

# opinion / editorial

## ASUN elections create voter apathy by dirty tricks

The ASUN election campaign has barely gotten underway and already there are signs the weeks ahead may get downright dirty.

Denny Wurtz, ASUN presidential candidate for the OSI Party, allegedly has received threatening phone calls warning him to pull out of the race.

SOAR Party candidate Joe Nigro has charged that his campaign posters are being torn down. Charges also have been made that Nigro was given answers prior to a quiz, given jointly by ASUN President Ken

Marienu, the Innocents Society and the Daily Nebraskan, by friends of Nigro currently serving in ASUN.

Because of a story in Friday's Daily Nebraskan in which the names of SINK candidates Kelly Krutz and Robert E. Lee were reversed in the order of the positions for which they were running, the Daily Nebraskan was accused of deliberately and libelously attempting to discredit the SINK Party.

In point of fact, the document from which the Daily Nebraskan reporter got the names and the respective positions for which they are

running were given to the reporter by the electoral commission director.

One of the reasons students have been turned off by politics in the past few years is because of the dubious ethics shown by national politicians. It is quite possible that the general apathy among young potential voters can be directly attributed to the questionable practices among many politicians in this country. When the name-calling, smoke-screens and dirty tricks come to the forefront of a campaign, issues ultimately are lost in the fray and

voters turn their backs.

If a few candidates in this campus election wish to emulate some of their counterparts in state and national politics, that is their decision. But they should be forewarned that they are treading on thin ice. If students on this campus search for issues and hear nothing above the din of 'down and dirty politics' they are going to go back to their Frisbees and Football and to hell with the election. If that happens and the voter turnout is minuscule, will those elected be truly representative of the students at this university?

## Desert winds blow hyacinth hair away to uncover stranger

Is there anything that time can't do?

—Al Stewart

The last time I saw Rochelle was in the fall of '76. She was Bogarting Virginia Slims out of a crumpled package and trying painfully to write in a small black ledger—painfully because her hands were cracked and raw from over exposure.

I had heard she was doing work in the desert and was experimenting with carving stone, but was not prepared for the changes it had brought to her. She had hacked off her hair at the base of her neck, by the looks of it with a carving knife. The delicate movements I remembered so well had been replaced by a series of nervous ticks and a compulsive energy that kept her chain smoking. She was shrouded in loose flannel and baggy painter's pants, and for all practical purposes looked to be a woman of 37. She was 20.

## michael zangari

I sat down beside her and took dictation for awhile, making all the proper marks in the proper columns in her book. All her possessions had been signed away. All that she had left was in her monogrammed back-pack—a rag-tag thing with the most beautiful embroidered script I'd ever seen, and one canvas bag. It didn't seem to be much.

### Chance meeting

I had run into her by chance. She was sitting in one of her old spots and I had walked by. I did a double take on the back-pack and the rest seemed to fall pretty well in place. We exchanged small talk and the usual concerns over coffee, and I ended up taking her to her bus and then going home to do the dishes.

I see her now the way she was. Her hair falling loosely to the middle of her back—not that it is really important, only that it seemed to sum up something of the natural flow that she seemed to generate.

Things are generally pretty honey colored. I do not remember too many negative things up until the time that age old oppressive depression drove her into solitude and me into some old habits. When she left for the desert I had not seen her for months. I assume that was some sort of mutual decision.

### Throwing changes

In the intervening eight months we had not seen each other, we were both busy throwing changes around like some crazy and open jam session. Both of us managed to get into some areas that we had not rightly intended to go into.

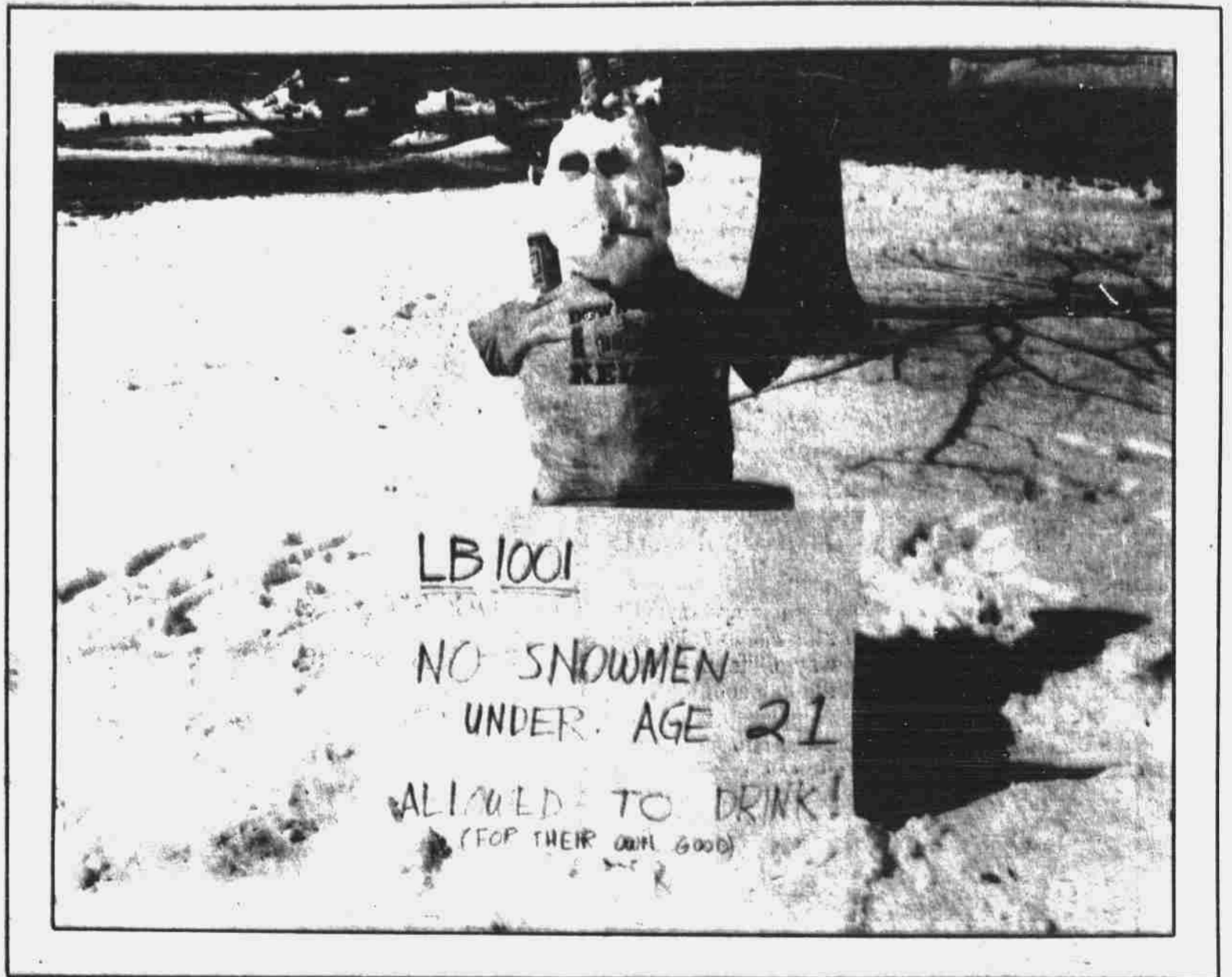
In her case the only thing I could recognize from my previous encounter was a back-pack and a certain fierce independence that I still envy.

Some things had happened to both of us. In a lot of ways we were two new people, but there was really no time to explore it. It was like we had never ran into each other.

In a college of this size, the amount of people that can enter and leave your life with a mixed intensity is staggering. There are people you will run into ten years from now who will remain pretty much the same. That in itself is worth talking about.

What makes me wonder even more, though are those people who we catch just as they are cruising around the corner. Those are the people you know but never quite really know. You can desperately love someone in flux, and also the person they will become. There is also the mixed blessing of being in love with the someone they were.

For Rochelle and I at this turn, coffee was short. There wasn't much to be said. Two people we had loved dearly had died.



## letters to the editor

We are very disturbed by the reactions of some of Iranian and Arab students on campus concerning the guest speakers the university presents. It seems as though everytime a speaker is on campus they find some way to disgrace their nationality. Constantly, the issue of freedom of speech is put forth.

These students say that they merely practice their right to freedom of speech. Well, I'm sorry to say that there is such a thing as the misuse of one's rights.

The Iranian and Arab situation in the United States is analogous to a guest in one's home. When we have guests in our homes we expect them to treat our other friends and guests with respect. However, not only do some of these people not respect our guests, they don't respect their host, the United States.

These students' frequent outbursts of verbal hostility towards the United States are unforgivable. If a guest in our houses were to slander us the way some Iranians and Arabs slander the United States, their immediate departure would be requested. This brings us to the meat of the letter. The way some Iranian and Arab students treat the United States is unforgivable, and the result is that there is little, if any, respect left for these students on this campus.

After all, this is our university and we don't need our guests hampering our activities. Thus, it is our belief, as well as others, we're sure, that if some Iranian and Arab students don't respect the United States and her guests, and if some Iranian and Arab students don't wish to show acceptable behavior on campus, the students, should, with all haste, pack up and vacate the premises. For we don't believe that we should welcome such ungrateful people into our society. Unless these students shape up post haste, we cannot see any future for them as respected students at this university.

Bob Reing  
Conrad Nelson

David Hall  
Dan Walker

Michael S. Coffrey  
Larry Gawell  
George Cobelens  
Robert Kehn  
Jeffrey Lee Bayer

Alan Beer  
John K. Smith  
Michael Lawrence  
Mitch Goldberg  
Lou Salenovich

### Protests reach summit

It has come to my attention that a few "students" were outraged by the actions of one particular fraternity during Mr. Rabin's press conference last Thursday. As usual, the arrogant Arabian and Iranian students staged yet another one of their "protests" in front of the student union, this time while I was trying to digest my evening meal. I feel the effectiveness of these "protests" has reached its summit.

Since my freshman year, I have watched these "students" use our universities and our country as a means of accomplishing something their countries cannot offer them, free speech and the right to demonstrate peacefully.

The time has come for a counter-protest. I am exhausted of hearing the problems and bitches of these guests, and their actions nauseate me. They have more than worn out their welcome, and their conduct before Mr. Rabin's press conference needed more than stifling.

If they cannot respect the rights of others, and especially the rights of interested students wishing to hear Mr. Rabin's remarks, they had no right attending. There are better ways to express one's views than to stand up and insult an invited guest. These students should re-evaluate themselves before infringing their rights in the citizenry here at UNL.

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