

ENHANCE files protest

BY SARAH BAKER
Senior Reporter



RHA

“Some people think some of the concerns are petty, but when you are running an election, they aren't petty.”

LARRY WILLIS
ENHANCE presidential candidate

The losing party in Wednesday's RHA election Thursday attempted to declare the election null and void, releasing a list of complaints.

Members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Residence Hall Association ENHANCE party sent out a list of complaints about the conduct of the opposing ACTION party and asked for a new election.

ENHANCE's list of complaints charged that:

■ ACTION's presidential nominee, Ben Wallace, exchanged friendly gestures, such as back rubs, with RHA Election Commissioner Keri Stenger.

■ ENHANCE's election commissioners were uninformed about election procedures.

■ RHA Adviser Chuck Rensick was indifferent when complaints were filed before the election.

■ The ENHANCE party members were harassed by election commissioners while they were legally campaigning.

■ ACTION supporters tampered with ballots.

Wallace said none of the allegations were true.

"I think some of their concerns have merit," he said, "but I think the concerns about Stenger are attacking the integrity of both of us."

"Hopefully, people who know me know I would never attempt to corrupt an election like this."

Wallace said he had made an attempt to lighten his friendship with Stenger over the past few weeks, and he felt that had been made apparent.

"I think (ENHANCE) is some-

one trying to make an issue out of nothing," Wallace said. He said the ACTION party was not preparing a response.

Kristen Morrow, RHA treasurer-elect from ENHANCE, said her party members met with Rensick to discuss their complaints Thursday night.

Morrow said the party filed for proceedings with the election commission, which consists of the election commissioners from the individual residence halls.

"The commission will hold a hearing to see if there needs to be any disciplinary action," Morrow said. "We have witnesses that say the poll workers gave advice to voters, and this clearly slants the election."

Rensick refused to comment on the process, but said that to the best of his knowledge, an RHA election had never been declared null in the

past. ENHANCE presidential candidate Larry Willis said his statement came in response to concerns the ENHANCE party had before the election.

"We wanted to express these concerns as a total package because we wanted a fair election," Willis said. "We were met with indifference."

"Some people think some of the concerns are petty, but when you are running an election, they aren't petty."

Stenger said her responsibilities encompass many things, including making sure the elections are "run in a fair way." She would not comment further.

Willis said ENHANCE's main goal in the process was to keep the election fair and honest and said he was not surprised by Wallace's comments.

"His statement would appear natural to me if I had made the same mistakes he did," he said. "(The election) was pretty stacked."

Willis said the outcome of the complaints will depend on the decision of Rensick.

"If we have to re-run this election, we will," he said.

Wallace said the only thing the ACTION party is concerned with now is the rules and the future of the students in the residence halls.

"I think (ENHANCE candidates) want to make sure the rules are being followed," Wallace said, "and I respect that."

"However, I think we need to decide if these complaints are important enough to get in the way of what is really important — the residence hall students."

UNL's Web page given a 'face lift'

■ The site was redesigned to be more user-friendly and to give the university a fresh image on the Web.

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

The university's three A's — alumni, admissions and athletics — may now be noticed by more people visiting UNL's redesigned World Wide Web site.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Web page was changed to keep it fresh, to make it more user-friendly and to display the university's new nameplate, administrators said.

Sally Buchholz, manager of publications and photography at UNL, said the Web site, which has been redesigned three times in the past three or four years, was changed because people said it was hard to find information, particularly pertaining to those three A's.

And, Buchholz said, users had complained that they didn't know what button to click on to get what they needed.

So, athletics, admissions and alumni were moved to the home page, and the search button and the 'What's New?' button were moved to a column on the left side of the home page.

Two areas from the previous site that were the most confusing or least helpful were the welcome page and the online resources page, Buchholz said. It was redistributed to other areas because it was a "hodgepodge of information that did not make sense."

The welcome page is now clearer and not "such a bottleneck for links to other pages," she said.

The small, rectangular box, containing several buttons leading information-seekers to various pages, was changed to a list with descriptions. Now a viewer can scroll down to see what major services the university is offering.

As people surf UNL's Web page, they also may notice the new pictures and descriptions of online university services.

"Having a Web site change periodically is something that we should be doing," Buchholz said.

Carrie Pierce, a junior advertising major, said she used the new site Wednesday to get information for an advertising project. From the home page, she clicked on the alumni page section, which was not available two weeks ago.

The alumni page is now easier to find, and students can readily find out what the Alumni Association offers.

Pierce said she thinks the page is classier, and the university's image "gives off the feeling of intelligence."

Buchholz said she could not put a figure on the cost of creating a more user-friendly Web site.

The only expenses were the staff time that was spent on the project. She said it took her a couple months to enter codes and scan pictures, but it took a lot longer to decide how to lay out the page, choose pictures and evaluate the information.

Staff from Love Library evaluated the old site and gave suggestions. Also, Web site information providers gave suggestions after looking at a test version.

Julie Swan, a cataloger at Love Library, said for about six weeks last fall several staff members tested UNL's Web page and other university's Web pages to figure out what worked and what did not.

Donna Liss, director of Information Systems, said it was

Nameplate to head up new image

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

The university's new Web page isn't the only change the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has made to its image recently.

An official university nameplate will be appearing on some university publications this spring and soon on all publications, said Phyllis Larsen, UNL's director of public relations.

"We're working hard to get a more consistent image throughout the campus," she said.

The nameplate was created by a chancellor's committee to refine UNL's image and distinguish it from the rest of the University of Nebraska system.

The new nameplate is the word Nebraska in red letters, in a typeface similar to the Daily Nebraskan's front-page flag. 'The University of Nebraska-Lincoln' is printed underneath the heading in smaller black type.

The old nameplate — which can be found in the upper right corner of the current student directory office phone directory, and other UNL publications — will be replaced almost completely by next fall.

The university also will use the header on more booklets and documents than the old one. For instance, all admissions materials will consistently have the new nameplate.

Larsen said she did not think the nameplate would change for many years.

Sally Buchholz, manager of publications and photography, said UNL has changed its nameplate fairly regularly to freshen up the university's image.

Larsen said the university also was working on a new logo specifically for UNL.

Implementing and designing the nameplate was not that expensive, Larsen said, because most publications, such as the student directory, were reprinted every year anyway.

Buchholz said redefining the image of the university was something that was necessary to remain fresh.

"I hate to put a dollar value on it," Buchholz said, "because it's a part of what needs to be done as a part of our communication missions."

fairly common to redesign Web pages because universities have to figure out what to do with online services.

Liss said last weekend she visited other university's Web pages, and was surprised to find they weren't as nice as UNL's.

"Ours used to look (like those), but ours is a little crisper and brighter now," she said.

"They just need a face lift now and then."

Fannie Mae unveils new housing

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

Paul Peterson, a member of Associated Retarded Citizens, couldn't afford his own place until Fannie Mae came to town last year.

Fannie Mae, the nation's largest mortgage company, made it possible for the Arc of Lincoln/Lancaster County to build duplexes for its members to live in.

"The independence factor will be the best thing about having my own place," Peterson said.

At a news conference unveiling the duplexes Thursday morning, officials from Fannie Mae and the other organizations involved in the project spoke about what it took to make the project a reality.

With \$392 billion and \$710 billion in mortgage-backed securities, Fannie Mae is the United States' largest corporation.

A public company, Fannie Mae was chartered by Congress and President Franklin Roosevelt in response to housing-finance problems created by the Great Depression.

Today more than 12 million people nationwide live in homes Fannie

Mae helped finance.

In the year since Fannie Mae opened its partnership office in Lincoln, it has helped make more than 8,800 Nebraskans homeowners. It has invested more than \$611 million in housing as part of its HouseNebraska plan.

"We want to reach out to the under-served and people with special housing needs," said Robert Levin, Fannie Mae's executive vice president of marketing. "Our job is making sure affordable housing is available to low- and moderate-income families."

Across Nebraska, Fannie Mae is doing just that, with projects in cities including Lincoln, Omaha, York and Hastings.

"We've exceeded our first-year goals," Levin said.

A little more than a year ago Fannie Mae announced its partnership with Nebraska and committed to providing 25,000 Nebraska families with affordable housing.

Republican Rep. Doug Bereuter was instrumental in bringing Fannie Mae to Nebraska, said Steve Peregrine, director of Lincoln's Fannie Mae partnership office.

When Fannie Mae announced it was opening 25 partnership offices

across the country, Bereuter helped convince the company to open an office in Lincoln.

"I knew that Fannie Mae could make a contribution to Nebraska housing," Bereuter said. "I thank them for their work."

As competition for Housing and Urban Development programs increases, it is important to find new housing partnerships, Bereuter said.

The duplex project involved a number of partners: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Lincoln City Council, Equity Fund of Nebraska and the Department of Urban Development.

"Fannie Mae is the key to these projects across the state," Jay Dunlap of the Equity Fund said.

The news conference concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of one of the completed units for future residents.

Residents will be able to move into the new duplexes, near 35th and X streets, in June for \$150 a month.

Partnership is what made the project work, said Tom Kinney, executive director of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority.

"After we identified the problems, we can come together to solve them."

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