

Students should make own election decisions

Now is the time for all good students to come to the aid of their government. Today is ASUN election day and the candidates are waiting for the people's mandate.

This should be a time when student's look at the candidates and make their own decisions.

Obviously, some Greeks do not think their members can make their own decisions.

A small group of Greek fraternity members have supplied a list of all Greek candidates and their opinions of how to vote on the ASUN amendments.

Last year, a group of Greek fraternity and sorority members circulated a slate of candidates that they endorsed as good Greek representatives for ASUN. That slate was distributed secretly and Greek house presidents were instructed to encourage their members to vote for the students listed on the slate.

This year's list of Greek candidates was not developed to the proportion of last year's. Many Greek candidates were not listed on the sheet labeled "ASUN Greek Candidates 1977." Many Greek houses did not receive the list.

We hope the Greek house members will not take the word of this self-appointed group of Greek opinion leaders, telling them who to vote for and how to vote on the amendments. They, as other UNL students, should be able to make up their own minds.

However, because some candidates are mentioned on the list of Greek candidates should not mean they are condemned. There are good Greek candidates and there are good non-Greek candidates. The persons that should be condemned are those who are manipulating the Greek candidates and their Greek constituents.

We hope students will draw their own conclusions and vote on the basis of those conclusions.

ralph



Leadership, apathy campaign issues

By Don Wesely

The *Daily Nebraskan's* editorial endorsement of Eric Carstenson for ASUN president was a disservice to students. It was a shallow short-sighted, and garbled analysis of the candidates and issues involved in this year's ASUN campaign.

The first issue maligned by the editorial was the question of student apathy. An earlier editorial said, "The blame for . . . student apathy would fall directly on this year's ASUN." Yet you choose to endorse a candidate

guest opinion

who has perpetrated the unimaginative and frivolous inactivity of this year's ASUN Senate.

Carstenson, as an ASUN senator, has not exhibited strong leadership or offered bold proposals or programs to wake ASUN from its sloth-like slumber.

Additionally, if Carstenson actually possesses "strong leadership qualities" and "innate leadership ability" as he claims to, then why is he running alone for office? He didn't even find executive candidates to run with him, let alone candidates for the Senate. If Carstenson is such a "leader", where are his followers? The only solution Carstenson offered to deal with student apathy was to select an ASUN president with leadership ability, a quality he doesn't offer.

Understands apathy

Greg Johnson, on the other hand, has shown a much better understanding of the complexities of apathy. Your editorial states, "Johnson said in an earlier interview that there is no student apathy." You neglected to explain why he said that. Johnson defines apathy "as a lack of concern or a lack of interest." Johnson believes that students are concerned and interested in campus issues.

Steve Boerner

ASUN's New Frontier -- nobody

Suppose you had an election and nobody came. Or better yet, suppose you had an election and nobody won . . .

ASUN Election Central.

Voting was extremely heavy all over campus as students flocked to the polls. In some locations armed campus security guards were needed to restrain the eager voters from mobbing election officials. There was a short-

warp nine

age of computer cards and floors were littered ankle-deep with cardboard punch-outs.

Apprehension mounted as the votes were carefully tallied. Victory parties were already in progress in various locations across the city as, at last, the results were reported.

The results exceeded all expectations.

The highest percentage of ballots had been punched by voters for write-in candidates. However, the students somehow neglected to fill in the little blanks. Perhaps they didn't know how to spell. Maybe they couldn't write. Maybe it was all a communist plot. No one knows.

The official result: Nobody won.

Recount called

There were complaints of vote-rigging. All of the many different political party (singular) called for a recount. Finally the case went to the Student Court.

The court decided that, if anything, there is no way nothing at all wrong with nobody. So the results held. It was a landmark decision.

Nobody took office that year amidst a storm of criticism.

But the critical voices were soon stilled. Nobody

quickly turned ASUN into a legitimate, vocal organization that was intimately concerned with student problems. Nobody made changes in organization that made ASUN a more responsive governing body.

There was no need to worry about filling a quorum at every ASUN Senate meeting. Every week, right on time, nobody showed up in full force for an evening of debate and decision.

It was soon evident that nobody *really* cared about the students.

Gradually, nobody directed ASUN to assume a more potent position on campus. Nobody brought allocation of student fees under ASUN control, where it belonged, and nobody allocated those fees in a manner that was acceptable to the students that nobody was representing.

Effective government

They said it couldn't be done. Nobody made ASUN into an effective governing body.

Students never saw nobody in certain downtown bars. Except, that is, when nobody wanted to meet students and talk with them on their own level.

The NU Board of Regents was perhaps the group that was most pleasantly surprised by the new administration.

Nobody appeared as student regent at all of the meetings. When the regents doled out hundreds of thousands of student dollars, nobody was there. When they approved capital construction and awarded contracts, nobody heard it all. When they talked at length about complimentary football tickets, nobody was involved.

And in each and every one of these instances, nobody dared to speak his mind. Nobody, it was said, was truly a representative for all students.

When the year passed and the administration left office, nobody received excellent recommendations from the regents for entrance to law school.

However, as the new round of elections approached, none of the voters ever realized that nobody had never made any difference at all. And nobody ever would.

letters

Illogical ideas

Points raised in Monday's editorial were valid concerning problems of student apathy and problems with the ASUN in its current form — suspended animation.

However, the editorial staff's idea that a study group appointed by the administration would solve problems seems illogical.

The editorial implied support for the idea for an ASUN study group appointed by the vice chancellor for student affairs when it claimed support for Eric Carstenson, ASUN presidential candidate.

The editorial states a study group of this nature would be more "objective" than one appointed by ASUN. Where is that editorial cynicism? Isn't it quite possible an administration-appointed study group would find answers suitable to administration only, not necessarily students?

The student government, theoretically, is the voice of the students; students should have a voice in who is selected to restructure their government.

A study group to design a working student government should be "controlled" (if there is any control through appointment) by students, not administration. Since the only existing machinery for student appointment is ASUN, it is logical those appointments should be through ASUN, as presidential candidate Greg Johnson suggests.

Also the dispute about student fees should be clarified. Students never did have total control of student fees. Before Fees Allocation Board (FAB), ASUN was given an allotment to be distributed as it saw fit among student organizations. Administration decided distribution of the rest of the fees.

Johnson's idea for ASUN to control fees, the part now controlled by FAB, seems logical, more logical than giving the ASUN simple approval of how the fees are distributed by FAB.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Ron Gierhan, when he was acting vice chancellor for student affairs, compared student fees to a tax paid by all students for the privilege of participating in the university community. His analogy is faulty because with taxes the distribution is controlled by an elected body, the City Council, Nebraska Legislature or Congress, not an appointed group of people as FAB is.

Reform should come from within, with the approval of the current machinery of student government, not from without, from the chancellor's or vice chancellor's offices.

Susie Reitz

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