

# RHA's president, speaker resign at meeting

BY VERONICA DAEHN  
Staff writer

RHA

Citing personal reasons and saying RHA should take a "new direction," RHA President Ben Wallace resigned Sunday night along with RHA Speaker Larry Willis.

"It's a hard choice to make," Wallace said, "but there comes a time when you need to move on."

Wallace, who was halfway through his second presidential term, said he wanted the Residence Hall Association to change without his influence.

"This is my fourth year in RHA, and I need to let the organization take a

new direction," he said. "I love it to death, though. I've grown up in it."

Vice President Shane Perkins became the new president at midnight Sunday. He has 21 school days to appoint a new vice president, Wallace said.

Senator Jadd Stephens said Wallace deserves recognition for the work he has put into RHA.

"To see him grow from a senator into president of this organization has been a treat," Stephens said. "This organization owes him a lot."

Willis, who has been speaker for the past semester and involved with RHA for the last year and a half, said his resignation is a result of his moving off campus.

"I've seen an improvement in the way that this senate has handled business," he said. "This resignation is not the result of anything that has happened over the course of this semester."

Stephens commended Willis, too, for the time he has put into the organization.

"(Willis) has put a year and a half into the organization," Stephens said. "And he's turned some heads doing it. We're losing a lot of experience."

Both Wallace and Willis are confident in the leadership of current RHA members, however.

"It's exciting for me to see the leaders here," Wallace said. "It makes me really happy to know that I'm moving on and to know that there's a wonderful group of people here that will make wonderful things happen."

Willis urged current members to do what they feel is right and not be afraid of what others may think.

"Take every opportunity to help your fellow students make the best of their residence hall experience," he said.

"This is what you are elected to do."

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# Nebraska celebrities honor Nelson's two terms in office

BY TODD ANDERSON  
Senior staff reporter

With jabbing punch lines and serious signs of gratitude, more than 420 Nebraskans paid tribute to Gov. Ben Nelson for his eight years of government service.

A line of Nebraska personalities and entertainers kicked off a dinner and dance party for the outgoing governor Sunday evening at Agriculture Hall at the State Fair Park.

Former NU Head Football Coach Tom Osborne said he knew Nelson was destined to be an honest politician when he met him 36 years ago.

But Osborne, Nelson's hunting partner and former college roommate, said Nelson's talent for leading the state did not qualify him to coach football.

He joked that Nelson was responsible for losing an otherwise easy match against Arizona State University in 1996 when Osborne gave in to Nelson's wish to be coach for a day.

Osborne said Nelson's good-guy approach to government has benefited the state.

"He's been a tremendous asset to the state," he said.

Pat Hazell, a Nebraska-born comedian, said one of the governor's best

qualities was his famous, unchanged hair style.

"You want someone who can stand up in a crisis and their hair won't move," Hazell joked.

U.S. Sen. Bob Kerrey thanked Nelson and his wife, Diane, for working to improve the standard of living in Nebraska for tomorrow's generations.

"To you and to Diane, I thank you for ... the love you feel for this great state of ours and for the love you have shown each and every one of us," Kerrey said.

Nelson received an award in the shape of the sower on the Capitol dome for his commitment to the state.

Nelson said seeing children reaffirmed his decision to work to make the state a better place in the future.

"Indeed, it all has been worth it," he said.

Nelson, who began his first term in 1991, will leave office in January when former Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns is sworn in as Nebraska's top executive.

Nelson has indicated that he may run for the Senate seat now filled by Kerrey.

In the meantime, Nelson said he will return to Omaha to practice law while working as chair of the Nelson Institute, a private charity he created this year.

# ASUN may revise, clarify Dead Week testing policy

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Staff writer

ASUN

To avoid confusion and anger among University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and faculty, student government leaders have decided to revise a 15-year-old policy.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is looking at UNL's dead week policy, hoping to change the way professors teach during the last week of school.

ASUN Academic Committee Chairwoman Kara Slaughter said the 1983 policy has caused friction between students and faculty.

"Students want their professors to be fair, and professors want to be fair to their students," Slaughter said. "But the policy comes in between the two."

The main reason for revising the policy is ambiguous wording, she said.

"Most of the complaints we receive involve word confusion," Slaughter said. "We need to make the policy more clear."

Committee member Heather Danielson agreed.

"It's really vague, and there are a lot of loopholes," Danielson said. "We want to make it more clear and less open to interpretation."

Under the current policy, finals may be given only during finals week, unless the class agrees unanimously to move the date and/or time of the test.

Danielson said conflict arises when all class members do not mutually agree to move their final, but the final is moved anyway.

Slaughter said the Academic

Committee is suggesting that professors obtain unanimous consent from three consecutive class sessions, then have all class members initial a waiver that moves the final.

The current policy also states that projects, papers and speeches scheduled for completion during Dead Week must have been assigned in writing by the end of the eighth week of the semester. This includes the project and its scope, but the topic of the project does not need to be defined.

Slaughter said the committee said if a project is to be due during Dead Week, professors should outline specific guidelines, including paper length.

Danielson said quizzes are acceptable during Dead Week. However, students and professors often argue what constitutes a quiz, she said.

Slaughter said the committee has been working with the Academic Senate, making suggestions and changing the current policy.

"Academic Senate has the final say," Slaughter said. "We want something that both students and faculty will agree with."

Slaughter said the new policy would take effect for the fall 1999 semester. Until then, students should talk to their professors if they have any Dead Week concerns, she said.

If professors fail to respond to a student's concern, students can file a complaint in the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union, she said, or call (402) 472-2581.



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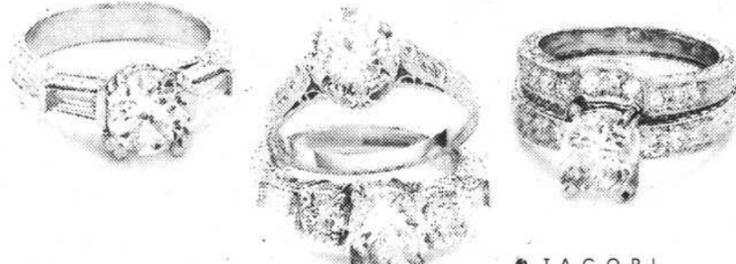
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