

An election lacking luster

In the beginning, students called it the "Stupid Council." Then its name was changed, and detractors embraced a second misnomer: ANUS.

Wednesday the student "government" tradition at UNL will be prolonged as ASUN is involved in its most exciting and most important event of the year: spring elections.

More than 70 students have bored their way out of the woodwork and into candidacy for seats on the ASUN Senate and college advisory boards, or as ASUN executives. Only a handful previously have indicated interest in the senate or its adjuncts; the intentions of the others are suspect.

President Nixon once said the Democratic Party was one of too many visions and not enough vision. It would be nice to say the same about either of the major ASUN parties; unfortunately, both foresee little of anything new.

The campaign was short and lacking in issues as well as luster and, the platforms of both Active Communications Together Party (ACT) and United Student Effort Party (USE) are uninspired. Neither offers any major new program or dynamic, workable innovation in programs, services or student advocacy, which might have served to rekindle student interest and input into the senate. The major thrust of both platforms is the carrying over of old programs and ideas, with each platform containing a litany of "We support" and "We will continue."

The platforms, while not worthy of lengthy examination, are remarkably similar. In a political four-way presidential candidate race once claimed they were nearly identical "So what difference does it make who gets elected?" one might ask. For example, each proposes some sort of landlord-tenant resource center to aid students in finding suitable off campus housing. Both promise to dispatch senators and others to outstate Nebraska to present their case for the student regent bill to lobby for other concerns. Each pledges to work closer with the two Omaha campuses for a joint effort in dealing with the Board of Regents and the Legislature.

Of course, both conveniently neglect to mention how the outstate junkets would be financed or that a renters' resource center would be a boon to students but a liability to Lincoln's low income population. Better that the senate determine means of enticing students to stay in the residence halls.

The ACT people adroitly paralleled the senate to a corporation, with each student buying stock in it with student fees. It would

be more accurate, though less politically shrewd, to compare ASUN Senate to a branch of dictatorship, under which 20,000-plus "citizens" are forced to pay tribute in the form of student fees, which total \$103 a year for full-time students.

Todd McDaniel, at the helm of ACT and presumably of glory, reportedly has guaranteed that every item in the platform in the "Services to Students" section will come to pass if he and his politicians are elected. Such a blanket guarantee is foolish. McDaniel in effect is saying that if ACT sweeps into the non-power afforded by ASUN that, among other things, some Free University courses would carry academic credit, a super staff would be recruited to resuscitate the Associated Student Ko-op, and the Legal Aid to Student Office would be expanded and some of the restrictions—which ones are not listed—would be removed. Another portion of the guarantee is ostensibly intended to woo East Campus support: an ASUN office with regular hours would be set up, as well as a year round book exchange, a branch office for a student lawyer and a second landlord-tenant office.

While such goals indeed may be laudable, it is less than honest—especially in the light of uncertain student fees allocations and the election itself—to insist that they are guarantees.

The USE platform certainly is not without its own rhetoric. It talks about allowing UNL students to drop classes until the last day of the semester, removing D and F grades from the transcript and initiating a methods course for graduate students about to teach for the first time. Such oratory might sound attractive to the freshman or sophomore—the others are probably past caring—but when no indication is given about party efforts bringing about such programs. They should be taken with a grain of salt. There's a good chance such changes might come about without senate intervention.

One of the most promising planks in either platform is the USE statement of all-University government. USE says it commits itself to merging the lobbying efforts of the administration, students, faculty and staff when dealing with such issues as parking. Again, however, it's questionable how much legwork the USE people have done to determine the potentials of such a program.

Platforms generally are written by the executive candidates and a few others. It would be wise if voters did not vote along strict party lines, especially since both platforms are so much alike. It's unfortunate that parties in recent years have kept individual senator and advisory board candidates' qualifications under cover. Of course, voters then are more likely to vote the straight party ticket rather than for the candidate of whatever party who is likely to

do the best job. In future campaigns, a list of a candidate's qualifications on his or her poster would be in order.

In recent years, political campaigns on this campus have brought with them much promise. Then the election comes, and after a year the "much promise" is answered by precious little achievement. And so the next election arrives and candidates tell their yawning living unit audiences that "ASUN doesn't have to be as bad as it was this year." They're correct. Some years it gets worse.

Some of the problem is that the senate has lost its prestige. Many of the real leaders may be found on Union Board, Union Program Council, the Performing Arts Committee and even the Council of Student Life, a child of the senate. Members of such groups report they finish their tenure with a feeling of accomplishment, with their efforts visible. Not so with ASUN.

In any case, students still are lured into candidacy for ASUN. Both ACT and USE count in their numbers several candidates whose reputations as student leaders already are established. Other candidates are likely to work hard and not drift away after the election. Among them:

- Sharon Johnson, first vice president.
- David Howlett, second vice president.
- Tim Evensen, Pat Jacobberger, Thomas Kauf, Dennis Onner, Jana Hills, Scott Svoboda, William Norton, Arts and Sciences.
- Blaine Camp, Tom Camp, College of Business Administration.
- Carolyn Grice, Jim Macomber, Mark Hoeger, Teachers.
- Tony Ramirez, Architecture.
- Michael Jacobson, Agriculture.
- John Vihstadt, Brian Waid, graduate and professional.
- Wallace (Cary) Peterson, Nancy Stohs, Amy Stuffers, Jean Schulling, Jeanice Gruntorad, advisory boards.

The position of ASUN president is lucrative and potentially prestigious, especially if the student regent amendment is approved next November. The Daily Nebraskan does not feel either Ron Clingenpeel or Todd McDaniel would make a good president, one capable of representing the entire student body, one who would be a true leader and would inject much needed life into the senate. Their qualifications don't say much. Both Pat Olson (Celibacy, Lysterine and Anti-permissiveness) and Ron Sindelar (United for One) have had more experience in student affairs and services than Clingenpeel and at least as much as McDaniel. Sindelar probably promises the best deal for students—a \$1 refund to everyone who votes in the campaign, should he get elected.

Therein lies the joke: probably the best presidential candidates aren't really running.

Mary Voboril

Springtime runners not always streakers

What is done in Lincoln, Neb., on a spring evening, when you have nothing in particular to do? You cast off your clothes, find a crowd and prance through it, of course. Streaking has arrived, amid a media barrage rivaling the "Re-elect the President" follies of 1972.

It, of all things, has finally brought the masses to the streets. But these masses couldn't care less which way the ROTC building is. It has all the necessities of the old movements: chanting, police with night sticks and arrests. But lacking a cause, it has acquired the flavor of a Nebraska State Fair.

john michael o'shea distant thunder

Lincoln was ready. It was warm and dull, and after a winter of boozing, the time was ripe for streaking and it came.

It also is the election season and, though the time is far from ripe, they are coming anyway. I have never liked ASUN elections, though I've been involved in several. They take too much time, make enemies of friends, waste half the available talent and prove nothing.

This year's installment gives little indication of being different. This is not to say that there are not some excellent people running. But unfortunately, you, as voters, will not get a chance to hear from most of them.

Candidates for ASUN Senate consistently take the back seat to executive hopefuls in the elections. Since the advent of

the party, senate candidates tend to be seen in terms of extra money for the party coffers and a working staff for the executives. Even when parties are formed, quality is sacrificed for the "face" candidate who can assure votes.

The result of this is twofold. First, the voter has no basis to decide how he ought to cast his vote, other than party affiliation (this provides the independent candidate one more obstacle). Second, the senate tends to be made up of faces and bodies, but few minds.

It is in response to this that I feel moved to make a few endorsements of senatorial candidates.

The United Student Effort Party (USE) by far exhibits the strongest senate slate. The best candidates: Carolyn Grice, Jim Macomber, Mark Hoeger, Steve Eweans, Bill Norton and Scott Svoboda.

Among the independents, John Vihstadt, Tony Williams, and Dave Teter, a write-in candidate in the College of Arts and Sciences, exhibit the greatest potential.

From the Active Communications Together Party (ACT), Julie Satterfield, would make the best senator.

This is not to say these are the only good senate candidates. Rather, these are candidates I can personally endorse because of their past record as strong, capable people.

As for the executive candidates, I will make no endorsements. There is more than enough information distributed from all sides to enable comparison of the stands and qualifications of the various executive hopefuls.

In closing, let me apologize for luring you into this relatively uninteresting political column with what promised to be a witty, thought provoking analysis of the battalions of bare bodies. For now we'll leave the analysis to the sociologists. They're much more suited to it than I.