

d.n. soapbox

letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I take exception to the editorial by Rebecca Brite on the actions of UNL regents, Edward Schwartzkopf and Jim Say at the Regents meeting Dec. 13. They laid the issue of CAC (Campus Assistance Center) out in public view. Also, the 1,000 signatures on the petition to postpone the construction of CAC were collected in two days by four students who just asked students to sign the petition outside of classes. The petition drive was not publicized.

You can be certain that, as students at the University of Nebraska, we would be "unhappy" if our student fees were used in a project that most students don't understand and/or know about. How can this paper endorse such an "excellent project" when this project not only lacks student support, but is understood by few students on campus?

Robert Sosa

(Editor's note: Rebecca Brite was editor of the Daily Nebraskan last semester. In her Dec. 15 editorial, she reaffirmed her support for the CAC, a stand she had previously taken, after the project was tabled by the NU Board of Regents at its December meeting.)

rarefied air | iowa precincts to caucus; 'Much ado about nothing'?

By Dick Piersol

Iowans begin the slow tortuous process of picking national political convention delegates today with precinct caucuses. The results will not be known until the state political conventions in May, but precinct delegate counts are providing the kind of hungry media attention ordinarily reserved for the early primary elections in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Iowa Democrats will send six delegates from each of more than 5,000 precincts to county conventions. If a candidate can get 15 per cent support in a precinct, he is assured of at least one committed delegate. If the candidate gets more than 15 per cent, the delegates are proportionately increased.

The county conventions then use the same process to send delegates to one of six Congressional district conventions where 40 of the state's 47 delegates to the national convention will be chosen. Seven more delegates will be elected at the state convention May 29.

Much ado...

Considering there will be 3,016 delegates at the Democratic National Convention, it would seem the precinct caucuses are much ado about nothing.

The Republicans are using a somewhat different approach, with the only two candidates, Pres. Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, getting either all or none of the delegates from each caucus. The Republicans were not generating much excitement until Reagan sneaked into Iowa last Wednesday and opened a campaign office. He staged an airport rally Saturday in Des Moines. It must be like coming home for Reagan; he began his show biz career in Davenport as a sportscaster. There are stories floating about that he indirectly announced a football game that starred a Michigan center named Ford by reading newswire copy on the air.

The two Republicans are running about even, but Ford has the support of party leaders, including Gov. Robert Ray.

Real fireworks

The Democratic candidates campaigning actively, Birch Bayh, Jimmy Carter, Fred Harris, Henry Jackson,

Ethnic caption bad joke on us

Question: When is an ethnic joke funny?
Answer: Is an ethnic ever funny?

It certainly wasn't very funny when members of the Polish diplomatic mission visiting UNL to study agricultural methods were misidentified in the photo caption on page two of Friday's Daily Nebraskan.

The Daily Nebraskan has several apologies to make. First to the members of the delegation, who also were personally contacted after the mishap.

Second to our readers, who should expect more from the newspaper. To you our credibility has been dented but not ruined.

Third to the university, who, excepting the Daily Nebraskan example, gave the visitors a flawless and considerate welcome.

The caption that appeared in the paper was never meant to have been printed. It was written in jest by a staff member.

When the caption was then printed on Friday, the staff member responsible for the original wording was aghast. There was never any belief on his part that it would be printed. The Daily

Nebraskan is convinced the action was not malicious.

The editorial staff of the paper is also responsible because the offending caption bypassed the entire checking process that stories are subject to. In the haste of several late stories Thursday night, the mistake never was spotted.

Haste is no excuse, and appropriate action has been taken to prevent a similar mistake.

The matter of ethnic humor remains. There are several examples that predominate in society, from television to stand-up comics. Some ethnic groups have produced comedians that are the most merciless of comedic cultural self-observers.

Some of that comedy is genuinely funny, derived from a rich heritage of material. Some of it is slanted, stereotyped and ultimately dull.

The mistaken caption in Friday's paper was not obscene or gross. But it offended, nevertheless.

And explaining what about it was funny to the members of the visiting diplomatic mission was impossible. It was no laughing matter.

Vince Boucher

guest editorial

Harris critic 'misinformed;' plan backs free enterprise

By Kurt Hohenstein

In this misinformed ignorance, Del Gustafson, (D.N. Jan. 14), has once again perpetuated the economic myth on unemployment to the readers of this paper. Not only has he done that, but he has misquoted and slandered Sen. Fred Harris's economic program. I would like to take this opportunity to explain Fred's program and to correct the misinformation that Del has stated.

To compare Fred Harris's populism with Long's politics is a spurious correlation. Long's was a politics of necessity and force, while Harris's is a politics of compassion for the "great unwashed" and a rational dose of free enterprise for the corporate giants.

Del misses the major point of Fred's employment program when he claims that reconstructing the tax tables, so that the super rich pay their fair share, is Fred's only answer. True, Fred proposes an increase in the tax rates and a closing of the major loopholes for those super-monied interests. And why not?

When 29 corporation own 21 per cent of the cropland in America; when agribusiness controls 51 per cent of all fresh vegetables, 85 per cent of our citrus crop, 100 per cent of all sugarcane, 97 per cent of all broiling chickens and 40 per cent of all eggs; when the eight largest oil companies control 64 per cent of all proven oil reserves, 60 per cent of all natural gas and 45 per cent of all known uranium reserves; when the 200 largest businesses control

two-thirds of all manufacturing assets in the United States; and when a single family, the Rockefellers, own a controlling interest in 56 of the largest corporations in America, an obvious misappropriation exists.

Fred's policy rests not upon taxation to support federally financed job programs but rather upon the principle (with which Del would surely sympathize) of free enterprise.

A breakup of the conglomerates would allow small business which has been driven out of the marketplace by monopolistic practice, to reenter the field. And with their return would come a mass of new jobs in the private sector that would reduce substantially the unemployment rate. Fred also has proposed a program of a "job reservoir" of two million jobs which would be available to people who are laid off temporarily. Instead of subsidizing unemployment, he says, we would subsidize employment when it becomes necessary to do so. We should guarantee a job to every able-bodied person willing to work.

Fred's populist program, perhaps the only really sane program being offered by any candidate, rests on a single statement. "The issue is privilege," Fred says. Will we taxpayers continue to support an economy already overburdened by corporate corruption, manipulation and inefficiency (the Antitrust Division of the Justice Dept. estimates that corporate inefficiency costs the nation over 80 billion dollars annually), so the the super rich and the supermonopolies can continue to gouge at our pocket-books as they reap record profits?

I say no. I say the time has come (as Del mentions) in the Bicentennial year to start another revolution: An economic revolution to demand a measure of equality and fairness from corporations.

To claim that Fred Harris has been lying to the American people is the lowest kind of unprofessionalism. But I will not ask for an apology, because the populace is smarter than to believe that. They have not, unlike Del, been blinded by economic traditionalism. The "fishy" smell comes not from Fred Harris's populist program, but rather from the stench of exorbitant corporate profits in the light of able men and women going without work. It seems you are so myopic that you are attacking the man attempting to rid the mess, rather than the mess he is kicking around.

(Editor's note: Kurt Hohenstein is a senior from Dakota City majoring in English with a minor in political science. He is the president of Students for Fred Harris at UNL.)



My own version of Hot Licks this week concerns a record getting a lot of airplay on the west coast. The title is "He Played the Yo-Yo in Nashville," sung by Sean Morton Downey and Written by Harley Hatcher. A Los Angeles Times report said Downey, a member of the Delegate Selection Committee for the Democratic National Convention, thinks he will be chosen to sing the national anthem at the convention and wants to sing "Yo-Yo", if they let him. It's a sympathetic country-western ditty about this guy who is President of the United States, see...

Yeah, but will it sell in Terra Haute?