

Joke parties lampoon ASUN



by Mary Voboril

The first promise was to abolish ASUN. Other campaign goals: draft beer in fraternities and a free (marijuana) joint "to anyone who wants to turn on."

It was spring, 1970, and members of the Youth International Party (Yippies) were staging a mock ASUN campaign. Some names on the Yippie ticket: Mescaline Mike, Frisco Freak, Old Milt, Mr. Natural and Captain Piss-Gum.

Shades of Willie Wonka, Shaman Jack and the Surrealist Light People's party (SLPP)? Yes. SLPP, the joke party of this year's campaign, has had at least two forerunners: the yippies of 1970 and the Rocket Grease and Freedom party, founded in 1971. The objective of all three has been to point to the supposed absurdity of ASUN.

The Yippies made every effort to appear ridiculous. An initial indication of this was the party's official campaign poster, which read, "Yippie! Unchallenged leader of swine breeding."

Diane Wanek, Yippie candidate for first vice president, claimed she was qualified for the office "because I'm beautiful—in every way." Wanek, then a freshman, said her party would bring about legalized dope and beer in Greek houses "by having ASUN secede from the state and then from the nation."

Another Yippie claim: "The opposition plays dirty pool. They ought to go into politics." That year students voted in a circus tent.

A second joke party, Rocket Grease and Freedom, emerged in 1971. Grease offered Ken "Rick" Apthorpe as its presidential candidate. Apthorpe was the leader of Rick and Rockets, a '50s rock and roll group.

Grease did not draw up a list of campaign promises. Instead it distributed a combination comic-coloring book.

According to Apthorpe, the 1971 ASUN candidates were "all idiots except me. And sometimes I'm not too sure about me."

He also criticized ASUN for spending \$500 on a photocopy machine for its office when there was "hardly a pencil sharpener to be found anywhere on campus."

During the campaign, Apthorpe said he tried to make the Grease party look absurd "because the current status of ASUN is absurd. When only a small portion of the student body votes in an election, it is ridiculous to think that ASUN power or support for anything has meaning."

The Yippies, Grease and SLPP were not the only groups to criticize ASUN. In 1971, ASUN Sen. Bruce Wimmer said the student senate will never be

attractive to students "until it stops being a toy where we go down and practice student government. It's really a farce."

In the April 20, 1970, issue of the *Daily Nebraskan*, columnist Bob Russell made a few sarcastic observations about the Yippies and ASUN.

It's a pity to have a powerless organization above you with no representation. We need someone to represent our powerlessness and to approve all those posters," he said.

Russell was referring to posters on UNL bulletin boards which must be stamped "ASUN Approved" before they can be displayed legally.

Aside from joke parties, a check on previous student government campaigns unearthed some interesting facts.

—In 1947, one presidential candidate's platform included "sending an outstanding senior girl to the Drake or Kansas relays, where she may have a chance to become queen of these events, thus enhancing the University's reputation as an outstanding school."

—In 1935, men could file at the Student Activities Office under party slates, but women had to run on independent tickets.

—Also in 1935, there was a ruling that sororities could not enter political alliances.

—In 1967, 43 per cent of the student body voted. That record still stands.

UP, GOYA platform comparison

by Steve Strasser

The platforms of the two parties seriously seeking office in Wednesday's ASUN election are not noted for their disagreements. The Get Off Your Apathy (GOYA) party and the Unity and Progress (UP) party seem basically to agree on the problems of student life and the action over the next year.

The only real head-on clash in the UP and GOYA platforms involves GOYA's major plank supporting a student lawyer funded by ASUN to advise student government and students themselves.

UP's platform dismisses that plan as unfeasible.

The student lawyer issue was the only one that sparked substantial disagreement during Thursday's debates. UP claimed the concept of group legal representation was unethical in Nebraska, while GOYA argued that group law was ethical unless the Nebraska Supreme Court specifically ruled otherwise.

Except on the lawyer issue the platforms are fairly compatible, differing on direction of attack more than on basic problems.

UP's platform covers more ground than the GOYA's.

Both platforms concentrate heavily on educational reform and internal ASUN reform. UP also has major sections on "ASUN as students' advocate" and a potpourri of stands labeled "ASUN and the quality of student life" on everything from the book exchange to human rights.

Both parties would add to campus bureaucracy. GOYA would set up a centralized advising office where students and faculty advisers could get information on careers and the names of resource persons in the community practicing various professions.

UP would institute a fines and fees appeals board, an office of student aid

and recourse to act as a central information center for students and to co-ordinate student assistance organizations such as Help Line and an ASUN job referral center.

In educational reform, both UP and GOYA support changes in the teacher evaluation system, UP urges adoption of a report which recommends systematic teacher evaluation with results made available to students.

GOYA, in its most detailed plank, proposes that faculty be evaluated on their advising ability as well as their teaching ability. It also calls for a standardized teacher evaluation system.

Both parties are for grading innovations such as academic bankruptcy and the "no D-no F" option.

The two parties platforms read as one when discussing internal ASUN reforms. Each urges increased emphasis on senate as opposed to executive ASUN power.

GOYA calls for increased powers for the Budget Committee in drawing up ASUN's budget.

UP proposes a follow-through program to ensure that senate legislation is carried out.

UP opposes the recently released Administration Student Fee Task Force, but in its platform takes no stand on Millard State Sen. James Dickinson's LB362, which would outlaw mandatory student fees used for student programming.

GOYA has opposed LB362, but, in its platform takes no stand on the fee task force report.

Both parties support increased rights for dormitory students specifically through relaxed visitation and alcohol consumption guidelines.

GOYA adds a plank on off-campus housing, supporting the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act now before the Legislature and offering the services of its proposed student lawyer to deal with tenant problems.

UP and GOYA also have planks relating to East Campus-City Campus relations. GOYA promises to include East Campus students on all policy-making boards staffed by ASUN appointments.

UP promises to work for half-hour bus service between the two campuses. The two parties each support continuation of the Associated Student Ko-op (ASK). GOYA plans to look into expanding the Ko-op statewide via the Nebraska Association of Students. UP promises to give precedent to student-owned businesses in expanding the service.



Independents: less publicity

by Dennis Onnen

As the ASUN elections approach, a student can go almost anywhere on campus and be greeted by a mass of campaign posters. But if one looks closely, some are posters of candidates who have decided to run independently.

Fifteen independent candidates are running this year; that is 19 per cent of all candidates. This compares to 17 per cent last year, and 37 per cent in 1971.

Mark Rasmussen is running independently because "parties are used for voter identification only. Everyone forgets who they ran with or why they ran after they're elected," Susan Dusenberry dislikes what she called parties mudslinging.

"The people in parties are tied down to their platforms," according to Gary Hall. He is a candidate for the Senate from the College of Agriculture. He said the party platforms didn't represent the East Campus. Another candidate, Clarke Stevens, also "didn't want to be dedicated to anyone."

Some of the independent candidates said they would have liked to become involved in a party. They didn't because they weren't asked or they didn't contact the party in time to become affiliated.

Many of the independents said they think there is a definite advantage in running with a party. They cited more exposure, more people working for their election, less cost and the tendency of many voters to vote straight party tickets.

Campaigning for independents consists mostly of posters and talking to people.

"I'm about due to be elected," Kirk Hemphill said. This is the third time he has run for the ASUN Senate. He said he is

disappointed with ASUN and hopes for educational reform in the future. He also would like to see more work done for Free University.

Candidates Steve Kay and Steve Sanford were roommates first semester. According to Sanford, they both decided to run after discussing the pros and cons. Sanford said he favors discontinuing student fees and adopting a "pay as you go" system. Kay said he hopes ASUN can "gain some more power."

Rasmussen said he hopes ASUN can adopt a more business-like approach. Hall wants more money for the College of Agriculture Advisory Board. Developing respect for ASUN on East Campus is another of Hall's objectives.

Another College of Agriculture candidate, Debbie Wurtele, hopes to create better cooperation between the two campuses. She also said she wants to "straighten out the bus system."

Wayne Gray said he hopes to show there is ASUN interest in the department of architecture. He also said he supports the formation of a separate College of Architecture.

The independent candidates include: Arts and Sciences: Kirk D. Hemphill, Bob O'Neil, Keith A. Scarborough, Clarke J. Stevens. Agriculture: Gary Hall, Debbie Wurtele. Business Administration: Jeanette Harder, Steve Kay, Mark Rasmussen. Engineering and Architecture: Wayne Gray, Steve Sanford, Gary Tashch. Graduate and Professional: Karl F. Cochrane. Home Economics: Susan Dusenberry, Dean W. Young.

Ag Party 'phenomenon' in politics

George Rhodes is a phenomenon in UNL student politics: an ASUN senator running for re-election.

And the agricultural economics junior is running for re-election in an equally unique way: at the head of a party which isn't even offering an executive slate.

Rhodes and seven East Campus friends formed what they call simply "the Ag Party." They figure if they win together they also will be closer together after the election, Rhodes said, and be able to work well together.

Rhodes, 20, from Bridgeport, is the only

member of the party running for senate. The others are seeking seats on the agriculture advisory board. One-third of the party's members are incumbents.

They got together more to help each other than to endorse the executive candidates of another party, Rhodes said.

But Rhodes said he did agree with the Unity and Progress (UP) plank urging half-hour bus service between the East and City Campuses.

He said he seeks re-election because the senate "needs some experience down there." Rhodes said his time on the budget committee would lend some expertise to next year's appropriations discussions.

Rhodes said he considers himself a conservative influence on the committee. He said his philosophy generally was to consider whether a particular appropriation served the entire University.



George Rhodes . . . the only Ag Party member running for election to the ASUN Senate.

What price glory?

by Ken Kirk

ASUN candidates are spending from \$1 to \$45 in campaigns this spring.

"It's not worth it, but every year people do it," according to Karen Richardson, first vice presidential candidate from the Unity and Progress (UP) party. Get Off Your Apathy (GOYA) first and second vice-presidential candidates Mark Hoeger and Todd McDaniel agreed.

All three said that people run for ASUN to improve the University by working through the Senate. McDaniel said, "There's not much glory involved." UP apparently is spending the most money with expenditures totaling around \$600, according to Ron Sindelar, UP business manager.

Sindelar said each UP senatorial candidate would contribute \$17.50 with executive candidates spending between \$40 and \$45 each.

Senate candidates have a \$35 campaign spending limit imposed by ASUN. Executive candidates can spend \$50. The ASUN president receives a salary equivalent to dormitory rates. First and second vice-presidents get two-thirds of the dormitory rate.

UP money went for posters, handouts,

badges and miscellaneous expenses.

"I wouldn't be willing to spend the money unless I thought there was a pretty good chance of winning," UP presidential candidate Bill Freudenburg said.

Freudenburg, who ran with the All-University party last year, had reservations about spending the money, but ASUN was important to him so he went ahead, he said.

GOYA senate candidates are spending about \$13 with executive candidates spending around \$20, according to Ann Henry, GOYA presidential candidate.

GOYA spent \$240 for posters, \$175 for GOYA badges and \$25 on miscellaneous supplies, Henry said. "The party offers posters and badges to their candidates as a service; no one is forced to buy them, McDaniel said.

Henry said she didn't mind spending the money because she felt ASUN was a worthwhile experience. She said she spent \$22 last spring when running for the senate with the Student Care party. Henry agreed with Freudenburg's attitude toward winning and said, "You don't run if you think you're going to lose."

The Surrealist Light People's party (SLPP) plans on "spending as much as we can," according to "Willie Wonka," SLPP first vice-presidential candidate. SLPP executive candidates have spent a total of \$25 already and their two senate candidates have spent nothing.

SLPP's major expense was \$12 worth of bananas. SLPP spent the other money on printing supplies.

"We gather together with other humans and they donate their services to help fight the androids, but we pay for the materials," "Willie Wonka" said.

Shaman Jack Mason, SLPP presidential candidate, said, "We have fulfilled all our purposes. We have gotten our money's worth. It's not just our fun and games. It's fun and games for thousands."

Advisory boards

by Robin Pils

UNL's college Advisory Boards do not share common goals, activities or aims.

While attempting to tackle problems within the individual colleges, the multi-purposed organizations serve functions ranging from reviewing curriculum to voicing reactions on pending bills in the Unicameral.

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ASUN first vice presidential candidates (from left) . . . Karen Richardson (UP), Mark Hoeger (GOYA) and Willie Wonka (SLPP).