

**Nebraska legislators develop a policy that would ban racial profiling**  
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**ASUN President Joel Schafer (right), explains the reasons for his veto of a bill that would have cut the Daily Nebraskan's student fee allocation by nearly 80 percent on Wednesday. Senators failed to override the veto. After a meeting that lasted over three hours, senators tabled discussion on the newspaper's budget until after spring break.**



Nate Wagner/DN

## ASUN asks for apology from regent

BY MARGARET BEHM

The student government voted unanimously Wednesday to ask for an apology and clarification from Regent Drew Miller over statements he made at an NU Board of Regents meeting, which some people have deemed racially insensitive.

Angela Clements, Human Rights Committee chairwoman, presented Senate Resolution No. 6, which asks for Miller to clarify his statements and to issue an apology.

Miller's statement was made during a Saturday discussion about recruiting students to the University of Nebraska.

During the discussion, Miller said stepping up the university's efforts to recruit minorities could hurt NU's academic rankings because he said minorities score lower than their non-minority counterparts on standardized tests.

Miller was responding to a suggestion by University of Nebraska at Kearney Chancellor Gladys Styles Johnston, who is black, that NU should recruit more minorities.

Since the meeting, some students and administrators have voiced con-

cerns over Miller's comments.

But Miller said his comments were taken out of context.

Miller wasn't being racist, he said, he was simply pointing out the cultural biases that exist in standardized tests, including the ACTs and SATs.

Recruiting more minorities then, Miller said, will bring down the university's standardized test average — a measure often used in academic rankings, including those in the often touted U.S. News and World Report rankings.

These bad rankings will steer people away from the university, Miller said.

If NU's academic rankings go further down, overall recruitment will suffer, Miller said.

"If we ignore the issue and let ourselves drop in the ratings, we'll pay a price," he said.

But some students said rankings shouldn't be administrators' only concern.

Rami Nabulsi, a senior electrical engineering major, spoke in favor of the resolution during the ASUN meeting.

Diversity is an important element to education, Nabulsi said.

"It's not about how they score on

tests, it's about what that contribute, and they contribute a lot," he said. "Minorities bring so much to the education that students get here."

As an international student from the Middle East, Nabulsi said he is a resource to students in the classroom.

"I learn, and I teach at the same time," he said.

Joel Schafer, ASUN president, said it doesn't matter why Miller made the comment, the ramifications of it needed to be addressed.

Schafer attended the Saturday Board of Regents meeting in Kearney where Miller made the statements.

"I have spoken with faculty of color and students of color, and they told me that it had this way of making them feel completely insignificant," Schafer said.

Despite his comments, Miller said he is in favor of minority recruitment, and in fact voted along with the rest of the regents to approve the overall recruiting plan discussed at the Saturday meeting, including the call for increased minority recruiting.

Miller said he made the comments

Please see MILLER on 6

## Journalists in full force for funding

BY MARGARET BEHM

Members of the journalism community came out in full force at Wednesday's ASUN meeting to voice their concerns over possibly substantial cuts in the Daily Nebraskan's student fees allocations.

They came in response to a bill student senate passed March 1 that would have cut the newspaper's funds more than 80 percent — from \$50,300 to \$9,513.

That bill was vetoed Wednesday by Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer, and despite an effort to override the veto, the veto

Please see JOURNALISTS on 3

## ASUN DN funding under fire from ASUN

BY MARGARET BEHM

After about three hours of bickering and playing pick the magic number, student government Wednesday postponed making a decision on the Daily Nebraskan's budget.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Joel Schafer vetoed a bill passed March 1 that would have cut the Daily Nebraskan's funding by more than 80 percent.

Speaker of the Senate Jason Mashek, leading a charge to override Schafer's veto, encouraged senators not to be intimidated by the president.

To override the veto, two-thirds of the entire ASUN senate — not just the senators at the meeting — had to vote to override it.

A veto override failed with six senators for and 13 against.

The Committee for Fees Allocation previously voted 6-2 in favor of a giving the Daily Nebraskan \$50,300 to pay for a portion of the newspaper's printing and production costs. With this funding, the newspaper estimated a profit of \$61,350 for this year.

Mashek proposed an amendment March 1 that would have given the Daily Nebraskan \$9,513.

With the student fee decrease, the newspaper's profit would be an estimated \$20,000. The amendment passed 10-8 on March 1.

When asked how he determined \$20,000 to be an acceptable profit, Mashek said he "just pulled it out of the air."

Brent Stanfield, CFA chairman, said the Daily Nebraskan hasn't justified why it needs to make such a profit.

The newspaper doesn't need a substantial profit because it doesn't pay rent or utilities and also has a hefty savings account, Stanfield said.

Russell Willbanks, Daily Nebraskan Publications Board chairman, said student fees pay for only 20 percent of the newspaper's printing and circulation costs — making the \$1.19 per student a subscription of sorts.

Advertising revenues pay for the rest of the newspaper's printing and production costs along with all other costs, including salaries and equipment, he said.

But because advertising revenue fluctuates and the economy looks as though it's taking a turn for the worst, the newspaper's profit estimates might be off — especially if advertisers start pulling

Please see ASUN on 6

## Senators extinguish bill banning smokes

■ LB227, which would stop smoking in restaurants, was defeated.

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Smokers won't have to worry about changing their restaurant eating habits this year.

Legislators defeated the restaurant smoking bill on Wednesday in a 19-29-1 decision after the bill waited to be debated on the legislative floor for more than a month.

LB227, introduced by Sen. Nancy Thompson of Papillion, would have banned smoking in restaurants unless they had a liquor license or a separately attached room used for private social functions.

Thompson said the bill came down to several senators who supported the bill talking about public health benefits and senators who opposed the bill not wanting to impose regulations on businesses.

The debate on the restaurant smoking bill is similar to the debate that surrounded the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act before it was finally passed in 1979, Thompson said.

The Clean Indoor Air Act, which mandated separate smoking and nonsmoking areas in restaurants among other things, took several years of being introduced and debated in the Legislature before it was passed.

During debate, Thompson

### Legislature

amended the bill to take out the definition of a bar, included in section four of the bill, because the Department of Health and Human Services are working on a more specific definition of a bar.

Several other amendments were proposed during the course of a three-day debate on the bill but failed to get adopted.

Among the proposed amendments that failed was an amendment by Sen. Gene Tyson of Norfolk to exclude small restaurants from the smoking ban.

Another failed amendment, proposed by Sen. Adrian Smith of Gering, would have banned smoking in cars if children under 18 were present.

Smith said he voted against the bill because of loopholes in the bill and because it infringed on private property rights.

"I am actually allergic to smoke and try my best to avoid it," Smith said.

"But who am I to say to private property owners that they can't allow consumers of a legal product on their property?"

Sen. Doug Cunningham of Wausa said his wife can't stand going to smoke-filled restaurants and neither can he.

Banning smoking in restaurants is not a function of government, he said, and restaurant owners should make the deci-

Please see SMOKING on 5

## Feathered friends fly with a purpose

■ The memory capability of birds has amazed Kamil for nearly 20 years.

BY SHARON KOLBET

The definition of the phrase "bird-brained" may need to be revised.

As a University of Nebraska-Lincoln researcher has shown, birds can possess an astounding memory.

Anyone who has ever forgotten where they parked their car could take a few lessons from the Clark's nutcracker.

"The nutcracker has an amazing ability to remember locations," said Alan Kamil, a UNL professor of biology.

The Clark's nutcracker lives in the high altitude regions of Arizona and Colorado. It spends each fall harvesting and burying pine seeds. With a special throat pouch that allows it to carry up to 90 seeds at a time, the nutcracker deposits this future food in numerous locations.

"Each fall, an individual bird will bury as many as 20,000 seeds in five to six thousand locations," Kamil said.

In winter, the birds will return to these sites, finding the hoarded food even when the area is blanketed with snow. Field studies have shown that the nutcrackers have a very high rate of seed recovery.

"Biologists are trying to understand exactly what it is that allows the bird to remember the sites," he said.

Kamil has been studying

birds for nearly 20 years. When on sabbatical in Sydney, Australia, Kamil said he developed his hypothesis.

"Once it occurred to me, it was so obvious," he said.

Kamil has found that the Clark's nutcracker is capable of a very precise search for its stored food because of its ability to find metric relationships between multiple landmarks.

While some species of birds may navigate by magnetic compasses, solar or astral indicators, the nutcracker uses landmarks to find its cached seeds. Though a spatial location can be found by a single landmark, an increase in the number of landmarks used resulted in an increase in successful seed searches.

The use of these multiple landmarks is not mere redundancy.

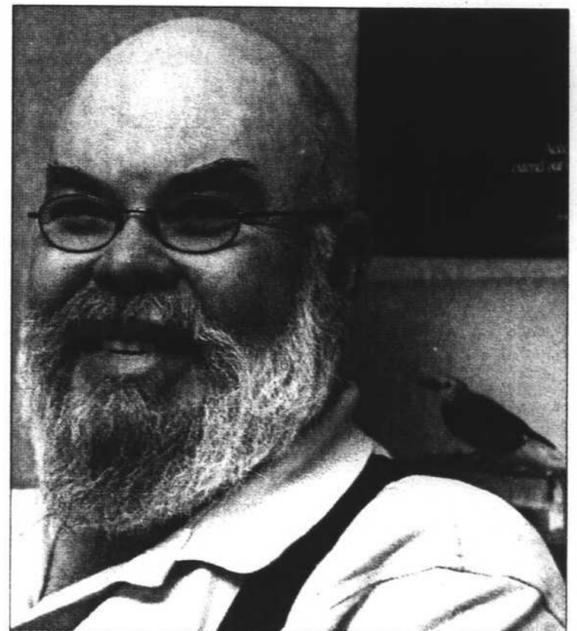
The nutcracker, like the homing pigeon, has an internal compass that helps them to navigate.

Kamil said his research showed that the multiple landmarks counteracted the effects of compass error in the nutcracker.

Kamil published his findings last month in the Journal of Experimental Biology and said he has already received feedback from other ornithologists.

In April, he will be traveling to England to speak on his findings.

In the meantime, Kamil and his research group have constructed a new laboratory scenario for the birds in the basement of Manter Hall.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

Alan Kamil, a UNL biology professor, stands next to a photograph of a bird known as the Clark's nutcracker. In his research, Kamil has found that the nutcracker uses multiple landmarks in the winter to find the thousands of seeds it buried in the fall.

In a 24-sided room, the researchers have put posters on the wall. The posters serve as visual landmarks for the birds when they go to bury their seeds in the lab's sandy floor.

After the birds have become familiar with the room, Kamil plans to shift all of the posters 90 degrees to see what effect the change will have on the nut-

cracker's seed finding abilities. Kamil said the research has many implications.

"Other animals use landmarks. This research may help us understand how humans navigate," he said.

"If you have ever asked someone for directions, you have seen how some people use landmarks while others don't."