



NIT dominance

The NU basketball team won its sixth straight NIT game with a 67-63 win over Washington on Wednesday. NU plays Nevada-Reno next. PAGE 9



Nebraska goes South

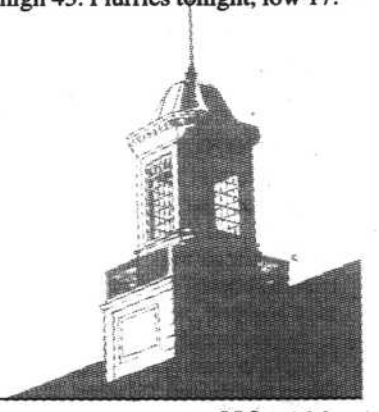
Lullaby for the Working Class and Blue Moon Ghetto, two bands from Nebraska, are performing at South by Southwest this week. PAGE 12

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WEATHERING THE STORMS

Wind and rain, high 43. Flurries tonight, low 17.

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ADVANCE downs KEG

Candidates cite work, support as keys to victory

ASUN Elections

By KASEY KERBER Staff Reporter

In a bar packed elbow-to-elbow with supporters, the three executive officers of the ADVANCE party said they were beyond happy to learn of their ASUN election victory.

They were relieved. President-elect Curt Ruwe and 1st Vice President-elect Amy Rager wore smiles as they hugged fellow senatorial candidates and supporters at the N-Zone bar Wednesday night.

"It's been a very, very, very long election," Ruwe said. "It's good to finally know it's over."

Rager readily agreed. "It's awesome. We can finally relax."

ADVANCE won Wednesday's election with 67 percent of the unofficial student vote.

Surrounded by at least 100 supporters in a packed N-Zone bar, Ruwe and Rager could barely talk above the volume of the atmosphere.

The crowd of ADVANCE supporters, many of whom wore the purple-lettered ADVANCE



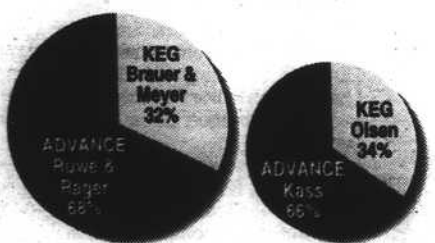
MATT MILLER/DN

ASUN PRESIDENT-ELECT Curt Ruwe is congratulated by his parents David and Sheri Ruwe at the ADVANCE victory party Wednesday night. "I think it's a good opportunity for Curt and ASUN to serve the university," Ruwe's father said.

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And the winner is...

From unofficial returns Wednesday night.



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

ASUN election voter turnout rises slightly

By SARAH BAKER Staff Reporter

Voter turnout in this ASUN election was up from last year, reversing a 4-percent decline from 1995 to 1996.

This year's voter turnout — 9.84 percent,

ASUN Elections

with 2,175 students voting — was up slightly from last year's 8.38 percent, when 1,867 students cast ballots. The 1996 election was about 4 percent lower than the 12.66-percent turnout in the 1995 election.

The largest percentage of those votes went to ADVANCE. The party won the presidential/1st vice presidential race with 67 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results late Wednesday night. KEG received about 32 percent of the vote. ADVANCE also swept the 2nd vice

Please see RESULTS on 7

Chambers stalls bill's vote; debate may continue today

By JIM GOODWIN Staff Reporter

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha delayed a vote on LB422 Wednesday. The bill would add the death of a law enforcement officer to the list of aggravating circumstances to be considered in death penalty cases.

Chambers proposed an amendment to the bill that would make the murder of a public servant — instead of a law enforcement officer — an aggravating circumstance in a capital trial.

Chambers' motion to kill LB422 failed 2-29 early Wednesday, with Chambers and Sen. Shelley Kiel of Omaha voting in favor.

LB422 would add to the list of aggravating

Legislature

circumstances the death of "a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties" when "the offender knew or reasonably should have known that the victim was a law enforcement officer."

By request of Gov. Ben Nelson, Sen. Gerald Matzke of Sidney co-sponsored LB422 with Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo and Sen. Jon Bruning of Omaha.

With four more hours available for further floor debate on the bill, a final vote may not come until this afternoon.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Nelson: Tax cut should come before repairs

By BRIAN CARLSON Staff Reporter

State budget surplus funds should be used to fund a tax cut rather than proposed building maintenance and operating costs for the state's university system, Gov. Ben Nelson said Wednesday.

Nelson said any idea to the contrary could be "put to bed."

"I want to make one thing very clear," he said. "These programs will not come at the expense of a tax cut for all Nebraskans."

Legislature

Nelson has proposed to use the state's \$200 million budget surplus to fund a 5.5 percent income tax cut and a \$160 tax credit to homeowners.

In his office Wednesday afternoon, Nelson reiterated that his policy is based on sound fiscal and economic policy rather than adversity toward the NU system.

He cited last week's findings by the Ap-

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