



No Bull Presidential Candidate Andy Mixan speaks at the ASUN debate at Union Square Thursday. The debate, moderated by the Daily Nebraskan, marked the last debate before the Feb. 28 elections.

## Candidates debate final time

DEBATE from page 1

vass ASUN alumni and would raise money to fund student government projects.

As candidates debated options to reduce the financial strain on students, Clements said she wanted to see more scholarships created to aid international students.

Independent candidate John Matzen, dressed in the clothing and makeup reminiscent of the movie "Braveheart" and speaking with a Scottish accent, said he did not think scholarships needed to be targeted to special groups.

While he doesn't want to ignore the needs of international students, he doesn't want to neglect the needs of average students, he said.

The next issue the candidates debated was the possibility of ASUN taking stances on divisive political issues.

Citing the ASUN constitution, Clements said yes, student government representatives should speak out on controversial subjects.

In responding to Clements, Fuerst addressed the NUFOR candidate on the subject of accountability.

Fuerst said Clements put an emphasis on accountability but said she had missed two of the last four ASUN meetings.

"How can you lead by example?" Fuerst asked.

Clements said she had been sick and defended her role in the ASUN senate.

"I have written more legislation than any other senator," Clements said. "The other senators have not done their job."

Speaking on accountability, Luttich said the deadline for ASUN legislation needed to be changed. He said if elected, he

would have ASUN publish announcements in the Daily Nebraskan.

"I want to let students know what legislation is proposed before it is voted on," Luttich said.

Mixan said if elected he would do more to gather student opinions before voting on controversial issues.

"I want to avoid the gross misrepresentation that happened last year," he said, referring to a bill passed in the student senate in 2000 to lobby the Legislature against ending aborted fetal tissue research.

The candidates were asked their opinions on the academic prioritization process, specifically on the possibility of decreased agricultural funding – an issue that has divided the academic community.

Fuerst said he was not against prioritization.

"I am not saying we shouldn't review the budget, but a lot of business in this state relies on agriculture," he said.

Matzen said he didn't have a problem with the idea of prioritization, either.

"Prioritization just gives you a place to start," he said.

But Matzen said it was less important to debate whether a program should be listed as 97th or 79th.

"More importantly, we need to get off our asses and get in gear. If you are prioritizing everything, nothing improves," he said.

Luttich said while agriculture was important to the state, not everyone who grew up on a farm becomes an agriculture major.

"The primary purpose of the university is to educate the people of Nebraska," he said.

In each of their closing comments, the candidates thanked

*"More importantly, we need to get off our asses and get in gear. If you are prioritizing everything, nothing improves."*

**John Matzen**  
Independent presidential candidate

the audience and encouraged students to go to the polls next week.

Each candidate reiterated his or her platform, calling for students to vote for the individual party.

"This is not a training-wheels government," Fuerst said.

Others echoed that sentiment.

"No fake smiles," Mixan said of his party. "No hidden agendas. No Bull."

Luttich identified the importance of the ASUN president's student seat on the NU Board of Regents.

"It is serious and big business," he said. "You need someone who can speak to them and earn their respect and trust."

Clements, citing the recent Daily Nebraskan articles chronicling the forged signatures turned in by one of her former running mates, said she was a "victim of yellow journalism" before reading a poem by Maya Angelou.

Matzen, in the spirit of his costume and painted supporters in the audience, called for action in his final statement.

"I am John Matzen," he said, "and I see a whole body of students wanting to see a change."

The ASUN elections take place Feb. 28.

## Committee keeping on track

BY GEORGE GREEN

And they keep on truckin'. The Legislature's Judiciary Committee put another slew of bills under its belt Thursday, slowly reducing the pile of legislation it had to cover.

This year the committee had to tackle 154 bills when the session began. After Thursday's work, the committee will have plowed through 110 of the proposals.

In comparison, the Agricultural Committee had only 25 bills on its plate when the Legislature went back to work in January.

Sen. Patrick Bourne of Omaha, vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said the hefty workload tacked extra hours onto the committee's days.

"We have a lot of late nights," he said.

To cut back on the long days, Chairman Kermit Brashear of Omaha put a three-minute cap on each person's testimony.

In the Legislature's other committees, people use as much time as they please.

Testifiers before the Judiciary face the senators and a little box with three lights: green, red and yellow.

But, he said, the committee can handle the stress and has established "pretty good camaraderie" among its eight members.

Such positive relations might surprise onlookers considering the committee houses some of the Legislature's most conservative and liberal senators.

In particular, Brashear and Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who sit on opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Chambers has been a staple of liberal politics in the Legislature for several decades, while Brashear typically anchors the body's conservative senators.

Despite political differences, Bourne said the two senators generally work well together and their distinct perspectives usually enhance the committee.

"Diversity of opinion is a great thing," he said.

On Thursday, Brashear and Chambers reached some consensus on a bill that would put cameras on street lights to catch people who run red lights.

### Legislature

Both senators voiced concerns about some the bill's legal technicalities.

LB534 would drop a point off the license of a person caught running a red light by a cop but wouldn't take a point away from a driver caught on tape.

Chambers wasn't sure the disparate treatment would hold up in court.

The drivers committed the same offenses" but they wouldn't receive the same penalty, he said.

Chambers said the policy could violate the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

Brashear concurred with Chambers and said the bill might need some rewording if it were to become a law.

In addition to tackling street light cameras, the committee delved into the subjects of protecting animals and tattooing minors.

LB79, introduced by Brashear, would make a distinction between a person cited for neglecting an animal and one caught for abusing an animal.

Currently, the law treats the two offenses as equal.

Brashear's bill would put

stiffer penalties on the animal abusers.

Sen. Elaine Stuhr of Bradshaw brought a bill before the committee that also dealt with abuse.

But she said her bill would protect minors from abusing their bodies.

Stuhr's bill, LB264, would prohibit minors getting tattoos or body piercings without their parents' consent.

Stuhr said several of her constituents voiced concerns to her when their daughters – some as young as 13 – returned home with tattoos that they paid \$3 for.

Such young children aren't aware of the dangers of transmitting diseases through dirty needles, she said.

"Our concern is for the safety and health of minors," she said.

J.D. Baker, a Lincoln tattoo artist, said the bill's intentions were good, but won't stop kids from getting tattoos.

"We can't force kids to do what their parents want," he said.

Instead they will go to "sleazy" businesses that don't use safe needles.

A better plan, he said, would be to teach children about the permanent nature of tattoos.

"We've got to educate our kids a little bit better," he said.

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### Law & Order

#### Man takes pair of boots, money from shoe store

A Payless ShoeSource robber now has warm feet.

Lincoln Police Officer Katherine Finnell said shortly before 7 p.m. Wednesday, a man walked into the store, located at 4240 N. 48th St., and took a pair of boots in a box off the shelf.

Finnell said the man walked up to the counter and demanded money from the register be put in the box.

The employee gave him the money and the man left the store on foot heading northbound, Finnell said.

A small amount of money was stolen as well as the size 9 1/2-wide work boots worth \$16.99, Finnell said.

#### Man robbed after leaving bar with acquaintance

After leaving a bar with someone he thought was a friend, one man was robbed early Thursday

morning.

Around 1:45 a.m., a 44-year-old male said he left a bar with a Darrel Yarbrough, 40, to go to 1317 L St. and buy some marijuana, Finnell said.

Finnell said the man was then forced into an apartment and held down by several other men who took his money and forced him out of the apartment.

Finnell said officers then arrested Yarbrough, and recovered \$36 of the stolen money. Compiled by Jill Conner.

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