

editorial

Student officer requirements deny election freedom

You'd think the regents were trying to define guidelines for a candidate for BMOC or pep club.

But sadly enough, the requirements set by the NU Board of Regents two weeks ago apply to student government candidates and are yet another example of the regents exerting parental authority on what they perceive to be a group of college-aged children.

Effective July 1, students wishing to serve in any student government office must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and not be on academic or disciplinary probation. For executive offices, candidates also must be enrolled in at least six class credit hours on their respective campus, have completed 24 credit hours within two years and win by a majority before being allowed to serve.

We might as well select student government officers through a

beauty pageant if we have to follow these guidelines.

Supposedly, UNL, University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center student governments are exactly that—student governments. This means by the student, for the student and of the student. So isn't it a little curious that the regents are trying to tell us who is and who is not eligible to run for student government? Doesn't this limit the free choice voters should have?

The basic gripe is not that the new requirements are so absurd (that is obvious enough), but that they even exist.

Another complaint is that the eligibility requirements are totally unnecessary. Campus student governments are capable enough to set requirements for potential officers.

As for the argument that regent requirements will eliminate some of

the "mistakes" made in past student government administrations, we say let the voters be the ones to decide which mistakes should be avoided.

Even a casual examination of these new requirements shows the stifling limitations they put on possible government candidates. Granted, past history has proven that most student government officials would meet these new requirements anyway, but what about the students who are not in these categories?

Are the regents trying to tell us that no freshman can run for executive office? If potential candidates must have completed 24 credit hours before running, that quickly and easily eliminates all freshmen. Again, it may be argued that few (if any) freshmen would run for executive office, but the fact that they haven't in the past is no reason to create a rule that will prevent it in the future.

Grade point average, while admittedly a reflection of a college student's abilities, does not necessarily reflect that student's leadership abilities. Equating grades with ability to represent students is absurd.

The complaints could go on and on, and probably will among concerned students—even if they have less than a 2.0 or have only completed 17 credit hours.

Eligibility requirements for the people who govern our student government—the regents—are short and sweet. To run for regent, all that is necessary is to be a registered voter in that regent district.

It is too bad we cannot have the same kind of simplicity that applies to regent requirements apply to student officers.

But then, life isn't supposed to be simple, is it?

Sex Pistols cease fire; punkers lose spark

An era has ended. Our cherished Western cultural heritage will never again be quite the same. Punk rock is dead.

Despite the pleas of the millions of fans whose hearts and minds they had captured with their music, the Sex Pistols have broken up and there appears no chance the history-making group will ever be brought together again.

"It ain't like we had no fight or nothing," the aggregation's leader, Johnny Rotten, was quoted as telling intimates. "It was just time we went on to other things."

arthur hoppe

It was Rotten who first captivated the imagination of the musical world with his uncanny ability to throw up during the eighth bar of the Sex Pistols' sentimental favorite, "I'd Puke Out My Guts for You."

As for the beloved Sid Vicious, not a day passes without letters and telegrams pouring in to ask, "Where is he now?" Actually, Vicious, still as lovely as ever, was last reported selling sickroom supplies in the English coal mining community of Slag-on-Tyne;

Many might think he would be content to rest on his laurels. (Who will ever forget the night of February 3 at the Palladium when, as thousands cheered, he set a record that will long stand by spitting 18 feet, six and one-

quarter inches?) But, no, even now Vicious is gamely planning a comeback.

Friends say he practices his music at least 30 minutes a day by striking the E chord (that was his forte when he owned an electric guitar) on a bed pan with a tongue depressor. He also is seeking to play Beethoven in the Slag-on-Tyne Little Theater's production of "An Ear for Music," an original biography of the great composer.

It was Vicious who revealed to the waiting public the first hint of the major factor that led to the sad demise of punk rock.

"It was a case of too much too soon," he was quoted as telling a reporter for The Slag Rock Digest. "Look at me, I'm just 22 and I'm all dried up. The truth is we didn't run out of music, mate. We run out of spit."

Colleagues claim Vicious, Rotten and the other Sex Pistols are on a secret regimen which includes a dozen Kosher dills and a jar of cocktail onions a day, in hopes of reactivating their atrophied saliva glands. But doctors hold out little hope the abused organs will ever function again.

So around the world, music lovers sadly are removing the safety pins from their ears and the chicken bones from their noses and placing them in their memory books.

From London, critic Joel Selvin reports that punk rock will be replaced with something called "power pop." Perhaps. But after years of experience in listening to popular music, I can confidently predict we soon will be nostalgically looking back at the punk rock era as the good old days.

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Exon shuffles political cards to stack deck in his favor

Nebraska's foremost political craftsman last week demonstrated his expertise in making personal gain in any situation.

I. kent wolgamott

Amid cries of political manipulation, Gov. J.J. Exon vetoed the increase in the Omaha city sales tax that was passed by the Nebraska Legislature. In so doing, he placed this political hot potato directly in the unwilling hands of its originators.

By demanding Omahans be allowed to vote on any sales tax increase before he would sign such a bill, Exon almost guaranteed the demise of the tax.

The Omaha City Council and the Legislature refused to make a citywide vote on the tax mandatory, so Exon, as promised, vetoed the bill.

The Exon veto places him in the politically enviable position of being against taxation without citizen agreement.

The veto also puts full responsibility for any increase in Omaha's sales tax squarely on the Legislature, shielding Exon from

possible political damage from increased taxation in an election year.

Electoral politics in its most disgusting form also reared its ugly head on the floor of the Legislature recently.

Sen. Howard Lamb of Anselmo introduced legislation to prohibit university professors from campaigning while on sick leave from their jobs, a seemingly harmless effort.

However, it seems to be an effort directed at limiting opposition for one of Lamb's colleagues who is being opposed by a university professor.

The merits of the issue may deserve to be debated, but the timing of the Lamb legislation should indicate its intent.

To use an elected political office and its powers to reduce political opposition or limit their effectiveness is done every day in government at all levels, but seldom is it as blatant as Lamb's efforts.

A classic example of the use of political power and position to injure political opponents currently is taking place in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Democrats have used their numerical superiority to push through committee, on party line votes, a bill which would severely limit the amount which a national political party can contribute to a congressional campaign.

This effort obviously is directed at limiting the effectiveness of the large coffers built up by the Republican party.

Although House GOP members are fighting against this bill, it will fall to Howard Baker, senate minority leader, to unify Republican efforts in the Senate and block the passage of this legislation.

Again this is an issue which deserves to be debated and resolved. Such an effort should not come in an election year after party fund raising efforts are completed.

