both Lewis and Harms are among a handful of veteran senators returning to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, which immediately raised questions of who was most experienced.

Ruwe, who just finished a term as secretary of the College Republicans, said he had the experience needed for the position.

"I've always been here — whether it be working in committees or in other organizations," Ruwe said. "Maybe my jobs weren't the ones getting the press time, but I don't care if I get interviewed again all next year as long as I know I'm getting the job done."

Ruwe said he had numerous ideas for next year, and among the most critical is making sure the senate works constantly to keep from becoming stagnant.

"Since I appoint the committees, I'll try to make sure that this senate keeps moving," Ruwe said.

"A senate needs to be active, whether it be by constantly passing legislation or by other courses of action."

Ruwe also emphasized improving the diversity of committees.

"With diversity comes a diversity of ideas," Ruwe said. "It's this diversity that is a reflection of what the student body wants and needs."

Ruwe said the problem he most expected was not being able to please everyone all the time.

"The biggest problem I see for next year is that I want everyone to like me, which is not easy when you've become head of the appointments board," Ruwe said. "Yet I promise that every appointment I do or do not make will have a valid excuse attached to it."

In other ASUN news: Each senator took a few minutes out of Wednesday night's meeting to write legislators about the possibility that Gov. Ben Nelson may veto a bill that allots \$5 million to the University of Nebraska for salary increases.

If Nelson vetoes the bill, only an override by the Legislature will prevent tuition increases and possible program-cutting to make up for the lost funds.

ASUN senators also passed a bill commending Residence Hall Association President Eric Vander Woude for his service over the past year and another bill recognizing the establishment of the Mechanized Systems Management Club and the University Health Center Student Advisory Board.

Tax relief bill sent to Nelson

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Two parts of a five-part property tax relief package — long considered the session's key pieces of legislation — were sent to the governor's desk Wednesday afternoon.

A 45-0 vote sent LB1085, which encourages local political subdivisions to merge or consolidate to form a more efficient government, to Nelson.

The bill does four things.

- It requires political subdivisions to pass resolutions to receive more property tax funds than the previous year.

- It gives the county board oversight of operations of veterans service committees, county agricultural societies, county hospitals and county extension services.

- It provides procedures for merging county offices within or between counties.

- It gives the Property Tax Administrator property tax assessment responsibilities.

Lawmakers also voted 46-1 to pass LR292CA, a constitutional amendment that would appear on the November ballot. The amendment would allow

the Legislature to provide for the merger or consolidation of local governments.

Nelson told reporters on Wednesday that the Legislature's property tax package would be enough to keep the proposed property tax petitions off the ballot — but only if senators were serious about it.

He said the public would be angered if legislators used the package as "just another ruse to keep the property tax petitions off the ballot."

Nelson said the package was a solution, and he had some words of encouragement for voters.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it isn't a freight train," he said.

In other legislative news: — With only two days left in the 1996 Nebraska Legislative session, bills awaiting final reading are only hours away from possibly gaining final approval.

Some of those bills include measures dealing with the speed limit, Cornhusker spirit plates and brewpubs. Some of the property tax relief bills will be read in full today before a final vote on each is taken.

Senators then will take a recess until next Thursday, the final day of the session, when they may attempt to override any vetoes handed down by Nelson. Some ceremonial procedures also will be taken care of that day.

— On Wednesday, the third-to-last day of the session, lawmakers advanced 27 bills to Nelson.

Lawmakers approved a legislative resolution Wednesday that approved funds for a 600-stall parking garage on the west end of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus.

The NU Board of Regents and The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education approved the \$7.5 million project in January, and the architects for the structure were approved at the March regents meeting.

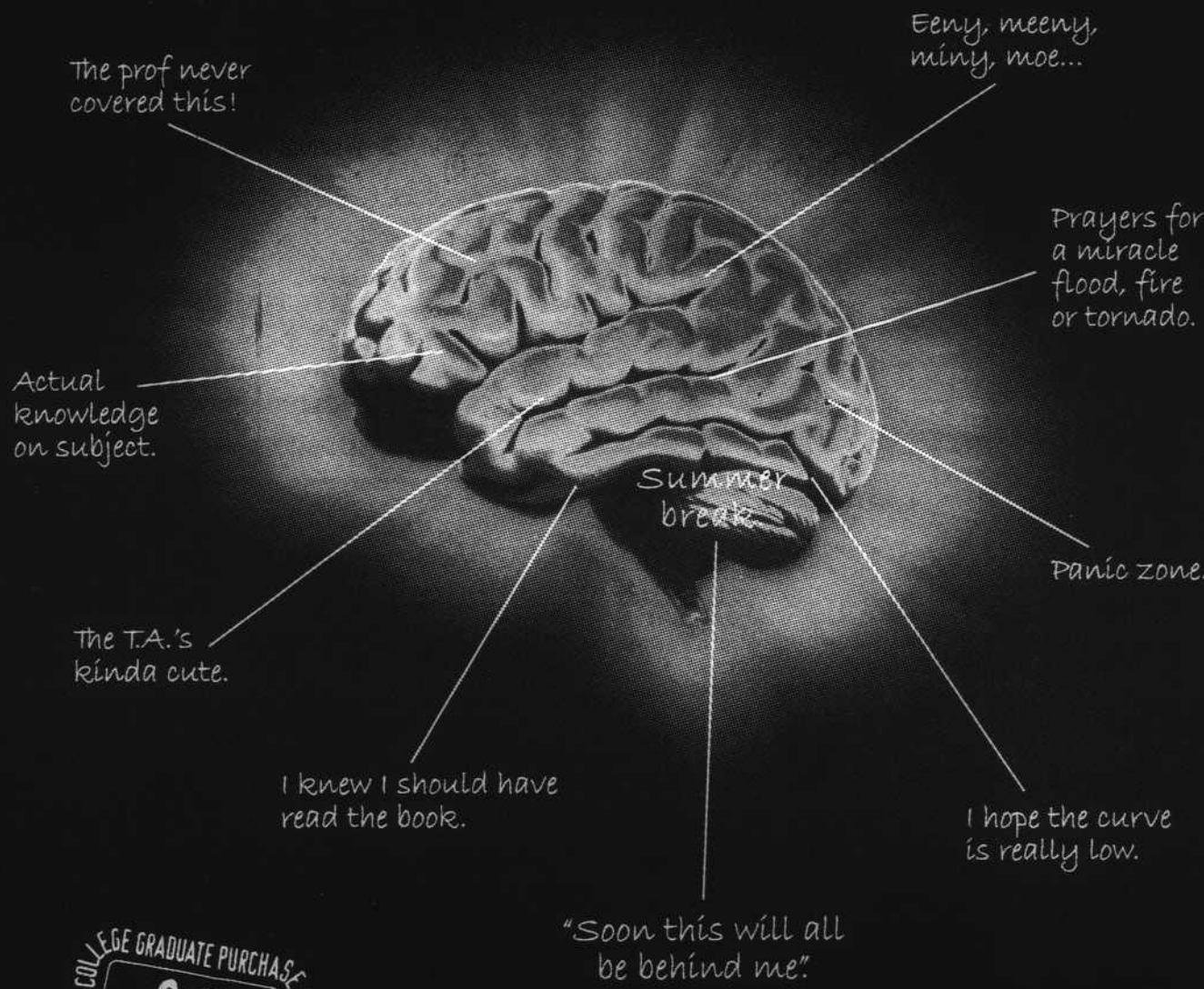
The proposed site, between Ninth and 10th streets and T and U streets, also would be the new home for parking services, the athletic department ticket office, a UNL police community service office and a shelter for transit riders.

UNL is expected to raise \$785,000 in revenue the first year from parking fees, athletic department funds and profits from leasing commercial space.

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