

Bills direct focus to teacher wages

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parts of the problem. Most senators agree that the plan they create should benefit equalized schools - or the schools who don't generate enough cash to pay their bills. Some nonequalized schools can already pay their bills and even allocate extra money to teachers. Committee members also want the plan to hold school districts accountable for how they spend the extra state dollars. Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison also wants the committee's proposal to include special benefits for new teachers. Impending teacher shortages and stiff competition from neighboring states for recent graduates will spell disaster for Nebraska's educational system in less than five years, he said. "People know we graduate

good teachers, and they're willing to pay for them," he said. Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron acknowledged the competition Nebraska faces from other states, and said he wants to see a provision in the bill that would forgive the college loans of teachers who chose to work in the state. "I have a warm, affectionate feeling for the loan program," Coordsen said. Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha said he wasn't opposed to forgiving loans, but he didn't want the committee to advance a "potpourri" of several tiny proposals. A more broad-based and sweeping proposal will affirm that the Legislature cares about teachers and students, he said. A piecemeal approach that squabbles over details will send the message that senators don't value the work teachers do, Brashear said. "This is critically important well beyond money," he said.

Cheerleaders feel drop in funding

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learn the moves for the first time, she said. Swanson said the package UNL offers to its prospective cheerleaders and Scarlets is still lucrative even without the tuition reimbursement. "It's unfortunate that some students aren't available to return," Swanson said. "We want to make sure that the kids value their education and understand that they're here for a degree." Calen Cook, a freshman cheerleader from Louisville, Ky., said he will also be forced to leave UNL after this semester. "We just got our throat cut (Monday)," Cook said. "I feel bad because they've completely broken up the family." Several spirit squad members said they, along with their coaches, had no idea that the cuts were in the works until the scholarships were already gone. "This is a major university where decisions like this don't just get made over an hour," Cook said. Others agreed. "It was very shocking," said Cheerleading Co-Captain Courtney Hodges, a junior from Lewisville, Texas, who also said she'll be forced to leave UNL after this semester. "I can't afford to pay the out-

"We just got our throat cut (Monday). I feel bad, because they've completely broken up the family."

Calen Cook
freshman cheerleader

of-state tuition," she said. Hodges said the department could have cut other amenities given to the team instead of the tuition waivers - such as clothing, free books, meals and a \$500 stipend. Swanson said there can be no grandfather clause guaranteeing the tuition waiver for all four years because squad members try out for the respective teams every year. Because of this, there is no guarantee that anyone will stay on the team from one year to the next. "We do not have the money to fund out-of-state tuition waivers," Swanson said. Deuel said she felt the Athletic Marketing Department might have been biased against cheerleading as a sport. "You can bet that if any athletic team got second in the nation or sixth in the nation, they wouldn't get their scholarships cut," Deuel said.

Platforms set at first debate

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detailed what professor would be teaching before students enrolled. "My goal is to make sure students have adequate choices," Luttich said. Claiming students were dissatisfied with current ASUN policies, Nathan Fuerst, Score! presidential candidate, said many of those in student government had not kept their promises. Fuerst said the Score! Party would take student complaints to the administration. "We will take student voices to the top," Fuerst said. NUFORCE presidential candidate Angela Clements said her party was composed of leaders from different backgrounds. Clements outlined ways her party would make student government more accountable and improve the academic climate. "UNL is not seen as an attractive place for faculty to come to," Clements said. Fuerst agreed with Clements and said the university must focus on attracting good faculty. Luttich said he disagreed and named tuition as the biggest problem the university faces. "We need to bring in more outside dollars," Luttich said. He proposed more corporate sponsors to help offset tuition costs. "We are a Pepsi university, so why can't we be a Gateway computer university?" Luttich asked. "Mixon said the most glaring weakness is the university's lack of top-notch programs. Matzen said he, personally, was happy at UNL, but wanted students to have a better way to report poor teachers. When it came time for the vice-presidential candidates to speak, they were asked how they would distinguish themselves from the shadow of their running mate. NUFORCE first vice-presidential candidate Erick Kinyungu said he and his running mate work together. "Why should there be a shadow?" he asked. Kinyungu said he and

"We are a Pepsi university, so why can't we be a Gateway computer university?"

Jaron Luttich
The One candidate

Clements would be a unified front, casting the same shadow. Jessica Lopez, the Score! first-vice presidential candidate said she would help Fuerst in promoting student government accountability. Melanie Mitzel, first vice presidential candidate for The One party said her previous leadership experience would help her make a difference in student government. "I am familiar and very comfortable with parliamentary procedure," Mitzel said. No Bull first vice-presidential candidate Bill Westering complimented his running mate, saying Mixon represented the "everyday student." Dan Becic, a senior industrial engineering major, was one of the more than 150 students gathered in the Nebraska Union to hear the first of the three debates. "I came to see what the platforms were," he said. Richard Brown, a senior chemical engineering major, said Matzen's humor and visual aids were creative, but didn't win his vote. "I am sure he is a great guy, but I am not going to vote for him," he said. Senior psychology major Rebecca Overgaard agreed with NUFORCE candidate Clement's goal to make senators more accountable. "I thought the debate brought out some good issues," she said. The debate was sponsored by the Daily Nebraskan. The next debate will be held Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

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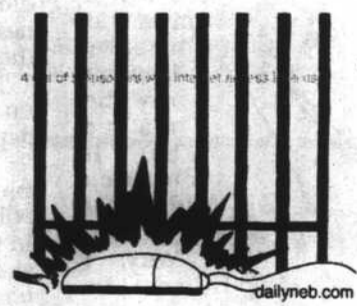
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Law & Order

Lincoln man arrested for robbery, avoiding arrest

Lincoln police arrested a man after he ran from police Monday night. Sean Cortez, 19, was arrested for robbing the Shop EZ convenience store, 3739 N. 70th St., around 11:39 p.m. Monday night, Ofc. Katherine Finnell said. Cortez was described as a dark-skinned male in his twenties wearing a dark sweatshirt, Finnell said. Cortez, armed with a handgun, told the clerk to give him the cash and then ran out, she said. Police were in the area when they spotted Cortez driving a car with stolen license plates. Cortez saw the police and a two-minute chase ensued, Finnell said. It began near the 7000 block of Logan Avenue, and ended near 68th and Fremont streets, she said. Police found the gun, sweatshirt and part of the stolen money, Finnell said. Cortez was arrested for robbery, possession of a stolen firearm, failing to avoid arrest, using a firearm to commit a felony and felon in possession of a firearm. Finnell said the investigation is still ongoing.

Compiled by Jill Conner



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