

# Presidential candidates discuss issues

## Student involvement, regents major ASUN concern

**W**hat are the major issues of the 1978 campaign?

**Jim Bachman (POOR):** It is the NU Board of Regents and its refusal to acknowledge the legitimate interests of the student body. A solution to this is unattainable because the regents defy logic. The student body should recognize this and channel their efforts toward more rewarding activities such as free parties thrown from the proceeds of the "scalped" ASUN President's football tickets.

Another problem is ASUN. Some ASUN members have insisted on playing political games with an organization that has little, if any power, resulting in a polarization of issues away from the basic function of ASUN, representing the interests of the students.

**Charles Engh (Independent):** The most important issue of the election is not an issue, but a problem. It is the problem of student interest and their responsibility to enforce that interest. A student who does not vote in a student election does not have the right to complain or comment on issues that affect him as a student.

The regents take voter turnout at face value. To prove that you, as a student, are interested in your future, you must support your interest by taking part in the election. With a high turnout rate, the regents will begin to take notice.

Higher student fees and inflation are a fact of life. The increases, however, can be kept to a minimum. As for ASUN controlling Fund A, it should be our right as students to allocate that money designed for student use. ASUN should carry out this responsibility.

**Lyle George (ARF):** It is the lack of issues. The crux of this issue is twofold. First, there is an epidemic of ignorance and apathy among students. Second, the regents, by turning a deaf ear to ASUN, have prevented ASUN from becoming anything more than "A Real Farce." Until these factors change, there will be no real campaign issues.

**Ken Marienau (SOAR):** Direct student participation in all phases of decision-making is necessary for active student representation. Currently, students can only influence major university policies through indirect lobbying. The rejection of mandatory fee funding for speakers' programs, despite strong student support, is just one of many examples where input has been rejected. ASUN cannot even amend its constitution without regent approval.

Student services such as the ASUN Book Exchange, Student Legal Services, and Free University are viable programs that should be expanded. ASUN can respond to NU's weaknesses with its own programs.

**W**hat are your solutions to the problems with student fees?

**Bachman:** If ASUN is viewed as the student government at UNL, then it is ASUN's duty to control student fees. This control should extend to Fund A and B, but this is doubtful because the regents must approve. However, if the regents refuse to publish detailed financial statements concerning fees allocations a lawsuit should seriously be considered.

Student organizations should not receive funds. The fees should be used in the best way possible for "non-political" speakers, funding of supervisors to enable the Bob Devaney Sports Palace to be utilized by students and expanded programs offered by the Union Program Council.

The 1978 ASUN election is being covered by Daily Nebraskan reporters Brenda Moskovits, Todd Hegert and Margaret Stafford. The special election issue published March 9 was produced by these three reporters.



This is the second year the UNL Innocents Society and the Daily Nebraskan have joined together in questioning ASUN presidential candidates. The Innocents are a 13-member senior honor society. The questions were developed by the Innocents Society and Daily Nebraskan reporter Brenda Moskovits, who covers the ASUN Senate. No candidate participated in the selection of the questions. The Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to edit answers for clarity, to conform to style and space limitations.

**Engh:** The way to deal with the regents is to first prove to them the student body is able to back their claim of more right of power with impressive voter-turnout statistics. As it is now, why should the regents take us seriously when we don't even take our own government seriously?

**George:** In my book, student fees are in better shape this year than any other year that I have been here. The regents eliminated some areas of student fee abuse, but they may have thrown the "baby out with the water" when they cut speaker funds.

**George:** I would deal with the Board of Regents in a civil and lighthearted manner. I would try to help them see themselves the way the students see them.

**Marienau:** The regents make decisions that affect our educations and lifestyles. Therefore, as student regent, I would actively participate in policy formation responsibly and firmly. If student regents are empowered with voting rights, as SOAR proposes, students would have a powerful voice in UNL's policies and programs.

point, and to invite students to express their opinions, solutions, and interests.

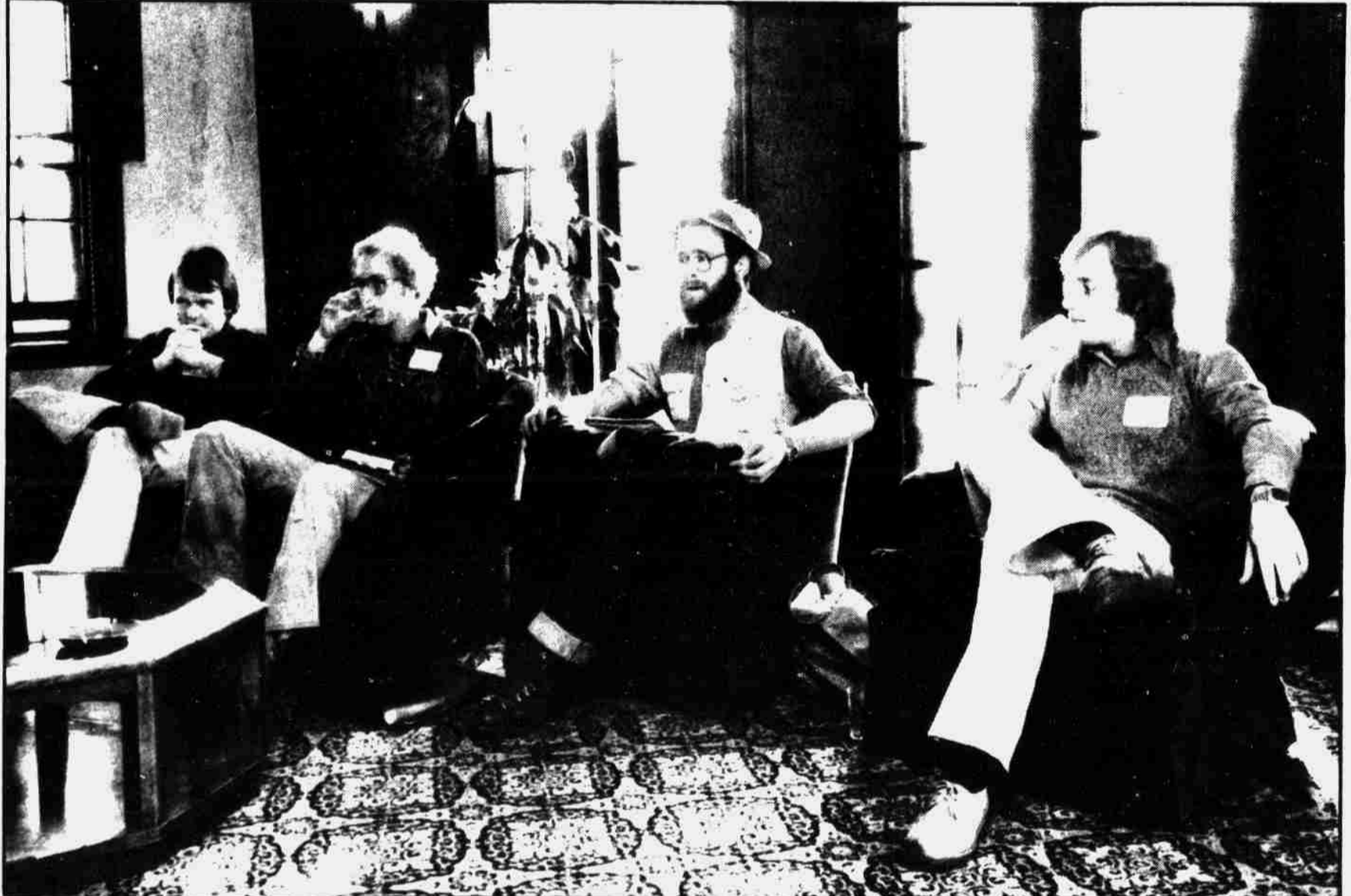
**George:** ASUN has to establish credibility in the minds of the students on campus.

**Marienau:** ASUN should be concerned with anything that affects students. Issues should be researched and investigated before initiating action. Groups that specialize in some aspect of programming, researching, or lobbying are important organizations. They should remain autonomous, yet it is important that ASUN work with them closely.

**W**hat are your priorities if elected?

**Bachman:** ASUN should be realistic. Alcohol on campus and voting student regents are distant dreams. The time spent on these endeavors should instead be used to achieve realistic goals like a new parking policy and open athletic facilities.

**Engh:** My first priority would be establishing increased funding for the student news-



ASUN Presidential candidates from left Jim Bachman, Ken Marienau, Lyle George and Charles Engh answer questions posed to them at the Student Alumni Board Candidate Fireside.

Ideally, it would be best if speakers could be funded by the people who attend. If that would not work I would have to grudgingly endorse mandatory fees.

I believe ASUN should have a very strong voice in how Fund A is allocated. Students currently have no recourse against FAB if they disagree with FAB.

**Marienau:** Fees can be reduced by a complete review of Fund B programs. The review would incorporate value judgments of services in addition to a quantitative analysis.

These are decisions that should be made by a board of elected student representatives. ASUN's proposal for a Fees Allocation Committee is a progressive step, but could be improved to ensure equity and continuity.

**H**ow would you deal with the NU Board of Regents?

**Bachman:** How can you deal with a group that is out of touch with reality and defies logical solutions?

**Engh:** It is said that a body that knows of all of its parts, can work better as a whole. I do not pretend to have all of the answers. I am only one part. But with increased student self-exposure, I feel confident that this new whole will be able to come up with some pretty amazing answers.

**W**hat interests or causes should ASUN support?

**Bachman:** The first priority is finding a wealthy alum that wants to buy 10 Nebraska football tickets on the 50-yard line. Other priorities are; opening up the Bob Devaney Sports Palace to all students and a new parking policy.

**Engh:** The rights of the students always should be first priority of ASUN. By this, I mean the right to be heard, the right of cooperative decision-making, and the right of representation. To carry out these ideals, it is in the best interest of ASUN to keep its proceedings simple and to the

paper, a working in cooperation with ASUN. This could mean fewer funds for other organizations, but would mean increased exposure for all organizations which is as important as the funding.

**George:** My priorities are to impress upon the student body the importance of taking an active interest in the campus and to help the regents remove their absentee landlord status in the students' minds-eye.

**Marienau:** The No. 1 priority of SOAR is to initiate action to give student regents a vote. Other concerns are tuition rate increases, parking fee increases, student fee Fund B programs, student fee allocation procedures and student services.

## Thirty attend fireside chat

Although the fireplace was empty, ASUN presidential candidates gathered near the hearth Thursday for the Alumni Association's annual debate.

About thirty students listened to prepared comments and questioned the four candidates: Jim Bachman (Poor One On-down the Hatch For the Regents), Charles Engh (Independent), Lyle George (A Real Farce) and Ken Marienau (Students Organized for Active Representation).

Discussion centered on student apathy, voting student regents, mandatory fee funding for speakers, student athletic facilities and ASUN services.

Bachman stressed dealing with "realistic goals" because "the amazing Board of Regents" disregards student opinion.

Engh centered his comments on increasing funding to the Daily Nebraskan to allow the paper to serve as a "focal point" of student opinion.

George encouraged students to support "pseudo issues", such as the Panama Canal issue, because UNL students do not concern themselves with any real issues.

Marienau said that student government suffers from a "significant lack of power" that cannot be remedied until measures such as instituting a voting student regent are taken.