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Dead week, e-mail top No Bull's list

■ The party addresses the problem with the current ASUN approach to student needs and university issues.

BY MARGARET BEHM

No Bull's plans for student government are to tackle students' needs while keeping it real.

Andy Mixan, the presidential candidate for No Bull, said that in the past, he has seen candidates make promises they can't keep.

Because of these broken promises, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is not satisfying students.

"It is obvious to me that the student body is not at all happy with the representation and service they have received," he said.

Mixan said he plans to change all that with a new approach to running student government.

ASUN does not exist to take a stance on issues that do not directly affect students, such as fetal tissue research and renaming Columbus Day, Mixan said.

"The solution is to become an active, not activist student government," he said.

It is unfair for ASUN to take a stand on issues that divide student government, he said.

"When we become an activist body, we misrepresent about half of the student body," he said.

Instead of taking stances, ASUN should inform students about these hot topics and show them how to voice their opinion on their own or in groups, he said.

Alisa Hardy, second vice-presidential candidate, said that No Bull plans to rid the university of the troublesome Big Red e-mail accounts.

"Thousands of dollars are spent each year on the upkeep of this outdated system, and a significant number of students do not use Big Red as their primary e-mail provider," said Hardy, a junior biology major.

The No Bull party would try to switch students' e-mail to a Web-based provider, she said. This type of system would be more efficient, she said.

Mixan also said the No Bull party would try to change the Dead Week policy that has been in effect since 1983.

Many students have hectic dead weeks because they have to study for finals while doing homework and papers.

"I know for a fact that Dead Week is just as busy as finals week, if not worse," he said.

Mixan would like to make the week a time when no quizzes, tests, or papers can be due for classes.

Bill Westering, the first vice-presidential candidate, said another goal of the No Bull party is to create a student advocate program for students who are accused of violating the student code of conduct.

Under the current system, the head of the



Jennifer Lund/DN

Andy Mixan declares his candidacy for student-body president Tuesday evening in the Nebraska Union. He is running with the No Bull party. The party's platform includes a university Web-based e-mail program and more effective Dead Week policies.

Office of Student Judicial Affairs proposes a punishment for the student in violation, he said. The defendant can then either accept it or take their case to the judicial board, he said.

No Bull wants to provide the defendant with a student counsel during these hearings, he said.

The counsel would be appointed by ASUN. The defendant could use the counsel as a resource for advice and information, he said.

"All students need to have their rights protected," said Westering, a junior agribusiness major, "especially when they are placed in the spotlight."

"When we become an activist body, we misrepresent about half of the student body."

Andy Mixan

No Bull presidential candidate

Westering said he is certain that all of the issues in No Bull's platform are in the best interest of the students.

"Our party is confident that this and all our goals can and will benefit every student here at UNL."

Objects made with the click of a mouse

BY SHARON KOLBET

They placed on the table what appeared to be a hollow wooden cylinder. The unusual object was simple in its design, but revolutionary in its manufacture.

For University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Jack Fowler and UNL Architecture

Professor Brian Rex, the wood-like object is an example of a new manufacturing process and the focus of their research.

Rex recruited Fowler, a second-year architecture student, to work with him to explore a new technology that will give architects and designers the ability to quickly make durable objects by simply hitting a button on their computer.

"Imagine in the future, instead of going to your computer and having a product delivered to your door, you will go to your printer and the product will be made for you," Rex said.

Right now, a class of machines exist that use ink-jet printers to create durable goods. The head of the printer is modified to deposit small amounts of plastic or even ceramic onto a surface. In laying down thin layers of material, one on top of another, the ink-jet printer is able to produce a three-dimensional object.

Rex said plastic and ceramic aren't the only materials that can be transformed in this way — a printer using thin sheets of foil can create metal objects. Paper-thin layers of wood can also be laminated to form stable structures similar to the one they placed on the nearby table.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

Jack Fowler, a second-year UNL architecture student, holds an architectural model made with a three-dimensional printer. Fowler received funding from the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences program to study three-dimensional printing and rapid prototyping under UNL Architecture Professor Brian Rex.

"It makes a wonderful model since a person can file it down just like a regular piece of wood," Rex said. "This technology is already being used by the auto industry, and it is only a matter of time before rapid prototyping becomes the standard in the field of design." Architects have always used prototypes,

the full-scale and usually functional models of a new design.

In the past, these models had to be built by hand or by traditional machines and were

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NU students get less aid

BY JILL ZEMAN

Private school students — about 19 percent of the state's higher-education enrollment — received more than half of the financial aid from three state-run programs this academic year.

Students attending private colleges received about 57 percent of the aid distributed for 2000-01 by the Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education. In contrast, students attending NU received about 17 percent in state aid.

The commission has three programs that distribute state aid to students, said Christine Denicola, fiscal officer for the commission. The State School Award Program, the Scholarship Assistance Program and the Post Education Award Program all award money to Nebraska's students, she said. PEAP only gives money to students who attend private schools — about \$2.4 million.

The other two programs are open to all college students in the state.

The three programs gave out almost \$6 million last year in state aid.

■ The University of Nebraska received more than \$996,000.

■ State colleges, such as Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State received about \$316,000.

■ Private career schools, such as the Lincoln School of Commerce, Joseph's Beauty College and Vatterott College received about \$478,000.

■ Private schools, such as Creighton University, Dana College, Bellevue University and Nebraska Wesleyan University, received about \$3.4 million in state aid.

David Powers, executive director of the coordinating commission, said the Legislature dictates the programs and who is eligible for the aid.

"I'm less concerned than other people, even though it seems odd a high percentage (of financial aid) goes to private schools," Powers said.

What's not included in the three programs is money the Legislature appropriates directly to NU, Powers said.

The state committed about \$24 million to NU for tuition waivers, Powers said. If those dollars were included in the total, students attending NU would receive about \$20 million more than private school students.

Powers said the coordinating commission recommended an additional \$4 million in financial aid from the Legislature this year.

"The coordinating commission is enthusiastic and a strong advocate for student aid," Powers said.

NU Regent Charles Wilson said the university, which has about 50,000 students, only received about one-third of what private colleges got in state aid from the three programs. More state aid goes to private school students because the amount of aid awarded is based on the cost of tuition, he said.

Students who report higher tuition costs will generally receive more money, Wilson said. Because of this, state dollars are going to fewer students, he said.

"I don't think the taxpayers should pay the difference for a student to go to a private school," Wilson said. Need-based aid should be based on the price it costs to go to a public school, Wilson said.

Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison introduced a bill to the Legislature that would restructure how state aid is calculated. He proposed to base the amount of aid on the tuition and fees of the state's highest-cost, four-year post secondary educational institution, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The bill has been assigned to the Education Committee, where it will be heard Feb. 27.

Wickersham said he didn't think the Legislature was doing enough to provide state aid for students attending public schools.

"I know students are holding down jobs — sometimes two — while they're going to school," Wickersham said. "If we have students leaving school because they can't afford it, we need to address that."

Bill bans smoking in restaurants

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Smoking has been banned in almost every public place.

Theaters, arenas and convenience stores are just a few places where smoking has been outlawed in the past few years.

Smokers can add restaurants to that list if LB227 advances out of committee today.

The bill, which will be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee, bans smoking in most restaurants.

The restaurant smoking bill, introduced by Sen. Nancy Thompson of Papillion, was killed on the floor last year and is expected to draw the same amount of controversy.

The previous bill revamped the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act and banned smoking in restaurants altogether.

This session, Thompson split the old bill into two bills, LB227 and LB423.

LB423 would change the language in the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act and define more specifically areas in which smoking is banned.

But the main focus for legislators will be the restaurant smoking bill.

"It seems to be working well in other states that have passed similar bills," Thompson said.

Five states and hundreds of cities have banned smoking in restaurants and bars, said Mark

Welsch, the president of the Group to Alleviate Smoking Pollution.

In California, smoke-free restaurants have seen an increase in sales, Welsch said.

"This is a safety issue. People are dying because they have to work in smoke-filled restaurants," Welsch said.

Second-hand smoke has 4,000 different chemicals, and 43 of them cause cancer, Welsch said. "There's no reason businesses should allow employees to be exposed to something that causes cancer."

Banning smoking in restaurants, Thompson said, is a continuation of a national trend.

"I think the ban will eventually be enacted. The time is coming," Thompson said.

"We're just asking smokers for an hour of their time to accommodate the public," Thompson said.

Some smokers won't adjust easily to smoke-free restaurants.

Cassandra Carmody, a student at Joseph's College of Beauty, said she used to live in Boulder, Colo., where smoking was banned at restaurants and bars.

"A lot of smokers crave a cigarette after they eat, and others come to restaurants just to smoke, drink coffee and talk," Carmody

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