



Tracy Prater, a senior communications studies major, and Jason Mashek, a senior English, economics and political science major, were named homecoming queen and king during half time Saturday at Memorial Stadium. Students voted for king and queen from a Homecoming court of 20 on Wednesday.

Committee debates IANR funding issue

A proposed resolution would evaluate the university's commitment to the program.

BY JILL ZEMAN

Although the start of Nebraska's legislative session is months away, several senators have been doing some work in their down time.

Members of the Agriculture Committee met Friday to discuss the future of the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

LR487, introduced by Sen. Adrian Smith of Gering, would call for an interim study of NU's commitment to IANR, as well as current and future funding for the institute.

No action was taken Friday on the resolution, but if it is passed, the study will be conducted by the Legislature's Agriculture and Education committees.

IANR was established in 1973 by the Legislature, Smith said. He thought it was important senators continue to keep an eye on the institute.

"Whether it's the crops raised in rural Nebraska or the food processed in Omaha, we're all involved," Smith said.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons said the NU Board of Regents recommended an increase of \$750,000 for the

next two years for the institute.

But whether IANR sees the increased funding depends on the actions of the Legislature and Gov. Mike Johanns in the budget-making process.

UNL Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman said the money requested by the regents probably wouldn't make much of a difference.

Perlman said he supported increased funding for the institute, but \$750,000 wasn't enough.

"I'm here to acknowledge the resources are not at the level to meet the needs of the institute," Perlman said to the committee.

Edna McBreen, IANR interim vice chancellor, said because Nebraska emphasizes and relies upon agribusiness, it is critical the institute be strong and viable.

McBreen said sometimes the accomplishments of IANR are neglected or overshadowed by other university events.

"We're not sitting over there, twiddling our thumbs," she said. "We're making progress."

The institute is the sole provider of several agricultural programs in the state, which could be jeopardized by decreased funding, McBreen said.

"Because of increasing needs and decreasing money, we're losing ground," she said.

Stenberg defined by conservative beliefs

STENBERG from page 1

But for critics, Stenberg is a partisan ideologue who has politicized the attorney general's office, often basing legal opinions on something other than the law.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, a longtime Stenberg critic, sponsored a bill during the last legislative session that would have made the attorney general's office officially nonpartisan. The Legislature passed it, but Johanns vetoed it.

Chambers said the bill, which he first introduced in the 1970s, was not specifically directed at Stenberg. But he said Stenberg would be "exhibit A" in any argument that the office should be nonpartisan.

"He has politicized it to the extent of making decisions not based on the law, but on personal, political and, I suppose, religious predilections," Chambers said.

Chambers criticized Stenberg for taking Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortion to the U.S. Supreme Court after it was struck down by lower courts. The high court ruled 5-4 that the ban was unconstitutional.

Without consulting then-Gov. Nelson, Stenberg put Nebraska on record as supporting a Colorado law outlawing pro-gay legislation, an action Chambers also criticized. He said Stenberg also brought frivolous lawsuits during the controversy over placing a five-state nuclear waste facility in Nebraska.

Chambers, who opposes the death penalty, also has criticized Stenberg for his staunch advoca-

cy of it.

Anne Boyle, chairwoman of the Nebraska Democratic Party, agreed that Stenberg had politicized the office, sometimes against Nebraskans' best interests. This fall, the Democratic Party attacked Stenberg for challenging the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, saying that legislation had protected thousands of citizens.

Boyle said it would be dangerous to send Stenberg to Washington.

But Stenberg dismisses his critics, noting he was re-elected in both 1994 and 1998 with 68 percent of the vote.

"I've been doing the job that Nebraskans elected me to do," he said. "The criticism just comes from partisan politicians who disagree with my Republican philosophy."

He supports the death penalty and other tough-on-crime positions because he campaigned to make neighborhoods safer, he said. He fought for a ban on partial-birth abortion because, as he told the Supreme Court during oral arguments in April, he wanted "to draw a bright line between abortion and infanticide."

When allies like Hagel and Johanns speak in support of Stenberg, they usually speak not in personal terms, but in terms of the national impact of Stenberg's race.

"It would be such a disaster if we elected a Bush-Cheney ticket to the White House and then failed to deliver them a Republican Senate and a Republican House," Johanns

said.

Hagel agreed with Johanns and urged voters to disregard Nelson's pledge to be an independent voice in the Senate.

"Don't be fooled by this nonsense that it doesn't matter which party you're in," he said. "It does matter, because it tells what kinds of decisions you will make."

Quoting former Rep. Virginia Smith, Hagel said: "If you wear the brand, you're part of the herd."

Visiting Lincoln on Saturday, former presidential candidate and Sen. Bob Dole picked up the theme.

"If we're going to have George W. Bush as chairman of the board, let's give him a friendly board of directors," said Dole, who counted Stenberg as one of his early supporters during his failed 1996 presidential bid.

Earlier this fall, Stenberg said he could not think of an issue on which he disagreed with Bush. But his strategy of urging voters to vote a straight party ticket may run against the grain of Nebraska political history.

Although Nebraskans have voted for the Republican presidential candidate in every presidential election since 1964, during that time they also elected several Democrats to other offices.

They elected James Exon to two terms as governor and three terms in the Senate, and they elected retiring Sen. Bob Kerrey to one term as governor and two in the Senate.

Although he has consistently trailed in the polls, Stenberg is convinced that won't happen this

year.

"A lot of times Democrats have been successful in Nebraska when Republicans were divided," he said.

Stenberg is conservative down the line.

He supports the death penalty, opposes abortion and supports a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriages and civil unions.

He supports substantial tax cuts to reduce citizens' tax burdens. He wants to allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes in private investments.

If elected to the Senate, he said he would be most passionate about rebuilding the agricultural economy, rebuilding the national defense and reducing the tax burden.

Nelson has criticized Stenberg's views, saying he doesn't place enough emphasis on reducing the national debt and protecting Social Security.

Stenberg, in turn, has tried to tie Nelson's views to those of Al Gore, who is expected to lose Nebraska overwhelmingly.

The challenge for Stenberg, late in the campaign, is to bring home the registered Republicans — perhaps a third of them, according to a recent copyrighted Omaha World-Herald poll — who are contemplating voting for Nelson.

"We've got to put them down as undecided and get them decided in the next three days," he said Saturday. "But we're going to win because we share the majority views of Nebraska."

Ancient art a possible design for a better life

BY JILL CONNER

Students looking for a pick-me-up could start with cleaning their room.

Jean Haner, a practitioner of Feng Shui spoke at a seminar Saturday and Sunday entitled "Change Your Home — Transform Your Life!" sponsored by Wind Over Earth, a Lincoln Feng Shui consulting agency.

Nicknamed "Acupuncture for Your Home," Feng Shui, a five thousand-year-old Chinese art of design and placement, is becoming popular for those who would like to revivify the energy in their residence.

Although the art of Feng Shui can be as simple as picking up clutter or clearing out pictures of a past bad relationship, the impact is tremendous, Haner said.

The objective of the seminar

was to make people aware of the way their environment affects them.

"Your surroundings affect you more than you know," Haner said.

As a consultant and teacher of Feng Shui, Haner will come into a home and speak to the homeowner about their life. Then she will design the home around what will support a better lifestyle.

Haner once helped a woman who said she was feeling constricted and couldn't move forward. Haner moved the woman's bed away from the wall so she had more room to get up in the morning, and the woman felt a great change, Haner said.

"If your space of energy can't move, then it can't in your life as well," Haner said. "Our internal world is reflected in our external world."

Another example of the way Feng Shui affects our lives is through the items we place in our home.

"A woman I helped wanted to be in a relationship, but all her paintings and art on her walls was of single women."

Haner explained to the woman she might want to surround herself with pictures of couples and pairs of things to attract that kind of energy.

Other techniques of Feng Shui can be as simple as color distribution throughout the home or determining characteristics of people from facial expressions: a more advanced form of the art.

Haner, an advanced practitioner who consults internationally, said her first teacher was her Chinese mother-in-law who wouldn't let Haner and her husband move into a house at

the end of cul-de-sac or across from a graveyard because of bad energy.

Although Feng Shui has been around a long time, Roselle Kovitz McCleery, owner of Wind Over Water, said Lincolinites were catching on.

"I think in our culture we have so much," Kovitz McCleery said.

"But I think people are realizing there is more to life than having things, like your spirituality and your environment."

There are a few simple things one can do without an expensive consultation, Haner said. One step would be to rid a home of reminders of bad times or simply pulling the blinds open.

Haner said Feng Shui was just plain common sense.

"Basically, it's confirming how we already feel."

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