

# Issues should be raised this time

Time is an important consideration for those scheduling ASUN elections Part II. Wednesday night ASUN recommended that the Electoral Commission schedule the election for April 13.

Hopefully, the Electoral Commission will accept this date. ASUN then should finalize this as election day at its next meeting. Again, hopefully, ASUN will have a quorum to approve the Electoral Commission's guidelines.

Because only a little more than a month remains in the semester, the Electoral Commission and the Senate need to work quickly.

In addition, the candidates will need to work quickly. Few issues have been raised by the executive candidates. The past few weeks should have given them time to talk to students about problems in the university and student government.

There is no lack of issues. The candidates should be prepared to put themselves on the line about those issues.

We've heard their views about restructuring of ASUN and the means to allocate student fees. Those are important issues that have to be con-

sidered. But there are other issues that concern students.

What about increases in student fees, tuition, parking meters and football tickets? How do the candidates stand on parity between UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha? What do they think about grade inflation, the advising system, innovative teaching methods and the quality of education at UNL?

What will ASUN do about these issues? What can ASUN do about these issues?

The candidates need to campaign hard in the next couple weeks. Postponement of the elections may have snuffed the small amount of interest that previously existed.

It was disturbing to learn that ASUN, supported by student fees, has been acting invalidly since Dec. 15. It is also disturbing that no senator of ASUN recognized this all semester and brought it to the Senate's attention.

These facts alone should stir students' interest in the ASUN election. Students should demand a responsible, effective student government led by dynamic students who are willing to work for their constituents.

## letters

### Ghettos need attention

In reply to the letter by Bruce Cummins on March 30, the racist attitudes displayed in your article were only over shadowed by your extreme ignorance. In your first paragraph you made reference to the fact that all men were not created equal, but instead were merely endowed with certain inalienable rights.

This statement leads me to believe that you feel as though you are somewhat superior to black people and/or other ethnic minorities who make up these United States of America.

Also in regard to your remark about people who think that "Black is Beautiful" let me say that self-pride is one of the few things left to allow black people to maintain their dignity in a world filled with people who seem to be determined to strip the black man of his manhood.

Now as I continue, there was something about attention. The only attention we want is some attention to be placed on the conditions blacks and other ethnic minorities are forced to live in, "The Ghetto," where rats and bugs are everywhere. In these ghettos, meat is only served on holidays, and Christmas is just another day of the year.

In these ghettos, every third house is a vacant lot, and burns, vagrants and winos are their only inhabitants.

In these ghettos, welfare mothers support their 12 kids with \$200 a month. This is where I want the attention. And after 200 years of this mess, pride is the only thing that black people have left.

Further, I feel that black people who disassociate themselves with the black race are taking the easy way out. For it is as much more difficult to be a complete and unique individual than it is to just "follow the crowd."

It's easy to follow the majority, because any worthless punk can kick a man when he's down, as in your case. But the real test comes when you hang in there and get him back on his feet. When you've changed your color and walk the streets for a couple of years, with your eyes open this time, then you can talk to me, but until then, be cool.

Clyde Stearns

### Freedom of Baa

This week we students are "flocking" by the thousands to buy our season football tickets for next fall. That's right, fellow students, we're "flocks of sheep" being herded over to the ticket office by our "shepherds and masters", the regents, to dutifully buy those tickets to the tune of a 45 per cent increase over last year. \$29.00?!

We are dealing with shrewd "masters" here. They figured that since it might be time for a price raise, they could get their staffs on a lot more cash at a 45 per cent increase, than a sane, rational 5 per cent increase. They knew that they had a good thing going here. Not only could they get 45 per cent more cash out of us sheep, but there wouldn't be any baaing either. Why, they even knew that the AS'HEEP'UN, the representative body of the flock (yuk! yuk!), wouldn't baa.

This may surprise the "shepherds", but here is one "BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP" that decided to exercise one of his privileges guaranteed him in the Bill of Rights - Freedom of Baa. I guess I'm baaing too little, too late, but if this happens again we'll get fleeced at \$42.05/hide, then \$60.97/hide, then . . . That leaves us sheep at a fork in the trail; on one time we can bleat our rights, on the other we can continue to have the wool pulled over our eyes and (what I shall call) "sheep manure" thrown at us.

Carter J. Kerk

### Taxing students

As we approach another Tax Day (April 15), there are a couple of bills pending in the House of Representatives which will be of interest to many students and faculty members of the University of Nebraska.

Some 54 million Americans are hit with an income tax penalty of up to 20 per cent because they are single, or because they are married with both partners working. The Committee of Single Taxpayers (COST) has been working for several years to eliminate this inequity. To accomplish this goal, Rep. Ed Koch has again introduced HR 850 in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Also pending in Ways and Means is HR 84, introduced by Rep. Herb Harris, which would make a beginning toward income tax equality for renters, similar to what has for so long been available to homeowners.

Anyone interested in more information about these bills is urged to send a long, self-addressed stamped envelope to me.

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## opinion

### ralph



### Mary McGrory

## Nerve gas production increases

Americans who were under the impression that the stuff had been banned were startled over the weekend by stories that the Army and Navy are "getting up to speed" on nerve gas production.

Didn't Richard Nixon, in 1969, tell us we were taking the pledge? Yes, that is correct, but he outlawed only biological weapons, not chemical weapons.

That might not make much difference to the recipients, but to the Pentagon it does, and the Army is busy

The reason for this renewed activity is, of course, the Russian threat. Supposedly, they have five times as much lethal dosage tucked away in their storage plants. According to some Soviet emigres, they would not hesitate to use them against Western Europe.

Some experts question this estimate, and content that U.S. intelligence reported as poison gas storage centers any building that did not seem to have any other use.

The discovery of large stores of anti-gas devices among Soviet equipment in Egypt further fed the Pentagon's fears. The Soviets have gas filters in their tanks, gas masks, which are no better than ours, and anti-gas suits. Their civil defense program, which is used by proponents of increased nuclear weapons, is also used by advocates of poison gas as evidence that the Soviets expect to be on both the giving and receiving ends of gas warfare.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States have signed a treaty guaranteeing that neither side would use it first.

In fielding the questions that have been lobbied in since the weekend stories, the Pentagon spokesmen are emphasizing the "defensive" and "retaliatory" nature of the new weapons. They refer questioners to the posture statement of Sen. George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to explain what is going on.

"The . . . objective," Brown said, "is to enhance the credibility of our retaliatory stockpile, to work toward reduced vulnerability, increased availability of the greater variety of munitions to the theater commanders and enhanced peacetime security."

To which, two Republican members of Congress, Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and Rep. Richard T. Schulz of Pennsylvania, have replied, "Oh, yeah?"

Weicker and Schulz held a press conference Monday to propose a three-year moratorium on production of chemical weapons and destruction of chemical-weapon stockpiles.

They noted that President Jimmy Carter, who has been talking so big about elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth, should look to saving the world from poison gas.

Increased production, Weicker and Schulz suggested, could increase the likelihood that terrorists, of which Washington recently had its first experience, might get their hands on some supplies and increase the horror of such episodes.

Weicker was unimpressed with claims of the "defensive" nature of the new Pentagon product and its use as a bargaining chip in arms control talks.

"Yes," he said dryly, "a bargaining like the \$6 billion ABM system, which didn't work."

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## washington winds

figuring out ways to improve the delivery system of a new kind of lethal gas.

The Navy is spending \$1.5 million on the "Big Eye" bomb which would spread the fumes over a square mile. The Army is perfecting a new kind of artillery shell which could give the widest possible distribution to its death-dealing "binary" shell.

These efforts really represent an effort to detoxify poison gas politically. It has never been especially popular, even with people who are being told that the Russians have enormous stockpiles and clear "superiority."

Poison gas got a bad name for itself in 1969 when, despite elaborate safety precautions, 6,000 sheep in Utah keeled over dead as a result of an ill wind that blew from the Dugway Proving Ground.

As a result of the clamour and an expensive lawsuit filed by outraged shepherders, there was even talk about disbanding the Army Chemical Corps, which didn't happen. Actually, according to the Pentagon, the thrust of that proposal was aimed at "personnel, not technology."

The cause of lethal agents were not helped, either, by disclosures before the Church Committee, that counter to President's Nixon's ban on biological warfare, the CIA had squirreled away its own little stockpile of shellfish toxin.

To avoid that kind of public indignation, the Army and the Navy have come up with a formula they think will make the public less nervous about nerve gas.

Binary shells are composed of gases that, taken singly are harmless but, fused, bring painful death. A drop on the skin can cause convulsions and spasms.

Presumably, citizens who have objected vehemently to the storage of lethal gases in their vicinity, or the transportation of them in uncertain carriers, would be more tolerant of substances which, if segregated, pose no threat.

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