

Voters neglect duties

We live in a university community of over 20,000 persons, yet on Tuesday probably less than half of that community will vote.

Some will forget, some did not even bother to register and others, who have reached the peak of pseudo-intellectual stupidity, will proudly proclaim they are apolitical.

What do they mean by "apolitical"? Perhaps it is their personal message to the "system" that they are not fooled, that they will not be manipulated. Hogwash!

The issues and candidates they could back with their voter might not always win, but, except for parts of Texas and Illinois, their votes will be counted. No "message" ever really reaches the system unless someone is voted in or out.

Maybe the nonvoter is one of those who says "my vote doesn't matter." It will be a strange election day, indeed, if somewhere in the country an election is not decided by a single vote. A recount most probably will be called somewhere in Nebraska because the vote is so close.

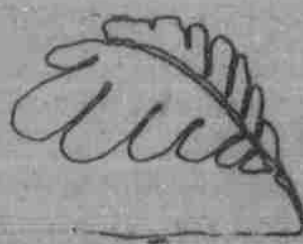
In 1960 a margin of less than one vote per precinct decided the outcome of a presidential election. If something or someone could motivate and unite the UNL community, its 20,000 votes could decide virtually any of our state elections.

The most likely reason for the nonvoter, both outside and within the university community, is apathy—apathy which leads people to neglect the research a responsible voter needs in order to make an informed decision on the candidates and issues. I do not know which is worse,—the apathetic nonvoter or the lazy, unformed voter.

Voter ignorance on some of Nebraska's political issues was responsible for a deeply depressing news release in last week's papers. A poll commissioned by the *Daily Nebraskan* found UNL students preferring J. James Exon, Ernie Chambers and Richard Marvel for governor, in that order. A vote for Chambers is a throw-away vote. He does not stand a chance of winning. Even if he did, have UNL students forgotten the students during the alcohol on campus debate of last spring.

It also was last spring that Exon vetoed the three major University appropriation bills. These were not spending licenses for extravagance, but rather, honest attempts by the Unicameral to increase the quality of our education. Only through the floor leadership and lobbying of Sen. Marvel did the Legislature override two of the vetoes, for the benefit of our university community. How good are the memories of UNL students and faculty? Who really does deserve their vote for governor?

mark b.
rasmussen
right turn



to the editor

Dear Editor,

In regard to the article "CSL Approves Ombudsman Requisite" (*Daily Nebraskan*, Oct. 25); several statements were made about the CSL meeting of Oct. 24 which were not strictly in accord with the facts.

CSL cannot vote "to require that the ombudsman at the University Health Center be a medical doctor who is not currently on the UHC staff." The Council can only recommend this type of stipulation. The recommendation is then sent to the UNL chancellor, who can approve, disapprove or disregard the recommendation.

CSL's action was not taken "to keep Dr. P.M. Bancroft, a retired doctor, as medical ombudsman." His position was not in question.

The purposes of this resolution were to recognize officially the existence of the Office of the Medical Ombudsman and to set up criteria for his selection.

The dropping of the two other recommendations dealing with the Medical Ombudsman's office will be communicated to only one group, the Student Council on Health. CSL does not wish them to drop the recommendations, but to have the Student Council on Health study them, as this group may wish to help put them into practice.

Susan Rehm
CSL student member

Yell about yell squad

Dear Editor,

Why doesn't the NU yell squad wake up and take a good long look at itself?

Our squad has to use gimmicks, like Gary Smith wearing that ridiculous fur coat instead of wearing the regular uniform. I didn't see any of the OSU cheerleaders with wacky outfits on, yet they (OSU) had control of their crowd.

I'm sure OSU's even male to female ratio helped them greatly, because they could do many energetic routines together.

Will the NU yell squad continue to be second- or even third-rate, or will it dispense with the silly gimmicks and increase the size of its male squad? The situation is that simple.

Sandy

Exon criticized; change in administration urged

Editor's note: John Vihstadt is a junior in the College of Law.

Cliched as it may sound, voters this Tuesday once again will determine this state's destiny for the next four years by electing their choice for governor.

They can signal their approval of an incumbent administration that won election in 1970 at least partially by campaigning against students and the University.

Or they can vote for a change.

Four years ago, when the campuses were fermenting with student activism, J.J. Exon, catching the political winds from the Right, ran against the University and higher education. His actions since show he hasn't changed.

After months of opportunistic silence, Exon at last was quoted in early October as saying he supported the student regent amendment, introduced and sponsored by State Sen. Richard Marvel, his Republican opponent. Certainly the Governor's endorsement greatly would enhance Amendment No. 1's chances for passage.

Yet, at a meeting with Hastings reporters, Exon labeled Amendment No. 1 a "Marvel campaign gimmick" which is costing the taxpayers money and "could have been done by the Board of Regents." (*Hastings Daily Tribune*, Oct. 19, 1974)

Well, Governor, both you and I know that leaving student participation in the affairs of the Board of Regents up to the Regents themselves is, of course, absurd, because just as they may admit students so may exclude them.

The amendment is the only way to give students—the direct consumers of education—a constitutional right to total and permanent representation.

In another effort to reduce what the Governor likes to call "wild spending" by the Legislature, Exon in April of this year vetoed LB1054 and 1055—education appropriation measures designed to increase University support above subsistence levels. Fortunately, the Unicameral, along with Sen. Marvel, managed to override Exon's veto—sparing students tuition increase, according to UNL Chancellor James Zumbege.

Items thus saved from Exon's axe include a \$700,000 UNL food and nutrition building

project, a \$6 million physical education and health facility at UNO, a \$300,000 cardiovascular research program at the NU Medical Center and an \$815,000 center at Cozad for training persons to work with mentally retarded children.

Moreover, in the face of solid opposition from such educational groups as the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska PTA and the Nebraska State School Boards Assoc., Exon vetoed LB772, a bill designed to give increased state support to hard-pressed public schools and to remedy an inequitable tax burden.

guest opinion

Marvel, on the other hand, was the vanguard of those leading the successful legislative override of the Governor's veto. The GOP candidate is the only gubernatorial candidate who supports ballot Measure No. 300 to retain LB772 and augmented state aid.

In contrast to Exon's constant downgrading of education, Marvel told an audience at the Harper-Schramm-Smith dormitory complex on Oct. 20 that education would be the "no. 1 priority of a new administration. After all, Marvel, longtime chairman of Nebraska Wesleyan's Political Science Dept., is an educator by profession.

Candor and fair play are not the watchwords of the Exon administration. That is demonstrated by events surrounding the examination of two controversial state contracts. The State Labor Dept.'s lease of an office building with the JADO Investment Corp. of Omaha has the earmarks of a costly boondoggle. The prime beneficiary of the deal happens to be JADO owner Michael Jackson, a top operator of Exon's 1970 campaign and a Democratic candidate on the Democratic for the Douglas County Board. The state agreed to pay more than \$2 million dollars over a 15-year period on the building which Jackson admitted cost less than

\$600,000 to build—resulting in a \$1,400,000 profit for Jackson.

On top of that, the state must pay for all utilities, janitorial service, groundskeepers, and every other operating expense except insurance. And as Sen. Ernest Chambers pointed out, the building is poorly located and already possesses numerous structural defects.

Another "sweetheart" deal is the \$1,635-a-month contract between Thomas Doyle's Department of Roads (which, according to a recent legislative study, is operating 40% inefficiently) and the Sun Ray Lighting Co. of Omaha for lights maintenance of the Roads Dept. complex. Interestingly enough, the president of Sun Ray is veteran Democrat and close Doyle chum Robert Fitzpatrick.

While Doyle piously asserts the contract is not based on friendship, there seems to be little else it could be based on, because, by common admission, the state would have paid far less had competitive bids been allowed.

Exon condemned the contract investigations as "a new low in political maneuvering," a rather lame yet quite fashionable disclaimer by politicians these days. Granted, the contracts are technically legal. At the same time, they appear to be unethical and financially unsound payoffs by an administration more interested in favoring political cronies at the taxpayer's expense.

Exon also has some explaining to do on the issue of taxes. In his campaign literature, the Governor proclaims he has "held the line on state tax rates," indeed, that they "have been lowered" during his tenure.

While it is true that the state income tax rate has been reduced from a high of 15% to the current 11% while Exon has occupied the mansion, this reduction was in spite of Exon—not because of him.

Last November Exon fought against the successful move by the Republican majority on the Board of Equalization to cut the rate to 11%—the rate that "is now takes credit for accomplishing! If I may borrow one of J.J.'s favorite phrases, such deception hardly amounts to "telling it like it is."

This a glimpse at the man who wants another term in the statehouse. And these are some of the reasons why it will be Exon who gets vetoed Nov. 5.