

Shonka favors student rights and responsibility

by Jim Evinger
senior Staff Writer
Campaigning on a platform of student power, student rights and student responsibility is Dave Shonka, candidate for ASUN President.

Shonka heads an executive slate with running mate Paul Canarsky.

Shonka, a junior in Arts and Sciences, considers the main responsibility of the ASUN president as "giving direction to the student body" through leadership with the students' support.

As a leader it would be the duty of the president to follow the students as well, Shonka added.

Entails goals

"Ideally student government is going to work for the future," the former IDA vice president said. He explained this entails long range as well as immediate goals. "The role of ASUN for the present is to aid the student, defend him and help him," Shonka said. "In all cases we must work with administration wherever possible. If due to necessity we cannot work with that group, then ASUN must take the side of the student."

Shonka explained his proposals for obtaining the support of the students. He said he would select a student majoring in the areas of statistics and public opinion analysis to conduct polling devices as surveys.

"He would be able to realistically interpret the results," Shonka continued, saying ASUN could make use of people with backgrounds in public relations and advertising by having them project ASUN to the students and the students back to ASUN.

More speakers needed

He believes ASUN should continue supporting conferences and providing speakers. If possible, he would like to see more controversial speakers appear on campus, as Allen Ginsberg who spoke here two years ago.

Shonka discussed his platform, explaining his concepts of student power and rights and their accompanying responsibilities.

"Students are essentially living on their own. They are making their own decisions regarding their own activities. Most students realize the importance of their decisions and realize this requires responsibility on their parts," he said.

Students have right

"Students have the right and the duty to make decisions regarding their education, their welfare and their rights on campus," he continued.

"Because of this we say responsible students can exercise student power. Student power means students should have full control in their social non-academic affairs."

Shonka explained that student power involves students participating in the selection of decisions which affect their education.

Student knows best

"Ideally the format of University courses would be constructed by the instructor and the students. In most cases the student knows which method of instruction will enable him to learn best, be it discussion, lecture and so on," he said.

"Student power entails students working for these rights," he said, "as long as possible we must work through the proper channels to achieve these rights."

He explained that if negotiations break down, it would

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—Dave Shonka.

be proper for an active demonstration to take place. Shonka said he frowns upon marches and sit-ins and would rather see a specific act of disobedience in the area under protest.

The demonstration earlier this semester by Harper Hall over open house policy demonstrated that such acts can accomplish their purposes, he said.

'Direct contact' stressed

To improve the professed lack of communication between Senate and its constituents, Shonka advocates direct contact between the ASUN executives and the student body. He said that as president he would make the executives available at any time to the student body. He would instigate a bi-weekly panel of the executives in a format similar to Hyde Park.

"If this is not the answer, the executives would go to the living units directly," he said.

Canarsky: New Senate must provide relevance

Providing University students with a sense of relevance in the classroom, on campus and in Lincoln is the largest task facing the upcoming ASUN Senate, Paul Canarsky said Sunday.

Canarsky, a first vice-presidential candidate on a slate with presidential aspirant Dave Shonka, said the previous and current collegiate atmosphere has given student a meaningless preparation to a role in future society.

"ASUN has the obligation of making the environment on campus relevant to each student," the former committee chairman explained.

Mood should be changed

Canarsky said he and Shonka feel the ASUN's basic mood should be altered since too much time is spent dealing with issues that ASUN is unable to control.

He named resolutions discussed at last week's Senate meeting concerning discrimination in living units and taxing of graduate students as prime examples of action ASUN has taken solely to provide a better public image.

"Obviously what ASUN does will have no influence on the United States Senate concerning the issues of discrimination and taxation," he said.

Communications fail

In discussing the alleged communication problem of the current Senate, he said the apathy generated by the Senate resulted from its failure to communicate its accomplishments.

"There's no reason why ASUN executives and even the senators can't have bi-weekly confrontations with students in a Hyde Park type meeting," he said.

He added that senators from each college could also hold weekly conferences to discuss problems among their constituents and themselves.

He said he felt if the students would become more involved with campus issues, they would ultimately become more involved with

With that idea in mind, he proposed rotation of the Wednesday Senate meetings from the Nebraska Union to the dormitories to the East Campus to Greek houses, size permitting.

He goes along with the idea of distributing reports to living units.

Poorly handled bills

Commenting on the Bill of Rights and the recent Student Academic Freedom document, Shonka said the way the whole matter has been handled is totally inexcusable. "If passed and approved by the University community, we will work for as liberal interpretation and implementation as possible," he said.

"We believe there should be complete freedom in selecting living environments, meaning that we would work for implementation of the recommendations of the Housing Committee which was created last year," Shonka said, including housing under the

campus issues, they would ultimately become more aware of the events the University can offer.

Students are unaware

"Many students are discontent because they are not aware of what ASUN is doing, what foreign films are and what guest speaker is at a convocation," he said.

"The ASUN constitution doesn't forbid executive statements, so why shouldn't we make them and let the students know how we feel," he asked.

Switching to the area of education, the vice-presidential aspirant said the classroom is the basis for University students' apathy.

He said he and Shonka would go to the faculty for ideas and implementation of ideas.

English department is example

Citing the English department as an example of the current education dilemma, he said an English professor regardless of rank or seniority must follow lengthy prescribed channels if he desires to alter his course outline from the required plan.

After formulating his proposed changes, the instructor must receive approval from the English department, the College of Arts and Sciences and Administration, this process usually takes about one year, he said.

"We say a man with a Masters degree and a Ph.D. has the intelligence and experience to be able to experiment in the classroom atmosphere," he said.

Instructor could experiment

Canarsky said the instructor should be free to experiment with his desired change for one year and then be allowed to present an evaluation of the changes to the department.

"This is a meaningful contribution ASUN can make,"

area of student rights.

Courts need change

He cited the court system on campus as an area that needs to be restructured and clarified.

"Rights under the various courts are very vague," he said, adding this makes it impossible for students to take the system seriously.

He criticized the current structure for its lack of power and overlapping jurisdiction. He said that in practice there is no established system of appeals.

Shonka proposes the adoption of a court system similar to that of the University of Michigan.

Decisions ignored

He said often the Office of Student Affairs has ignored court decisions, making the courts virtually ineffective. A purpose of ASUN should be to respond to appeals of stu-

he asserted.

He said the first vice president's primary duty is to be sure that ASUN actions are clarified and articulated in their proper context.

"We ask each student at the University to ask what PSA (Party for Student Action) has done for you lately," he concluded.

One way traffic on 14th street

Students will now only have to worry about one-way traffic when crossing 14th Street. Northbound traffic will move one way on 14th from Q to J Streets and traffic going south will move one way on 13th from Q to K Streets.

The change was made on Sunday morning. Other changes are being planned for P and Q Streets, and 11th and 12th Streets as soon as construction work on intersections in the downtown area is completed.

dents desiring aid under trial, he added.

"AWS falls under the area of student rights," he continued. "The majority of women are in favor of AWS existing. But there is a significant minority who are dissatisfied with it."

"For these women I see no reason why they should have to be members. The decision whether or not they are going to be governed by these rules should be up to them and their parents," Shonka said, adding he does not think the administration rules are necessary to protect the women.

"Administration should exist apart from the faculty and student bodies," Shonka said. "It should serve only to serve the education of the students and to coordinate faculty and student relationships."

Encourages experimentation

"We seek to encourage experimentation with the classroom," Shonka said. He explained this would indirectly improve the communication between the student and the University, making him feel more a part of the University. Shonka said this would improve the overall learning environment.

He proposes that NFU and the pass-fail system be expanded into University curriculum and major fields of study, respectively.

He voices the opinion that NFU should be more spontaneous and less formalized. He suggested offering hours credit for students participating in the NFU courses.

Shonka would also like to see the feasibility of an honor code studied.

Student responsibility needed

"Ideally if students are responsible they should be trusted," he added. "This would place the responsibility where it belongs — on the students."

He would like to see the Student Health facilities expanded to include a doctor on call 24 hours a day and an enlarged full-time staff.

In the field of recreational facilities, Shonka called for immediate completion of existing proposals for expanding the facilities.

He advocates a gradual phaseout of the college representation makeup of Student Senate, with gradual inclusion of a district basis for Senate representatives.

Shonka supports affiliation with NSA, adding that he has sent for materials from NSA regarding honor codes.



Dave Shonka, ASUN presidential candidate.

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