

Union Board, ASUN solicit business ideas

BY KATIE MUETING

Longing for a tanning salon closer to campus? Want to drop off dry cleaning on your way to class? The Nebraska Union Board wants to know what you need.

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska Unions, asked ASUN members Wednesday to suggest businesses they want added in the plans for the parking garage being built on the corner of 17th and R streets.

"Help us to identify suggestions that will help meet student needs," Swanson said at the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska meeting.

ASUN

The "shell space" is 14,000 square feet of commercial space that will face 17th Street, Swanson said.

This space is expected to become "one of the outlying hubs of campus" within the next 10 years as progress is made toward the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Master Plan, said Ryan Merrill, a student member of the Union Board.

ASUN President Joel Schafer said students will likely be the primary customers.

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ASUN president

that Daryl (Swanson) is soliciting ideas from students," Schafer said.

ASUN members offered their written suggestions to Swanson, and Schafer said he would like to gather ideas from other students.

"By no means do I think the best ideas are here in this room,"

he said.

Swanson emphasized that the board is interested in student concerns. The board has also contacted faculty and staff members for suggestions.

"We ... are not engaging in a real estate business," he said.

The Nebraska Union will use 2,250 square feet of the space to

Officials to interview two administrative candidates

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UNL is taking steps to fill one of its 10 administrative openings.

University officials will soon meet with two candidates for the position of vice president and vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scott Hutchins of Dow AgroSciences and John C. Owens, an administrator from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, were the two candidates interviewed Tuesday, said Harvey Periman, interim chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Both men were originally recommended by a UNL search committee, Periman said.

Hutchins, who has served as an adjunct professor of entomology at UNL since 1997, has a history of being a leader in the research-based agricultural industry, holding high-ranking positions with Dow Chemical Co., DowElanco and Dow AgroSciences.

Owens, who has been at New Mexico State since 1977, has been the school's executive vice president and chief academic officer for three years. He was dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics for 12 years.

Although no dates for the on-campus interviews have been set, Periman said the university is working quickly to fill the position vacated by Irv Omtvedt's retirement on June 30.

Underwater nuclear junk could pose sea hazard

The Russian submarine Kursk is among three decades of nuclear waste.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Twisted and broken, hundreds of feet down in the Barents Sea, the Russian submarine Kursk joins other nuclear debris sunken or discarded in Arctic waters.

Scientists who study radioactivity in the Arctic say a variety of sources have been responsible for contamination throughout the region in the past 50 years.

Except for isolated sites such as the former Soviet underwater nuclear testing ground used in the late 1950s, scientists say contamination levels are low, posing little threat to people.

"We don't see pervasive contamination at levels that would be of significant radiological concern," said John Norton Smith, a Canadian government research scientist at the Bedford

Institute of Oceanography in Nova Scotia.

A 1998 report by the Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program lists several sources of radioactive contamination in the Arctic, including the accidental sinking of a Soviet submarine and a U.S. B-52 bomber that crashed in 1968.

Three decades of Soviet dumping of nuclear waste, including more than 15 reactors from decommissioned ships, and waste from nuclear power and weapons plants in Russia and Europe add to radioactive material in Arctic seas, according to Smith and the AMAP report.

Despite this, whatever radioactive material that has escaped has shown little sign of spreading far before its potency dissipates.

The Kursk, which suffered two explosions and sank on Aug. 12, killing 118 sailors aboard, has two nuclear reactors that Russian officials say shut down when it became disabled. Russia is negotiating

with Norwegian and Dutch companies to raise the submarine.

Russian officials say there is no sign of unusual radiation levels around the vessel.

Smith, who studies radioactivity in Arctic waters, said the Kursk reactors would be safe in the short term if they remained intact.

"The only problem would be if any of the containment structures ruptured," he said.

The threat of leakage increases with time, though, because the reactors on the Kursk never were intended to sit forever on the bottom of the ocean, Smith added.

The AMAP report said the only other known case of a sunken active nuclear submarine — the April 7, 1989, fire aboard the Komsomolets near Bear Island in the Norwegian Sea — caused little known contamination beyond the vessel.

The submarine had a nuclear reactor and two torpedoes with mixed uranium-plutonium warheads, the report

said, and small amounts of radioactive material leaked out of the reactor where the vessel lies, more than a mile deep.

"The likelihood of a large-scale release from the Komsomolets is small," the report said. "Even if the containment material corrodes with time, most of the activation products will have decayed before they are released. Studies in the surrounding area show only minor contamination from the submarine."

AMAP, which is run by the eight-nation Arctic Council comprising Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States, tracks the condition of the Arctic environment.

Its 1998 report said the existing contamination appeared to pose little health risk to people either through direct exposure or in the food chain through fish and other marine life.

German Neo-Nazis convicted in deaths

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HALLE, Germany — A German court convicted three neo-Nazis of beating an African immigrant to death and handed down tough prison sentences Wednesday in an attempt to signal that a "long chain of attacks" on foreigners here must stop.

The state court sentenced Enrico Hilprecht, 24, to the maximum of life in prison. His two 16-year-old co-defendants, Christian Richter and Frank Miethbauer, were each given sentences of nine years — one year less than the maximum allowed for juveniles.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called the decision "a suitable verdict for a heinous crime."

The case offered a glimpse into Germany's violent skinhead scene: Fueled by beer and illegal racist rock music, it directs rage at foreigners and often revolves around the decaying communist-era housing developments.

It was in a park in the eastern city of Dessau that the three men brutally beat and kicked 39-year-old Adriano in the head on June 11. Adriano died three days later, leaving behind a wife and three children.

Reading the verdict Wednesday, Judge Albrecht Hennig said the court concluded that the three defendants killed Adriano solely because of his skin color. He said none of the three cared whether Adriano would survive the beating.

"It was the latest in the long chain of attacks to which we must put an end," Hennig said.

"Animals show mercy to opponents lying on the ground, but rightist extremists apparently do not," he said. "They are pitiless, without mercy."

The defendants looked stone-faced as the verdict and sentences were read. Richter, who had grinned at one point during the reading of the indictment last week, briefly blinked away tears. Defense lawyers said they were considering whether to appeal.

Schroeder, conceding Germans hadn't paid enough attention to the growing problem of right-wing violence, planned a visit today to a makeshift memorial marking the spot where the Mozambican man was attacked.

The previously unscheduled stop on Schroeder's two-week tour of eastern Germany is an attempt to demonstrate a renewed government commit-

ment to fighting resurgent neo-Nazi attacks that have left at least three dead this year.

According to government statistics, 129 xenophobic offenses were registered in June, 29, including 28 violent right-wing attacks.

In a ZDF television interview Wednesday, Schroeder said Germany had "too often simply ignored problems in this area, or dealt with them only sporadically."

He reiterated his call for toughness by police and the courts, better job and training prospects for "young hangers-on" to pull them out of the neo-Nazi scene and courage by citizens to stand up against extremism.

Adriano's widow, Angelika, was not in court Wednesday for the verdict. She decided to stay away after receiving death threats, said Razak Minhel, a liaison with the foreign community in Dessau, where she lives with the couple's three children.

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