Two battle for NU regents seat

By ERIN SCHULTE Senior Reporter

Six years ago, NU Regent Nancy O'Brien won her seat on the board in a race where her opponent outspent her five to one.

This year, Andrew Sigerson, an Omaha attorney and former president of the ASUN, hopes he can have the same luck in his race against O'Brien for the District 2 regent position.

Sigerson has said he's got a better perspective of what students want because of his age and experience as president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska from 1992-93.

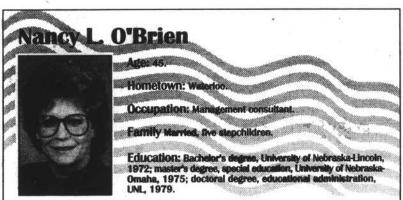
But O'Brien, of Waterloo, said she's made changes during her term as regent that directly change life - for the better - for nearly every student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

O'Brien pointed out accomplishments she felt made life better for every student: getting N-Roll and online are more credible to students because registration for classes going.

she had while in school at UNL were wish, she said. unacceptable, she said, and new techto have that problem anymore.

O'Brien also said she pushed to get of the Board of Regents last year. more transfer classes among NU campuses. When she started her term as position as a regent, and that the board regent, only 250 courses would transfer. More than 800 classes are now took more than 40 tickets for the Fieasily transferable, she said.

began her term, O'Brien said. Regents ter good relationships with those who



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NANCY O'BRIEN

of open discussion at meetings. Stu-The same old drop-add lines that dents can attend the meetings if they

O'Brien lives in Waterloo and has nology meant the university didn't have a doctorate in education administration from UNL. She served as chairwoman

esta Bowl to distribute to people who Regents meetings have also been had contributed money to the univermade more open to the public since she sity. O'Brien said it was her job to fos-

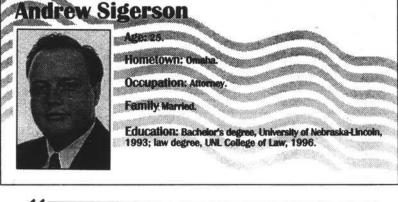
contributed money to the university.

Regents should spend less time taking things from the university, Sigerson said, and instead spend time figuring out how to lower costs for college students, which is something he said he wanted to do if elected as a regent.

Recent budget increases of around Sigerson said O'Brien abused her 6 percent each year are way too high, he said. Students often end up paying

> "At the rate we're going, the only thing students who graduate are going to be able to worry about is how to pay their debt," Sigerson said.

Sigerson said, if he was elected, he



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ANDREW SIGERSON

would vote to hold tuition increases not fully prepare students for the workover the next five years at the rate of ing world. inflation.

One thing that should go up at NU is faculty salaries, he said.

We will never have as strong an academic university as we do an athletic university if we do not reward our good faculty members," Sigerson said.

Teaching faculty should also be encouraged to get out and work in the real world, Sigerson said. Regents should support faculty who want to work, so they can teach real-world skills to their students. Sigerson said he's heard complaints that college does

O'Brien said her goals, if elected, would be to take care of deferred maintenance problems and create excellence in UNL's academic programs.

Another area UNL has done well in, but needs to keep improving, is with using information technology and interactive technology in the classroom,

"UNL is a campus on solid ground and we must maintain the momentum that has developed," O'Brien said.

NEA donates \$100,000 for initiatives

From The Associated Press

The National Education Association has contributed \$100,000 to support Nebraska initiatives 411 and 412, which deal with quality education and property tax relief.

Word of the donation from the two-million member national teacher's union was included in a financial disclosure released Monday by Citizens for 411 and

Co-chairmen of the group, Bryce Neidig of the Nebraska rarm Bureau and Craig Christiansen of the Nebraska State Education Association said the group has raised \$577,073 to work for passage of the two ballot questions.

The measures seek to make education a fundamental right and state aid to education a paramount duty of the state and to cap property taxes.

Challenger District Incumbents **Mike Avery** Jon C. Bruni (open seat) **Craig Chris** Shelley Kiel (open seat) John N. Klaus Becker 13 **Dan Lynch** L. Patrick Engel 17 Carol L. Hudkin 21 27 31 35 Chris Pete Dan Fisher 39 **Dwite Pedersen** Roy Ste 43

26 seats open in Legislature races

From The Associated Press

Two appointed state senators hope to win their legislative seats in their own right, while two other incumbents face serious challenges.

The four races are among 26 legislative seats on ballots across Nebraska for the Nov. 5 election.

At least one new state senator is guaranteed when the next session begins in January. Three people are running for the Omaha area District 9 seat from which attorney John Lindsay retired. Shelley Kiel and Robert Sivick were thought to be running a dead heat before John N. Klaus Becker also got on the ballot through petitions.

the 49-member officially nonpartisan, one-house Nebraska Legislature are up 35, Sen. Dan Fisher is locked in a tight for election.

In the only race in an even-numbered district, newly appointed Sen. life, pro-business Republicans. They Don Pederson of North Platte faces live in the same neighborhood in Grand John Margritz for the two years remain- Island and attend the same church. ing in the District 42 seat that was va- Fisher has served on the Banking and cated by Sen. David Bernard-Stevens Judiciary committees during his first of North Platte. Sens. Kate Witek of four-year term. Peterson is a member Omaha and Jim Jones of Eddyville re- of the state Postsecondary Commission cently attended a fund-raiser in North for Higher Education.

Platte for Margritz. Both are Republicans as are Margritz and Pederson.

Another legislator appointed by Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson to fill a vacant seat, Democrat Lee Klein of Battle Creek, faces Norfolk Republican Gene Tyson in the heavily Republican Madison County District 19.

Klein filled a vacancy created when Sen. Connie Day of Norfolk resigned for health reasons. Day, who also was a Democrat, was elected in the aftermath of a redistricting struggle in 1992. She ran against four Republican challengers who petitioned onto the ballot and split the vote.

Incumbents appear to have the edge in most legislative races, but two face tight races. In District 3, state Sen. Mike Avery of Gretna faces a tough battle with Jon C. Bruning. In District

race with Chris Peterson.

Both Fisher and Peterson are pro-