

Primary indecision marks half of students polled

By Larry Lutz

In a Daily Nebraskan poll, 25 of 50 UNL students said they preferred none of the presidential candidates on Nebraska's All Star Presidential Preference Primary ballots. However, 30 said they will vote in the May 11 election.

One of those who had not yet chosen a candidate was Steve Sulek, a junior business major from Lincoln. He said he has narrowed the choice to two or three Democratic candidates.

Students cited several reasons for their indecision. Many said they were unsure how candidates stood on certain issues and others said they didn't like any candidates well enough.

One student, Rich Morgan, a sophomore business major from Lincoln, said he was not particularly excited by any announced candidate.

Two candidates on Nebraska's ballot not actively seeking the presidential nomination are Sens. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. Each received two votes on the poll.

The leading Democratic candidate was former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, picked by five students, followed by Washington Sen. Henry Jackson with four tallies.

Students gave a variety of reasons for favoring Carter. They said he "was the front runner, nationally," that "it appeared he would win his party's nomination" and that "he had done a good job as Georgia's governor and probably would make a good president."

The leading Republican candidate, with four votes, was President Gerald Ford. His Republican opponent, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, got three votes.

Being the incumbent President seems to help Ford's campaign, according to respondents.

Students said he "seemed to be doing an adequate job as president," and that he "had brought stability to the country."

Continuity also was given as a reason for choosing Ford. "He hasn't caused any big changes and I think that's good for the country," one student said.

Students who indicated a presidential preference were asked why they chose that candidate, and of the 25 who did, 15 said they made their choices because of candidates' stands on issues. Six said name or personality influenced them, while four said their preference was based on party affiliation.

Among the issues cited as influencing candidate selection were foreign and domestic policy economics, marijuana laws and crime. Jackson's views on foreign policy was cited as his most popular stand, while Carter rated highest on domestic policy.

Students who cited party preference said they probably would vote for the same candidate as their parents.

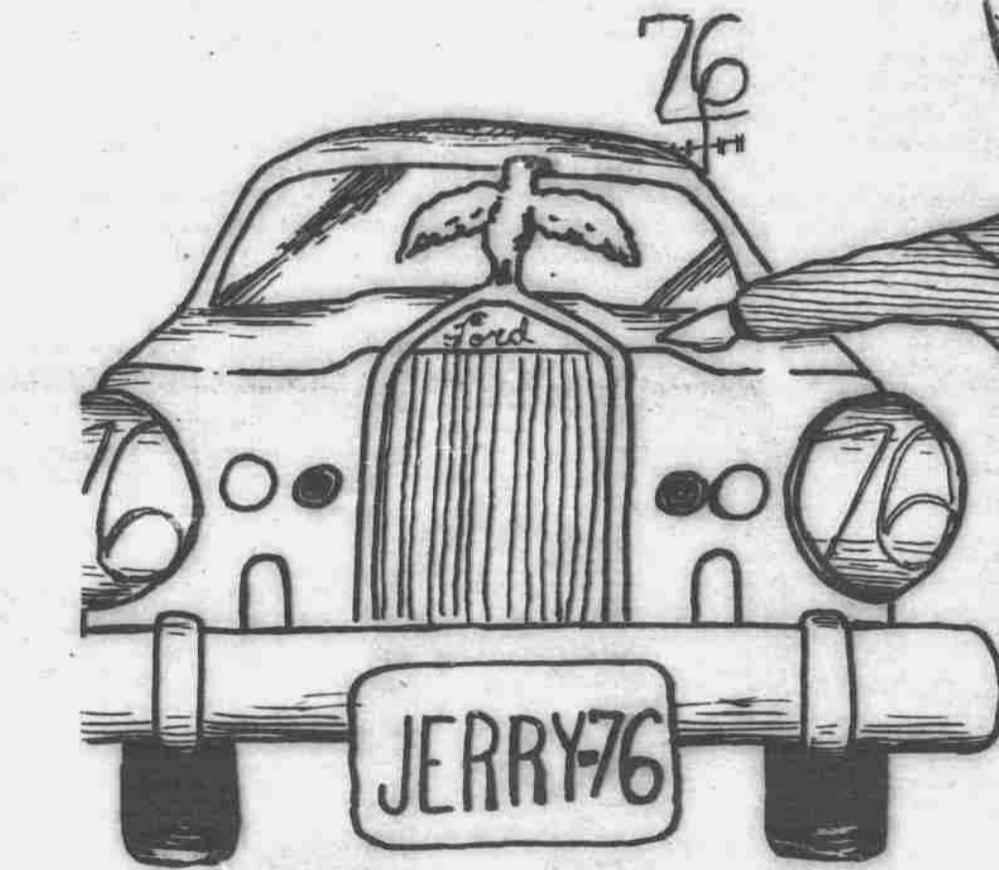
Generally, Ford was preferred because of his foreign policy, while Reagan was chosen on domestic matters.

Other Democratic candidates appearing on Nebraska's ballot are Idaho Sen. Frank Church, Oklahoma Sen. Fred

Harris, Arizona Rep. Morris Udall and Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Results of the poll showed (candidates/votes): Carter, 5; Ford, 4; Jackson, 4; Church, 3; Reagan, 3; Humphrey, 2; Kennedy, 2; Udall, 1; Wallace, 1; Harris, 0.

Reasons for preference; issues, 15; name and personality, 6; party, 4.



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There will be three films from Iran shown in the Nebraska Union main lounge today at noon. The films depict Iranian folk dancing, fashion and architecture.

The African Students Association will have an important meeting Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Union. Next year's officers will be elected and end of the year party plans will be made.

The Gay Action Group's Gay Coffeehouse dance is Sunday from 9 p.m. to midnight at the UMHE Commonplace, 333 N. 14th St.

Correction

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly reported Wednesday that Merle Hansen, third district candidate for the NU Board of Regents is 77-years-old. Hansen, of Newman Grove, is 56.