

editorial opinion page

The election

Due to the magnitude of the decision, the following editorial represents the opinions of interested Daily Nebraskan staff members. While not representing the opinions of each individual involved, it is a consensus of staff opinion.

H. L. Mencken once said: that democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it—good and hard.

The nature of student democracy is an issue once again as ASUN elections will be held this Wednesday. A number of interesting and not-so-interesting questions have faced candidates debating in pursuit of student government office.

The most talked about issue is the fate of the proposed new ASUN constitution. A lot of thought has gone into efforts to replace the current document of UNL student government. The old constitution has proved unworkable in several ways. However, there are some objections to the new constitution.

Three portions of the new constitution have created the most controversy: The new document will reduce the size of the senate to 15 members; the ASUN president will be chosen by the members of the Senate; a section in the proposal established a secret-vote recall procedure whereby any ASUN appointee can be recalled by a plurality of 10 votes of the council.

The concept of the new senate itself choosing its chairperson is another enigma. Doubts raised about this method speak to the undesirability of a student government leader indirectly elected by the students.

The secret recall procedure would enable the student government council, with a vote of 10 members, to remove any appointee from a position—CSL, Faculty Senate committees, and committee chairmanships. Fears have been voiced that this is a great political tool which could be used to pressure groups to conform to opinions compatible to the members of the student government council.

In summary, the new constitution does represent a good deal of thinking and a wide variety of input. Despite some reservations that members of the Daily Nebraskan staff have about particulars of the proposed document, its adoption is urged. Students should vote in favor of the new constitution simply because it represents a marked improvement over the outmoded document with which ASUN has been operating since 1966.

For second vice president, the-nearly unanimous selection of the Nebraskan staff is Chris Harper. Harper's fine work in the Nebraska Free University and the Center for Educational Change mark him as an excellent candidate for UNL student government's number three position.

There appeared a strong division of opinion concerning who would make the best ASUN first vice president. The primary duty of the first vice president is to lead the Senate and the candidates were considered with that in mind.

Sam Brower, former IFC treasurer and active

member of the ASUN legislative liaison committee and Paul Ochsner, Cather Hall president and Residence Hall Association member are the two major candidates for this position. Although Brower has had more direct experience with the workings of ASUN, Ochsner has had more experience in student leadership positions. Either would make a good first vice president, though Ochsner holds a slight margin over Brower.

The thankless job of ASUN president is being sought by two serious candidates who surpass other candidates by quite a distance in qualifications for that office. Bruce Beecher, manager of the ASUN Record Store and Gift Shop and ASUN Senator, and Roy Baldwin, two-year ASUN Senator and chairman of the ASUN economic development committee are leading the field for the top ASUN spot.

Baldwin has more direct experience with the inner workings of UNL student government, having had a very successful term as chairman of the economic development committee.

Beecher has been in charge of the ASUN Record Store for one year. The Record Store is on its feet for good now. This speaks well for the abilities demonstrated by Beecher.

One of the major differences the staff found between Baldwin and Beecher was the nature of their abilities. It appears that Beecher is best at following through on a project or an idea and assuring its completion, whereas Baldwin is more often seen initiating new ideas and generating proposals for new programs.

In the final analysis, Beecher comes up ahead of Baldwin by a narrow margin.

Editorial opinion

The following editorial represents the opinion of Daily Nebraskan Editor-in-Chief Barry Pilger.

Campaigns for ASUN office this year have been less than blistering and controversial.

Bruce Beecher is the person who will most likely produce the best results in student government in the coming year as president. His maturity is a factor in his past success, and will be his greatest asset as president.

Sam Brower gets the nod for first vice president. Brower's abilities are not few and he would work well as presiding officer of the ASUN Senate.

For second vice president, Chris Harper is deemed most likely to succeed. His chief qualification, above and beyond his level headed approach to student government, is his success in educational reform.

The proposed constitution is deserving of a yes vote. It has drawbacks. However, it is extremely workable in its own right.

Above all, students are urged to vote. The University of Nebraska will be a better one if students finally decide that they want to make use of the only voice they have in its operation.

Barry Pilger

editorial

arthur hoppe innocent bystander

Once again the airlines completely mishandled the recent wave of bombings, hi-jackings and extortion plots. They never think positively.

I speak from experience. For I was one of the hardy little band of courageous adventurers in Washington last week who boarded TWA's Flight 63 during the height of the bomb scares.

"Go with God," urged a friend who'd come out to Dulles Airport to see me off, "instead."

I said I wasn't afraid.

"No reason to be," he said. "I just saw one of those police dogs they use to sniff out explosives coming off your airplane. Of course, its eyes were watering, it was wearing a muffler and it just couldn't seem to stop sneezing."

Well, I said, it was no worse than a bad cold.

"There goes your pilot," he said, pointing out a grizzled, wrinkled captain with snow-white hair.

I said I was glad he was obviously an experienced veteran.

"Yes," said my friend, nodding. "He's 27."

I said I had to go. He threw his arms upward and outward. "Up, up and away with TWA!" he cried cheerfully.

Other six passengers who couldn't wait to board the giant 747. We were outnumbered by the guards.

An attractive lady guard who was inspecting hand luggage looked up and asked sweetly in a coffee-tea-or-milk tone: "Are you carrying any dangerous weapons this evening, sir?"

Not this evening, I said jauntily. They ushered me between the twin poles of an electronic metal detector. That was reassuring until I remembered the last time one of those things approved me I was carrying a portable typewriter.

Once on the giant plane, I had my choice of at least 250 unused seats attended by a dozen or so unused stewardesses. "I wish I'd brought my bowling ball," said another passenger looking down the deserted aisles.

In no time at all, the plane was at 30,000 feet and I was at the bar. No waiting, no delay. I was on my second when the Captain came back to shake each of our

hands—personally. I wasn't sure whether he planned to give us a medal or a farewell. But he said he just wanted to reassure that "they'd ripped off everything but the wallpaper" in searching the aircraft and that police dogs had been aboard it all night.

So we had a relaxed dinner, watched the movie "Sacco & Vanzetti" (which was a better choice than "Airport") and actually landed 15 minutes ahead of schedule, not being heavily burdened down by passengers.

In fact, it was the best transcontinental trip I ever had—exciting, friendly, funny and uncrowded.

So the travel tip for today is always choose the airline that's the current target of the extortionists. Its guards are twice as careful and its planes are half as full. You'd think TWA would be out there advertising the fact.

Of course, there's no absolute guarantee you won't get bombed. But in my experience, that's the only way to fly.

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