

Don Wesley

Voting for City Council candidates could be fun

"Elections, elections, oh when will I be spared from elections?" a friend of mine did not say the other day. "I vote for the President and vice-president, U.S. representatives and senators, state senators, governor and the other state-wide officers, mayor, county commissioners and other county offices, and on and on, only to hear you tell

me, allowing me to do this and keeping me from doing that, all for my own good.

But I don't need some slick talking, money mad, egocentric politician telling me what I can and can't do, emptying my pocketbook with taxes while lobbyists gladly empty their pocketbooks on him because he looks the other way as the lobbyists companies rape the earth, rob their customers, and ruin this country as they run it into the ground."

You've got a point, I replied.

"You're damn right I do," shouted my friend, "and that's why I'm not going to vote in your damn election Tuesday."

Don't you think you're exaggerating a bit, I asked? I mean about elections not being funny anymore? I can see some fun in this one, the City Council race that is.

One Council candidate, Paul Beezley, said he wasn't going to campaign for a seat on the council and wouldn't serve if elected. Now if you really meant what you said about not wanting politicians telling you what to do, this Beezley fellow may be just who you're looking for.

Another council candidate, T.R. Allan, who is 22,

campaigns in a three-piece suit with a gold watch chain which seems to be sending out a message. The suit is trying to say for its wearer, "Like me, I'm a businessman." But it's not easy to like a candidate when an article in the *Lincoln Journal* relates, "When asked during a recent interview what his number two priority was, Allan shuffled through typewritten notes before he was able to remember that he wanted more efficiency in the decision-making process.

"I forget these things if I'm not looking," he says. "I hope voters won't forget that a top priority in any candidate is that they at least know why they're running.

Another young Council candidate agrees that one's appearance can overcome a candidate's youth. Tom Schrader, who is 23, became a realtor at the ripe young age of 20. His secret? "When I got into real estate, my receding hairline and bald spot gave me credibility, and I tried to dress accordingly." Dressed in a dark brown, conservative suit, Schrader said the City Council should be a mixture of young and old." That account is taken from another *Lincoln Journal* article. Although I agree with Schrader that the City Council should be young as well as old, I don't like the idea of a Councilman who can't pull his hair out when agonizing over an important decision. Anything less would be a mockery of a sham of deliberate decision-making.

Looking at most other Council candidates, the situation only gets worse. One candidate, Ann S. Murphy, reportedly hasn't organized a campaign committee or solicited contributions. Another candidate, Frances Tapia, has had to resort to placing an ad in a newspaper to try to find a campaign manager and volunteers. Tapia in yet another *Lincoln Journal* article, exemplifies the lesser quality of some candidates when she was questioned about her opposition to city-county consolidation, she said, "Our current elected officials are pushing it." Who, specifically asked the *Journal*? She'd rather not say. Why? "I really wish I knew."

My friend yawned and didn't say, "Look, you know and I know that only 20,000 people are expected to vote in the primary Tuesday, that students could be an influential voting block in Lincoln, and the best three Council candidates are Dorothy Walker and incumbents John Robinson and Sue Bailey. You also know that many people feel just like I do about politics. The only problem is that my prophecy becomes self-fulfilling when people don't vote for those few candidates who really care about people. That's when these other candidates win and we stop laughing, only it's too late." I said, no it isn't. Not yet anyway.

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me that, "There is another election this Tuesday for three seats on the Lincoln city council. Am I going to vote?" Well why should I vote?"

To get on several mailing lists?, I weakly responded. "Oh sure, that's really great. To get on several mailing lists, ha, ha, he jokes. Well I'm not laughing. This election business isn't funny anymore. Here I am, voting for people who end up spending my money, making decisions for

ralph



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