



Noetzel typical match

NU's Sandra Noetzel fell to Christie Sim of Kansas in No. 1 singles action as the Jayhawks defeated the Huskers 9-0 in Lincoln Wednesday. PAGE 6



Oscar's little brother

The Oscars may have been held more than two weeks ago, but the award distribution will continue this weekend in Lincoln, sort of. PAGE 9

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FAIR WEATHER FRIEND

Sunny and warm, high 60. Partly cloudy tonight, low 32.

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ACTION seizes victory in RHA

By Ieva Augstums, Assignment Reporter

RHA

UNL students, apparently happy with previous Residence Hall Association leadership, re-elected President Ben Wallace Wednesday for a second year as president.

Wallace, a junior French major, said he was honored to win the presidential election.

"I feel great," Wallace said. "We worked hard, and it paid off."

ACTION took 59 percent of the vote, leaving opposing party ENHANCE with 41 percent of the vote.

Along with Wallace on the ACTION ticket was vice president-elect Shane Perkins, a junior international affairs major, and secretary-elect Jill Beran, a sophomore music education major.

ENHANCE candidate Kristen Morrow, a junior physics and engineering major, received 78 percent of the vote, winning the RHA treasurer position over ACTION write-in candidate Brian Oppliger, a sophomore operations management and mathematics major.

However, as of 12:30 a.m. today, Morrow had not accepted her position.

"I have 24 hours to decide if I want to be RHA treasurer," Morrow said. "I will notify the election commissioner sometime in the morning."

Larry Willis, ENHANCE presidential candidate and sophomore accounting major, said he still planned to be involved with RHA as a Husker Residence Hall Senator.

Losing the ENHANCE vice presidential candidacy, Matt Knobbe, a junior computer science major, accepted a senatorial position in Abel residence hall pending vote recall.

Willis also said he requested a

recall on the votes. A total of 1,051 residence hall students voted for RHA executive board members, while 1,125 students voted in their local residence hall government elections.

"I am grateful of the caliber and quality of the students who run for office," Chuck Rensink, interim adviser for RHA, said. "All students do a fabulous job with their local government elections, as well as the overall RHA elections."

RHA executive board elections were held in all residence halls. Residents in eight halls voted for their individual hall presidents and senators, Rensink said.

RHA Election Commissioner Keri Stenger said voting exceptions were Burr and Fedde residence halls, which do not vote for local government senators, and Husker and Love residence halls, which vote only for RHA executive board members. Those halls hold local government elections in the fall, she said.

"Both parties had a great campaign," Stenger said. "It was obvious that each party put in a full effort."

Beran said ACTION planned a student-orientated campaign.

"I feel that we had a platform that students agreed with," Beran said. "We truly support students - they supported us."

Perkins said he was looking forward to working with the newly elected RHA senate.

"I hope to be an effective chair of the senate," Perkins said. "I am looking forward to doing great things."

Wallace said ACTION plans to continue opening communication between students and administration.

Please see RHA on 2



Matt Miller/DN

LEGISLATIVE PAGE JOEL WIEGERT, left, sits waiting for a senator to call him for help Wednesday at the Capitol. The UNL sophomore economics major said some of the pages have clocked eight or nine hours a day during the last full week of session.

Aides await session end

By Todd Anderson and Ieva Augstums, Assignment Reporters

When this year's short legislative session closes Tuesday, senators, staff members and UNL students employed at the Capitol will have racked up hundreds of hours.

But several legislative pages said helping state government while gaining invaluable experience doesn't necessarily mean adding stress to their busy student lives.

"I enjoy going to work, even during late session," said Ryan Junck, a legislative page and University of Nebraska-Lincoln sophomore political science and philosophy major.

Throughout the last two weeks, senators have been work-

ing overtime - sometimes from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. - to pass key measures.

Drawn-out debate translates into longer hours for pages, but not necessarily more-intense work. Legislative pages run errands, make copies and fetch coffee for Nebraska's 49 senators.

"The work is the same, the hours are just different," Junck said.

Junck said the job required paying attention and staying alert. "I've given up sleep for coffee," he said.

For students like Junck, sitting through long debates means giving up more time than usual. For others, a serious time crunch invites excess pressure.

Freshman business major Brandon Katzberg, a legislative intern for South Sioux City Sen. Pat Engel, said he has felt the

Legislature



urgency to get bills through the legislative process.

"I've been feeling that strong push," Katzberg said. "There are more articles to read, things to file and letters to write."

Mindy Franzen, Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback's administrative assistant and a senior political science major, said stress levels have been higher while trying to persuade the Legislature to override the governor's veto on one of Cudaback's bills.

But any new tasks have not interfered with her schoolwork, she said.

Sara Eagle, a legislative page

Please see STUDENTS on 3

'Top Gun' supports Christensen

By Josh Funk, Senior Reporter

Republican gubernatorial candidate Jon Christensen brought out the big guns for support Wednesday: the man whose flying was the basis for the movie "Top Gun."

California Republican Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham was traveling through Nebraska with Christensen to Lincoln, Norfolk, Hastings, Grand Island and York in a show of support. He and Christensen spoke to the media Wednesday at Christensen's campaign headquarters, 317 S. 12th St., in Lincoln.

Cunningham was the original

"Maverick" in the skies over Vietnam, and his flying feats inspired the movie starring Tom Cruise.

In air-to-air combat Cunningham was unmatched, continually downing the best of the North Vietnamese had to offer. As one of Vietnam's few flying aces, Cunningham's skill became legendary.

Later in the war, Cunningham had to change his call sign from "Maverick" to "Duke" because the North Vietnamese started to recognize the call sign and gun for him, he said.

Cunningham went on to teach at the Navy Fighter Weapons School, the Top Gun program, before retiring from the military.

After building a successful business in San Diego, Cunningham was elected to Congress in 1996 where he

Election '98



sits on defense and appropriations committees.

Cunningham said he admires Christensen for his convictions.

"I'd fly Jon's wing anywhere," Cunningham said.

Christensen also introduced two new campaign ads highlighting his tough stance on crime and promise to cut property taxes. The ads begin airing today.

Cunningham went on to complement Christensen's leadership and vision in his four years in Congress.

"Jon has kept his word on everything," Cunningham said. "What better person could you have for governor?"

Senators cooperate on death penalty proposals

By Brian Carlson, Senior Reporter

Legislators maneuvered Wednesday to secure passage of bills prohibiting the execution of mentally retarded persons and making it easier for cop killers to die.

LB1266, which would exempt mentally retarded persons from the death penalty, was advanced from select file to final reading - one step from the governor's desk.

Similar provisions had been included last year in amendments

Legislature



to LB422, which would add an aggravating circumstance in sentencing for killers of police officers. But many senators believed the measure deserved a public hearing, and the mental retardation exemption was reintroduced as a separate bill this year.

LB422's sponsor, Sen. Gerald Matzke of Sidney, did not want his bill to proceed until it had been

Please see BILLS on 3