

ASUN ELECTIONS

Students choose A-Team in run-off

A-TEAM from page 1

that he didn't expect Wednesday's result when he came up with the idea of running for president in January after talking with friends at a coffee shop.

But after weeks of spreading his message of changing the status quo, Schafer said the reality of his being the next student body president is anything but far-fetched.

His ability to go from being unknown to known during a seven-week campaign proves it, he said.

"We put this campaign together and nobody expected it to go anywhere," Schafer said. "I think it takes a good deal of leadership to do what we have."

Peterson said he felt the same way. "Day one, it was all a fantasy," he said. "But every day it became more and more real."

And now that the victory is real, both say they are ready to begin the real

work — governing.

Schafer said his first step would be to talk to each senator.

"I want to sit down, talk to them, find out their goals and what they want to do," he said.

He also said he would talk to Andy Schuerman, current ASUN president, to find out the issues he thinks need to be addressed after he leaves office.

Schafer acknowledged that both teams fought hard during the run-off.

He said Empower ran a "classy campaign" and hoped presidential candidate Heath Mello would play an active role during A-Team's tenure.

Peterson said his first step would be to learn parliamentary procedure and how to run the senate most efficiently.

He said after the election he felt confident about his leadership experience, even though he has been unaffiliated with ASUN thus far.

For him, it's an advantage, he said.

"There is a lot of baggage and preconceptions that exist for those who are in traditional leadership positions," he said.

He said he hoped the skeptics would give the A-Team a chance.

"We just want people to approach us with an open mind."

Schafer's father, Ed, said he was proud of his son and had full faith in his abilities to lead.

"I'm elated, I really am," he said.

He said he remembered his own experiences with student government in college.

"Things have changed a lot since I was in college," he said. "Student government was really an inside deal."

On Wednesday night, Schafer proved that it has changed, at least for the time being.

"This shows that every person on this campus, if they choose, can make a difference."

Voter turnout falls in run-off election

By Katie Muecting

Staff writer

Next year's ASUN president and first vice president were elected Wednesday by 5.7 percent of UNL students.

Although A-Team's Joel Schafer and Riley Peterson received 55.18 percent of the votes in the run-off election, only 9.7 percent of all students cast ballots.

Empower presidential candidate Heath Mello and first vice presidential candidate Cecily Rometo received votes from 4.5 percent of the total student population.

A-Team's Schafer and Peterson received 1081 votes, and Empower's Mello and Rometo received 857 votes.

Amy Ellis, Impact's second vice presidential candidate, received 49.52

percent — or 970 votes — defeating Mike Butterfield, who was favored on 47.22 percent of the ballots with 925 votes.

The run-off was held because neither party received enough votes in last week's initial election. To win an ASUN election, a party or candidate must receive a majority of votes or 10 percent more than the second-place party or candidate.

Voter turnout was down 4.7 percentage points from last week's election, which brought 14.4 percent of students to the polls.

Many students said they did not feel educated enough about the candidates.

Others said they did not think their vote could make a difference or that they did not have the time to vote.

Steven Schanbacher, a junior computer science major, said he did not vote.

"I just don't feel student govern-

VOTER Turnout

✓	1995	12.7%
✓	1996	8.4%
✓	1997	9.8%
✓	1998	13.5%
	1999	13.2%
	2000	14.4%
	(last week's election)	
	2000	9.7%
	(Wednesday's run-off election)	

All-time high in the 1990's 16.3%

David Jané/DN

ment actually does anything anyhow," he said.

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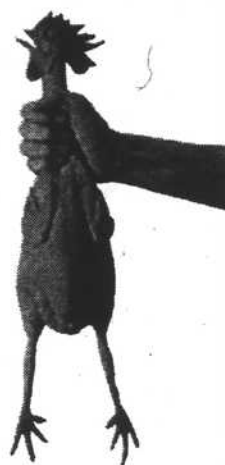
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