

Resources could ease fuel energy transition—Lovins

By Jeff Unger

Nebraska's wealth of natural resources can ease the transition from petroleum to other forms of energy, according to Amory Lovins, British representative of the Friends of the Earth conservation foundation.

Lovins, an energy consultant and author, said Americans can choose between two energy paths, hard or soft, but the choice must come before it is too late.

Addressing a crowd in the Nebraska Union Friday, Lovins said many Americans are following the "hard path," which he called the "policy of strength to exhaustion."

The hard path to exhaustion is based on the idea that we will need more energy to meet increasing demand. Lovins said this path will lead to the eventual depletion of fossil fuels and nuclear materials.

He said that with energy use increasing at its current rate, and with alternative energy methods being frowned at by many, depletion may come without being prepared for the consequences.

Lovins, born in the United States, said soft energy paths must be taken to slow depletion and replace the use of exhaustible resources. Such soft resources include solar energy, wind, water and grain alcohol.

Less jarring

Beginning now or in the very near future, use of these resources can slow the inevitable depletion of fossil fuels and make the transition from hard to soft energy methods less jarring, Lovins explained.

Nebraska is rich in energy because there is plenty of sun for solar needs, wind for electricity needs and crop residues for grain alcohol which could be used to produce gasohol, she said.

Although the switch from hard to soft

energy may take at least 50 years, Lovins said a bridge between the two is necessary because if it is delayed, we will literally burn up the fossil fuels we have.

Lovins, the author of "Soft Energy Paths," said hard energy technologies are becoming increasingly centralized and can cause what he called the "Con Ed Syndrome."

Foul-ups

Alluding to the massive blackout in New York City last year, where Consolidated Edison is the main power supplier, Lovins said centralization of energy systems can lead to foul-ups affecting huge numbers of people.

He said he advocates smaller and more diverse systems because they would be less likely to have cost overruns and could be constructed in "days, weeks or months," instead of years.

Lovins also said failure of small systems would affect less people and may be better

designed because technologists may spend more time developing them.

By replacing the use of oil and gas with coal, then slowly phasing out coal use with sun, wind and water, Lovins said we can change our energy use without changing our lifestyles.

"Although soft technologies are not cheap, they are cheaper than not having them."

Lovins said the problem with the government is that it veils the benefits of soft technologies in monetary figures.

They compare costs of soft energy with that of cheap gas and oil, not with the extreme expense of synthetic oils and electricity.

He said by developing soft technologies, decentralizing energy control, and learning to use energy wisely, we could reach the point where how much energy we use will not show our progress, but our failure.

Area candidates discuss issues

By L. Kent Wolgamott

The six candidates for three Lincoln legislative seats to be decided next month discussed various state issues Sunday as part of the League of Women Voter's Great Debate.

Tom Novak, candidate for the 26th Legislative District in northeast Lincoln, said he would try to "level off everything" in the Legislature to help deal with inflation.

He said he would try to aid young families and the elderly in dealing with inflation through tax relief.

Novak's opponent, Don Wesley said the issue which concerns most people is personal finances and said he would work in the Legislature on issues such as the cost of utilities, health care and taxes.

He also said he would maintain close contact with his constituents by attending neighborhood meetings, business association meetings and hosting coffees.

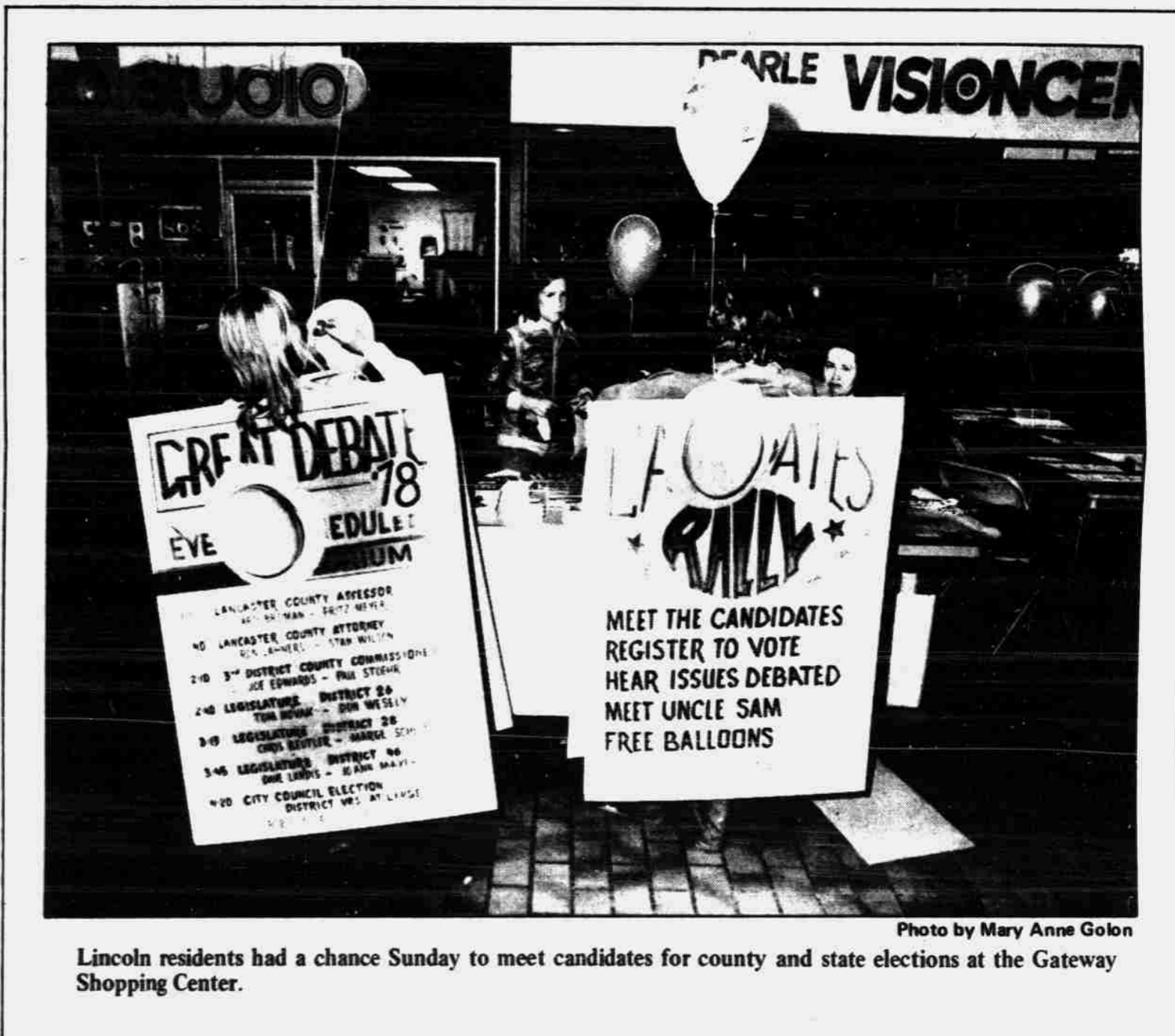
Novak said he would push for the passage of a bill to preserve water in the state.

He said the bill should include building dams to "stop some of the water from getting away from the state of Nebraska."

Wesley said he opposed the building of large dams with poor cost-benefit ratios, favoring the development of a comprehensive water policy.

He said the bill he felt was most important should include a workable limit on government spending, property tax equalization and simplification of the property taxation process so it can be easily understood.

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Lincoln residents had a chance Sunday to meet candidates for county and state elections at the Gateway Shopping Center.

Omahan looks to the stars for portrait art subjects

By Teri Bigelow

To Dave: "Oz"
Thank you so much for the drawing. I like it very much and am having it framed. It was nice of you to sent it.

My best wishes,
Sincerely,
Cheryl Tiegs

This is a typical letter that can be found in Dave "Oz" Osborn's mailbox.

Osborn is a portrait artist from Omaha who started an unusual hobby in August 1977.

Osborn draws celebrities and sends them the portrait, asking only for an autographed picture in return. Gilda Radner, Johnny Cash and Cheryl Tiegs are three of the many celebrities who have sent thank you's to Osborn.

Bearded, sandy-haired Osborn often thumbs through magazines to find action shots of the stars for portraits. He said he passes over the serious pictures because he's "not arty in that way."

Head phones help

When he's found the right picture, Osborn puts on his head phones and sits

down in his antique decorated apartment to sketch.

At other times, Osborn can be found in the park, with a crowd of people watching. He said people make him try harder because he can't make a mistake with them watching.

"I want people to think I'm perfect," he added.

Osborn said each portrait takes about three hours, so when he sends it to the celebrity, he makes sure he has a good address for them.

Osborn has used interesting tactics in trying to find a star's address. He said he went as far as sending Radner's portrait to her through her dentist.

Osborn, who is 25, said he drew his first portrait in pencil during a high school art class. He said he found he had a feeling for shapes so he kept drawing.

Come a long way

The high school dress of blue jeans, flannel shirts and tennis shoes still is worn by Osborn, but he said his portraits have come a long way since then.

He now uses charcoal instead of pencil to obtain more contrast and he said he

favours drawing women, although men are easier to sketch.

"Men's hair is not so long, the cheeks don't have to be so smooth and it doesn't have to be beautiful," he explained.

Besides drawing as a hobby, Osborn also makes an average of \$12,000 a year from his work. He doesn't sell his celebrity portraits, but teaches art classes and draws portraits for people at \$40 a picture.

Osborn said he likes to draw on weekends and saves the weekdays for organizing his 45,000 albums and 45's. The 6'2" artist also has a magazine and antique collection.

Has shows

Weekdays also are used to set up shows of his work at places like Art World, Westroads or the Campus Activities-Program-East activity mart at the Nebraska East Union Oct. 18. Osborn will return to the east union to sketch on Oct. 23.

Osborn said he draws during these shows so people see that he can capture a likeness.

"I think I'm really good, but then I wouldn't do it if I wasn't," he said.

Osborn has attended Kearney State, UNO and the Studio Academy of Com-

mercial Arts. However, he said, his portrait work just paid for his apartment while attending college, because he graduated with a degree in elementary education.

Osborn is particularly happy when a celebrity writes that they are going to frame his picture. He said you never know who might see it if it's hung in a star's home.

But for now, Osborn said, it would be a "dream" to send a portrait to Katherine Hepburn and get a thank you back.

However, he hasn't found the right picture for a portrait yet.

inside monday

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