

# Daily Nebraskan

Columnist Mark Baldridge says people are a verb, not a noun  
In Opinion/4



Throughout his NU career, Cookie Belcher's focus has been on defense  
In Sports/Wednesday/10



The final years of architecture mean a bigger space, more freedom  
In Arts/8



**TREACHEROUS TREK:** The cold weather and snow flurries didn't keep freshman Kevin Siminske from sticking to his schedule as he bikes his way back to Abel Residence Hall. Temperatures averaged around 12 degrees but felt as cold as 10 below zero to students venturing outside.



Nate Wagner/DN

## Bush prioritizes education, tax cut

BY GEORGE GREEN

President George W. Bush told a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night about two pictures of one country.

"One would have warning signs - increasing layoffs, rising energy prices, too many failing schools ... the stubborn vestiges of racism.

"Another picture would be full of blessings - a balanced budget, big surpluses, a military that is second to none ...," he said.

With these contrasting images in mind, Bush laid down his budget for the next 10 years.

The president cited education as his top priority but promised increased funding for Social Security, Medicare and a hefty tax cut, too.

Some Democrats say the boosts in social programs aren't enough and believe Bush can't pull off his massive \$1.6 trillion tax cut while still maintaining funding for important social programs.

Sen. Ben Nelson, a Democrat, wasn't ready to condemn a tax cut, but he said he wanted to be sure it didn't jeopardize other important spending initiatives.

"I'm insisting that any cut be coupled with paying the debt," he said.

Bush said projected surpluses could more than adequately fund all of his proposals and drop taxes and the debt.

Rep. Tom Osborne from Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District said Bush gave a good performance, but he wanted to see concrete numbers on paper before he took a firm position.

"The devil is always in the details," he said.

Armed with his own details, Bush gave educational spending the biggest boost of any program in his budget.

He proposed tripling spending on reading programs and "character education."

Rep. Doug Bereuter from the 1st Congressional District lauded the president's "heavy emphasis" on education.

Bereuter said people in the education

*"Funding is important, and so is reform. So we must tie funding to higher standards and accountability for results."*

President Bush

community deserved the budget's 11.5 percent boost.

In addition to extra bucks, though, Bush promised to tag schools with accountability standards by mandating uniform testing.

"Funding is important, and so is reform. So we must tie funding to higher standards and accountability for results," he said.

And Bush said schools that didn't make the cut would fall as the government gave families other options for education.

The president, though, didn't specifically

Please see BUSH on 6

## Nebraskans hyped for Bush visit

BY GEORGE GREEN

They've dished out the tickets, and they've finished the plans.

Now, Nebraska Republicans are simply waiting for today's arrival of the nation's chief executive.

Ben Kiser, executive director of the Nebraska Republican Party, said his office fielded countless calls Monday from Nebraskans seeking a glimpse of President George W. Bush.

"(Tickets) were gone in an hour or two," he said.

With the tickets dispersed, Kiser said the Nebraska GOP office switched gears to coordinate the schedules of the various elected officials expected to pop up during the president's visit.

U.S. Sens. Chuck Hagel and Ben Nelson will catch a ride with the president on Air Force One.

Omaha Mayor Hal Daub and Gov. Mike Johanns, along with other local dignitaries, will greet the president when he stops in Omaha and hops the border to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kiser said all the official greeters were looking forward to brushing shoulders with Bush.

"It's a great honor to have him here," Kiser said.

Mike Fleharty, a spokesman for Eppley Airfield in Omaha, won't be shooting the breeze with the president today.

But, he said, his office had been busy accommodating the requests of the president's advance team, which was charged with arranging the president's travel plans.

Fleharty said airport officials also joined forces with the Secret Service and other White House staffers to pull the visit together.

"It's a meeting of the minds," he said.

Together, he said, White

*"I feel a great deal of pressure to do the right thing for Nebraska."*

Sen. Ben Nelson  
D-Neb.

House and airport workers hammered out a safe place for the president to land and a good route for him to take out of the airport.

Chris Peterson, a spokesman for the governor, said the Nebraska State Patrol would step in to help Secret Service officers protect the president once his automobile crossed the airport's barrier.

The Secret Service and the state patrol plan to shuttle the president to the Omaha Civic Auditorium without any stops, Peterson said.

He said Nebraskans who didn't get on the stick to nab a ticket won't get a chance to see Bush in the flesh.

At the Civic Auditorium, Peterson said, the president would try to sell his budget plan to Nebraskans.

The president revealed his budget plan to Congress on Tuesday night.

Bush plans to plug his \$1.6 trillion tax cut, his debt reduction policy and his scheme to beef up education and the military in his speech to Nebraskans, Peterson said.

Hearing the president lay out his plans in person is a rare opportunity for Nebraskans to get a good handle on Bush's ideas, he said.

Kiser said Nebraskans owed a

Please see VISIT on 5

## Regent change could be coming

The Education Committee heard ideas for a superboard and plans for a student regent.

BY GWEN TIETGEN

The faces that govern higher education would change under two proposed constitutional amendments heard Tuesday in the Education Committee.

One constitutional amendment, introduced by Speaker Doug Kristensen of Minden, creates a Higher Education Board of Regents and changes how regents are chosen.

"Our direct obligation of higher education is the governance of higher education," Kristensen said.

The best way to run state institutions is to have one group of people, he said.

The bill, LB401, and constitutional amendment, LR8CA, would merge the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the State College Board of Trustees into a "superboard" called the Higher Education Board of Regents.

The bill would also eliminate the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, which is charged with overseeing all of the state's higher education.

The conversation of how higher education institutions should be governed is nothing

### Legislature

new inside the halls of the Legislature.

State senators have been hashing out different ways to govern higher education for 30 years.

"Will this be a priority this year?" Kristensen asked. "Probably not. But the committee needs to realize restructuring needs to be done."

Kristensen's restructuring would call for a "superboard" composed of eight elected members from each of the eight election districts and seven members appointed by the governor and approved by the Legislature.

These members would encompass the existing eight members of the Board of Regents and seven members of the Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees.

Nebraska is one of only four states to elect its regents.

Kristensen said a national trend existed toward appointing regents and statewide governance of higher education would be an advantage to the state.

The "superboard" would create a unified voice for direct policy making, he said, and would consolidate state money going to higher education - instead of two boards at the trough, there

Please see REGENTS on 5



Nate Wagner/DN

## ASUN rocks student body, encourages voting

BY JILL CONNER

ASUN hoped to rock the UNL vote Tuesday afternoon with bands, promotions and an open forum for this year's student government candidates.

About 500 people, according to Vicki Geiser, ASUN communications committee chairwoman, checked out the "Voice Your Vote Radio Rally," an all-day event in the Nebraska Union Crib that featured seven local bands, KRNU disc jockeys playing emcee and free prizes.

Geiser said her committee decided an event more like MTV's "Rock the Vote" or the "Rock 'n' the Vote 2000" rally held in November for city and national elections was needed on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus to increase voter turnout.

"We wanted people to have fun and be entertained as well as have the opportunity

to meet the (candidates) and find out what's going on," Geiser said.

All of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska candidates were invited to speak at the rally, either behind a microphone or while mingling in the crowd. Although all the candidates made a cameo, Geiser said only three took the opportunity to speak.

NUForce presidential candidate Angela Clements said she played the theme to the movie "Star Wars" as her first vice-presidential candidate, Erik Kinyungu, came on stage.

"We wanted to make it more fun and a little light hearted," she said.

No Bull presidential candidate Andy Mixan reshaped his platform and detailed his idea for a Web-based e-mail system.

"We are more than just a party against fetal-cell research," he said.

Mixan said he thought the rally was a good way for ASUN to reach out to students.

Independent presidential candidate John Matzen, dressed in a "Fat Tuesday" outfit, also detailed his platform and encouraged students to vote.

The One Party presidential candidate Jaron Lutich and Score! presidential candidate Nathan Fuerst chose to mingle rather than speak formally.

Several first and second vice-presidential candidates, as well as students running for senate seats, also attended the rally, Geiser said.

Senior broadcasting majors Tony Bock, Matt Fiorita and Karissa Armstrong, the hosts of 90.3 KRNU's "Hot Lunch," a program that airs Monday nights from 9 to 11

Please see RALLY on 3

The band 8th Wave plays a set during 90.3 KRNU's and ASUN's "Voice Your Vote Radio Rally" held in the Nebraska Union's Crib on Tuesday afternoon. The event was held to encourage students to vote in today's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elections.