

editorial

May the new ASUN executives keep soaring

It seems one party soared into the 1978 ASUN elections and landed a sweep of executive and senate seats.

At 2:30 a.m., Students Organized for Active Representation seemed to be far ahead of the pack in making the final approach to ASUN victory.

The ideals of the SOAR party are admirable. We all want more representation and a strong, direct voice in what goes on at our university. And, we are sure SOAR will make an excellent attempt at

achieving its goals.

Admittedly, some of presidential candidate Ken Marienau's party ideals are lofty; but we, as students, should hold them dear.

Among other things, SOAR campaigned on:

-getting a student mandate on the fee referendum.

-demanding a study of the nebulous Fund B (95 percent of the student fees).

-opposing tuition and parking sticker increases "without increased student benefit."

We can only hope that these campaign promises will be carried to fulfillment. Perhaps with strong leadership from Marienau and a fresh senate something can and will get done to benefit the students.

For too long we have been without a strong voice urging and pleading that the students be heard. We are not saying past administrations have been silent—rather, the pleadings of the past have fallen on deaf ears.

Representation is a unique part

of democracy. If the powers that be listen and are open to this new administration and try working with and for the new senate, we are sure only positive can come from this new government.

That day might never come, then they can say they tried. Unfortunately, that is what many administrations have conceded to saying.

We can only wish Marienau and the other winners in this ASUN election the best of luck, and support where it can be given.

Democratic candidates agree on ag, split on other issues

The three Democratic candidates for Congress in the 1st District agree that the most important issue in the upcoming election is agriculture. They also agree that their major differences are matters of personality and experience.

Hess Dyas, Bruce Hamilton and Allen O'Donnell were interviewed last week by the Daily Nebraskan in the first of a series of interviews with candidates for national and state offices.

Dyas, who ran for this congressional seat in 1974 and the Democratic Senate nomination in 1976, stressed his support and name recognition from the two previous races.

"Both of them are starting where I started in '74," Dyas said. "When I was State Democratic Chairman, I was disturbed after we would have a good person lose and fade from sight; two years later we would have to start over again.

"That is what I'm preventing," Dyas said.

Hamilton, a Lancaster County Commissioner, emphasizes the fact that he is the only candidate who has held an elected office.

I. kent wolgamott

"Bruce Hamilton is the only candidate who has ever won an election, served in public office and who has a public record," he said.

"I am in my fourth year as a County Commissioner, which gives me a broad range of experience in making decisions, unpopular sometimes, and setting priorities," Hamilton said.

"Hess and Allen have been active in the party. But that is not a qualification equal to serving in office," he said.

O'Donnell, former Nebraska Democratic National Committeeman, stresses his experience, which he says makes him more moderate.

"They are far more liberal than I am," O'Donnell said of his party opponents. "I am older than they are, far more traveled and the only candidate with military service.

"It is a matter of personality which makes me more moderate," O'Donnell said. The issue on which the three candidates differ the most is abortion.

O'Donnell said he would support a constitutional amendment to prohibit abortion, as long as the mother could have an abortion if her life was in danger.

Dyas personally is opposed to abortion and "not at all satisfied with the status quo." He favors providing better education and counseling programs and opposes a constitutional amendment.

"We don't deal well with personal moral problems by passing a law," Dyas said.

Hamilton said he believes the U.S. Supreme Court was right in its abortion ruling and that it is best to leave abortion to individual choices.



Allen O'Donnell

He said he favors sex education, planned parenthood and counseling as alternatives to abortion.

"I am also for Medicaid funding for abortion," Hamilton said. "To say abortion is OK if you can afford it and is not if you can't, does not make any sense to me."

Decriminalization or legalization of marijuana also draws major differences between the three candidates.

O'Donnell said he opposes marijuana decriminalization because medical opinion is divided on marijuana's effects on humans.

"However, I expect marijuana to become decriminalized in most places in the near future," O'Donnell said.

Dyas said he could not support marijuana legalization, but he was concerned with criminal laws on the drug.

"We should reassess the criminal laws on marijuana," he said. "They should be misdemeanors not felonies. Lives are being unnecessarily ruined because of overreaction with the law."

Hamilton favors marijuana legalization. He said marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol or cigarettes.

"It won't be many more years before marijuana is legalized, because anything that benefits big government (through taxation), big business (through sales), and big labor (through jobs) will happen."

Although the three candidates agree agriculture is the major issue in the 1st District, they differ in their approach to the subject.



Hess Dyas

"I am offering a pragmatic approach," O'Donnell said. "The farm strike proves dramatically the lack of political strength the family farmer has.

"Rather than debating the farm program, we should talk about ways of strengthening the farmer politically," O'Donnell said.

He is proposing a National Agricultural Council to be composed of all farm groups in the United States.

This coalition would advance and support farm programs, O'Donnell said, and would give the farmer an interest group equal to the Chamber of Commerce for business and the AFL-CIO for labor, he said.

Hamilton said he wants to be a spokesman in Washington for the farmer. He said that he has been meeting with farmers about their problems and would continue these meetings if elected.

"The key is working within the Congress," Hamilton said. "The mistake we have made in the Midwest is sending people who are not willing or able to work with urban congressmen."

"I am concerned about their problems as much as ours and can develop the necessary interrelationship to be effective," he said.

Dyas stresses the need for congressional mandates to the administration to make it act within the current farm program.

"If the national administration is not going to do anything, then it is really the Congress that is going to have to take the



Photos courtesy of candidates
Bruce Hamilton

initiative," Dyas said.

"This makes the congressional seat even more important because he is going to have to be doing something to aid the farmer."

Dyas said that government supports should be set at least at 80 percent of parity.

All three candidates suggested that increasing agricultural exports would help offset the United States' negative trade balance and would aid in shoring up the dollar on international markets.

The candidates differ on natural gas deregulation. Dyas said he favors deregulation as a means of stimulating domestic production of natural gas. He also favors a windfall profits tax on natural gas if it is deregulated.

O'Donnell and Hamilton said they support continued government controls on natural gas.

The three Democrats view President Carter's first year favorably. They said they believe the President should be getting more credit for his actions in addressing difficult issues confronting the nation. However, Dyas criticized the administration for its agricultural policy.

"I am very disappointed with what has not been done for agriculture," Dyas said. "Even with a farmer in the White House and a farmer as the Secretary of Agriculture, they haven't even come through with good public relations. They have looked arrogant and unresponsive."

All three candidates said they favor ratification of the Panama Canal treaties.

