

Ruwe may meet Clinton during visit to forum

BY BRAD DAVIS
Assignment Reporter

ASUN

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Curt Ruwe may have the opportunity to meet another president today — the president of the United States.

Monday, Ruwe was invited by a public relations representative from the White House to attend a town hall meeting in Akron, Ohio, sponsored by President Bill Clinton.

The topic of the forum, Ruwe said, was youth and race relations. Ruwe said 70 other people were invited — one or two representatives from each state. Ruwe is Nebraska's representative.

"I'm very pumped about the opportunity to represent the youth of Nebraska," Ruwe said.

Ruwe said he has thought about, but not yet decided, what he would say to Clinton.

"The main thing I want to do is relay Nebraska's unique situation," Ruwe said. "We have (high) schools that play six or eight-man football, and we have

schools that are 2,000 people big — Nebraska has its own needs, and I want to look for ways the national government can better coordinate opportunities for everyone."

Ruwe said he would discuss the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's steps in the right direction toward increasing diversity and awareness — but he would not avoid the negative aspects of UNL's racial situation, he said.

"I would point out that there certainly is racism in Nebraska — a lot of that has to do with our homogenous population," Ruwe said. "But it doesn't, in any way, give us an excuse."

Ruwe said he would listen to what worked for other universities as they tried to eliminate racism on their campuses, and try to use their ideas at UNL.

Part of the forum, which will be held at the University of Akron, is scheduled to be broadcast on the C-SPAN television network from 10:30 a.m. to noon today.

Academic Senate votes for no classes on King day

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committee to make its final decision.

"I am pleased that after all this, we got it," Sartori said. "The proposal was defeated last time, and we attempted to meet those initial concerns in the new one."

The senators considered options for changing the calendar besides having a Saturday makeup day.

"If instructors are forced to make students come to class on Saturday, they are the bad guy," said John Bender, a journalism professor. "I am not eager to be in that position."

Other senators had more problems than just the makeup day.

"I don't feel Dr. King should be singled out for a specific celebration," said Timothy Gay, a physics and astronomy professor. "If we are going to honor great Americans, what about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln?"

Dane Kennedy, a history professor, objected to Gay's statement by holding up a \$5 and \$1 bills.

"We do honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln," he said.

Many people at the meeting said if the day were celebrated on campus, it needed to be done without holding classes.

"What good is the meaningful celebration if no one can go because

of classes?" Sartori said.

Amy Rager, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska first vice president, who was at the meeting, agreed.

"If we don't get the day off, it defeats the whole purpose of students being able to learn both in and out of class," Rager said.

After the vote, Rager said she was pleased that the senate reconsidered its initial vote.

"I am really excited about this. I believe the university took the right step," she said.

"This gives ASUN and students the option to plan for an incredible civil rights day. I am excited for the possibilities."

The senate also voted unanimously for a proposal that supports a UNL faculty salary increase to the same amount as peer institutions by 2001.

"I think it is very important that we push this resolution and this issue," Ford said.

The senate was to discuss a proposal for instituting a fall break and another proposal to move spring break up one week, but time did not allow.

In other Academic Senate news, senators heard a report from Dale Ekart of the UNL recycling program. Ekart said the program is expanding as a part of the UNL beverage contract with Pepsi.

Daily Nebraskan

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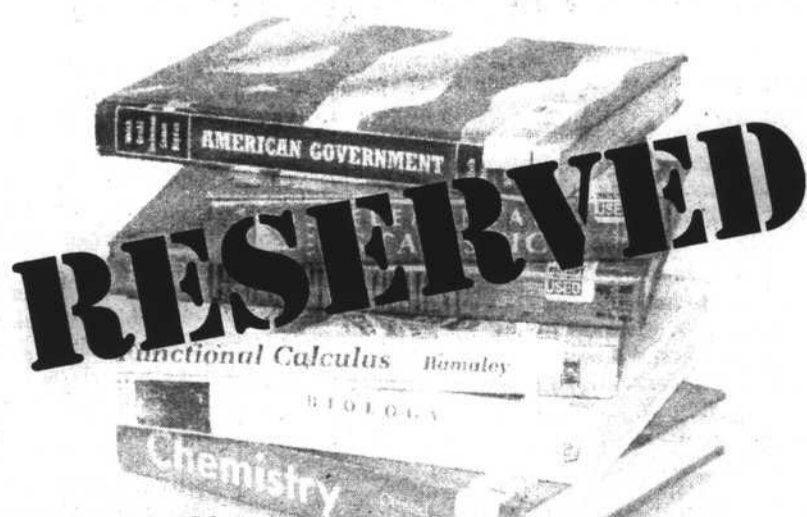
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