

Last home meet

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team competes at home for the final time this season on Sunday against Penn State. PAGE 9

Exorcising the demons

Jon Spencer and his band the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion delivered an intense performance Wednesday at Omaha's Sokol Hall. PAGE 12

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BITTER

Blustery flurries, high 25. Clearing tonight, low 10.

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Ruwe plans for action, teamwork

BY KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

Experience.

It was the one thing that separated Curt Ruwe from being just your average kid in Hooper — population 881 — to being the 20-year-old president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

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

The junior secondary education major said he never expected to become president when he first started working with ASUN his freshman year.

"It seemed so far away," Ruwe said. "I thought to myself, 'Why even think about it?'"

Now Ruwe has plenty to think about as ASUN president-elect. And, in part, he has his experience to thank for it.

Ruwe said his experience as Teachers College Advisory Board vice president, College Republicans secretary, Alpha Tau Omega secretary and ASUN Speaker of the Senate gave him the leadership skills and contacts he needed to become ASUN president.

Ruwe said he hopes to use that experience — and that of his current executive officers — to shape the ASUN senate next year.

"We have three executive officers who have held positions in and outside of ASUN and are perfectly capable of passing their experience on to the new senators," Ruwe said.

Ruwe said he also has faith in the leadership of the returning senators to ASUN.

"Everyone who got elected is qualified," Ruwe said. "But to have senators who have been here before and know how ASUN works is a big advantage."

Ruwe called the working relationship among ADVANCE candidates "teamwork," and hopes that senators and executive officers — new and old — can work together to accomplish their party's goals.

And such accomplishments, Ruwe said, should take less time to achieve than last year, when ASUN held its first four meetings without passing any legislation.

"We have senators right now who are already working on projects," Ruwe said. "Chances are that we will not go through several meetings without any legislation."



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

CURT RUWE became ASUN president-elect Wednesday, winning 67 percent of the vote.

Among the issues Ruwe hopes to work with in his new administration are the beverage alliance, the deferred maintenance bill, technology fees and the recently killed legislative bill that would exempt students from jury duty.

Ruwe said he also wants to work with his election challenger, the KEG party, if it is recognized as a student organization later this year.

"KEG really impressed me with its hard work," Ruwe said. "A lot of the ideas were new and fresh. I hope they don't stop offering input."

ASUN goals aside, Ruwe isn't sure what he wants to do once he graduates from UNL.

"It's either going to be teaching high school, Peace Corps or law school," Ruwe said. "I know they're pretty different, but at this point I can't decide."

Ex-Husker charged with assault of student

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

A former Husker has run afoul of the law again, this time for assault.

Jon Vedral, a former wingback who just weeks ago pleaded guilty to drunken driving, was arrested by the Pierce County Sheriff's department for third-degree assault in Osmond.

Vedral, 22, was arrested March 2 after an alleged assault inside a home in Osmond. He was booked into jail and released on a \$400 cash bond.



Vedral

Vedral is accused of attacking a 22-year-old male who was a Wayne State College student. He was apprehended by police on a city street shortly after the assault was reported.

Third-degree assault is punishable by six months in jail, a \$500 fine or both.

The incident occurred March 2 after Vedral and several other former Husker football players competed in a local benefit basketball game.

Vedral is scheduled to appear for arraignment April 10 in Pierce County Court.

That court date will be one day before he is to be sentenced in Lincoln for a drunken driving charge he received in December, just before he was to play in the Orange Bowl.

In December, police officers observed Vedral driving erratically, running over curbs in Lincoln. He was pulled over after he failed to stop at a stop sign.

Vedral was the Huskers' starting wingback at the time and was practicing for his last collegiate football game in the Orange Bowl against Virginia Tech.

Football Coach Tom Osborne suspended Vedral from the team, and he did not participate in the Huskers' win.

Senators argue trying youth offenders as adults

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Legislature

Any juvenile — no matter what age — who committed murder would be tried as an adult under the provisions of a bill heard Thursday by the Judiciary Committee.

LB289, introduced by Sen. Kate Witek of Omaha, also would try in adult courts juveniles 14 or older who had committed violent felonies such as kidnapping, sexual assault, use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony or assault on an officer.

Attorney General Don Stenberg spoke in favor of the bill.

Stenberg said juvenile arrests have

increased by 200 percent since 1984. The juvenile justice system was not set up to deal with the kind of violent crimes that happen today, he said.

"Juvenile justice was set up to deal with minor crimes, like hubcap stealing," he said.

Right now, juveniles know they can get away with a lot, he said. He said the worst reprimand they can receive is spending two to three months at a rehabilitation center.

"There's no serious punishment for their crimes," he said.

Kris Morrissey, director of policy for Voices of Children in Nebraska,

spoke against the bill. She said research from other states showed the threat of being tried in adult court had no significant effect on deterring juvenile offenders.

Morrissey also said a judge may be more likely to give a lenient sentence such as probation to a juvenile because judges did not want to throw them into an adult jail. Therefore, she said, sending juveniles to adult courts could mean even less punishment than what a juvenile court may have given.

Also heard by the committee was a bill that would formalize rules about training and certification of court appointed special advocates, or CASAs. If LB301 is not passed, Nebraska will lose federal funding for the program.

CASAs are volunteers who appear in court to represent children who cannot speak for themselves. Often, CASAs provide details on a child's home life that attorneys or case workers are unable to give because of huge caseloads. CASAs often work on cases in which a court is trying to decide whether or not to remove children from their homes.

Paige Beard, chairwoman of the Nebraska CASA Association, said there are more than 200 volunteers in Nebraska who act as CASAs.

"Judges find the CASA reports invaluable in deciding the child's future," Beard said.

Sandra Benton, a Fremont attorney who had worked as a prosecutor in ju-

venile cases, said the CASAs had been beneficial to her cases many times.

In one case, a 3-year-old girl and 1-year-old girl lived with negligent parents. Because of the information received by the court from a CASA, the children were removed from the home just in time, because on the same day they were taken from the house, their father died from a drug overdose.

George Moyer, a Madison attorney, testified against the bill on behalf of the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys.

Moyer said "immunity" wording in the bill — which would not hold CASAs civilly liable for acts or omis-

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