

# UNL voters can slice Nebraska's conservative air

If the presidential selection of candidates in the May 11 Nebraska primary seems somewhat removed from meaningful political realities, there is another part of the balloting that students should not overlook.

The primary also will be the selection process for deciding which two candidates will run for the NU Board of Regents in each district in the November general election.

Generally, the crop of candidates seems sort of tattered, but there are a few bright spots on the 1976 horizon. Rather than a wholesale endorsement of candidates, this editorial will point out some attributes which make various candidates more attractive to student voters.

In the third district, the progressive ideas of Merle Hanson would make him a valuable addition to the board. Regents' meetings seem to reflect a disturbing homogeneity of opinion, and Hansen would shake things up. The farmer from Newman Grove has been active in other state causes and says he just "wants to represent the plain people."

Student Charlie Krig is another possibility, but perhaps is inexperienced in politics and would not fare well in an election.

Incumbent Kermit Wagner is typical of the current board. He says he is worried about losing faculty members, and would propose merit raises to keep them. Yet the realist might ask why Regent Wagner has allowed the NU faculty situation to deteriorate to its current depleted state during his six years on the board.

Wagner also exhibits the typical "the students don't really know what's good for them" attitude—as evidenced by his comments on evaluation of students' performance.

Most desirable of the fourth district candidates seems to be Bill Hood, a Bellevue teacher. His recognition that academic conditions are as important to the success of a university as money for faculty members is an encouraging sign.

Current Regent Robert Prokop, another incumbent, states that most university issues "don't involve students per se." One can only hope that after election time, Dr. Prokop is not involved in regent matters per se. Prokop's past performance on the board has been lackluster and unmarked by any creative problem-solving for the university.

The two remaining candidates in the fourth district, Willard Waldo and James Winchell, are typical Nebraska conservatives. Waldo favors having one strong university. Winchell has said he is against alcohol and visitation liberalization on campus.

Graduate student Kenlon Johannes would be an adequate addition to the board, considering the fifth district candidates. He seems interested in finding out what is happening on campus and, as a former teacher, is committed to education.

Other fifth district candidates include Alton Kienker, who has said the university deserves fiscal support but should remember where that support comes from. He seems fairly perceptive and positive about NU.

Another candidate, Mrs. Fred Seaton, seems to have missed the boat entirely. Besides opposing the concept of a voting student regent, she says she can't understand why students get upset over little things. Like accreditation.

Fifth district incumbent Robert Koefoot does not see any issues in the campaign and says the other candidates are searching for them. Koefoot himself has consistently exhibited the attitude that regent meetings are an intrusion on his time. His arrogance was marked at the February meeting, when the last round of alcohol and visitation proposals were heard, as well as in a meeting in October with faculty members about tenure requirements which he left to make his way to the Big Red game.

One eighth district candidate, Darrel Berg, seems to favor student interests. His perception is accurate when he says a voting student regent would have more "voltage" than current nonvoting students on the board.

William Minier also seems a capable person, thoughtful and articulate. His logic is sound in trying to develop quality schools in both Omaha and Lincoln, yet perhaps emphasize different disciplines at each. His unqualified support of student rights, such as alcohol, is refreshing; student rights, he says, should be the same as everyone else's.

Candidate Jackson Graham has not been available for any press coverage.

Finally incumbent Robert Moylan also mouths the need for quality education. He is also current board chairman. Moylan has not been a supporter of student proposals and again has not served a term marked by any great distinction.

Every student should make an effort to vote on these candidates—some of the candidates would make excellent regents, but won't have a chance in the predominantly conservative Nebraska atmosphere without some intense student support in the primaries.

Vince Boucher

## d.n. soapbox



# innocent bystander Bombermania hits the land after Rumsfeld's test drive

By Arthur Hoppe

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld went for a test drive the other day in a new B-1 bomber. He said the demonstrator handled "exceedingly well."

That's good because Congress is trying to decide right now whether we should lay out \$92 billion to buy these new bombers. That comes to more than \$1,800 for each American family. Naturally, an expenditure that large has caused animated discussion at breakfast tables across the land:

"Donald, do you really think we need a new bomber right now?"

"Joyce, I just wish you could've heard the throaty roar of these engines, seen that gleaming, streamlined body, felt the way that baby cornered..."

"Well, I'm sure it would be nice to have a new bomber, dear. But \$1,800 is an awful lot of money. Valerie Jeanne will be starting college soon and the orthodontist says little Donald..."

"Gee, Joyce, you know all I want is the best for you and the children. But, believe me, this B-1 is the best. Wait till you see that new upholstery and those decorator colors."

"It's just that there are so many other things we need, dear. Couldn't we make do with our old B-52 bomber for another few years?"

"That pile of junk? It's 25-years-old, Joyce. It's falling

apart. It's got a funny rattle in the transmission. Do you know what a new transmission costs?"

"But wouldn't it be cheaper to put in a new transmission than to spend \$1,800..."

"You'd still have an old slowpoke of a bomber, Joyce. Do you realize that if the Russians attacked us at this very minute, our old B-52 rattletraps wouldn't get to Moscow until ten hours after the war was over? Why, we'd be the laughing stock of the whole world!"

"That sounds like designed obsolescence, Donald. But would a B-1 be any better?"

"Twice as good, Joyce. It would get there only five hours after the war was over. No one's got a better bomber than that. It's one the whole family could be proud of."

"Well..."

"Oh, come on, Joyce. It's only money. What American family wouldn't be delighted to lay out \$1,800 for a bargain like this? You only live once, I always say."

"Well, I suppose we could go without a vacation this year. Or any new clothes. And if we started using powdered milk instead of fresh and..."

"Gosh, Joyce, you're a peach!"

"But are you sure buying this new bomber makes sense from a practical standpoint, Donald?"

"Of course it makes sense, boy, I can hardly wait! V2-ROOOOMMM! V2-ROOOOMMM! V2-ROOOOMMM!"

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ralph by ron wheeler

