

# opinion/editorial

## SOAR's experience, representative slate endorsed

Choosing one candidate from an electoral grab-bag comprising the largest number of candidates in years will be difficult for student voters this year.

It would be doubly difficult were it not for the experience of one candidate setting him apart from the rest of the field.

SOAR Party presidential candidate Joe Nigro seems to have the most experience in and knowledge of university politics and student government. Nigro has pledged to con-

tinue many of the programs and goals of incumbent president Ken Marienau with whom he has worked closely as ASUN senator and chairman of its Community Relations committee.

Nigro also has served the Abel-Sandoz Residence Hall Association as its president, a position which has provided him with valuable experience in dealing with university administrators and staff members.

It would seem that the SOAR Party slate best represents a wide

distribution of living areas including Greek Houses, residence halls and off-campus housing, but is strongly dominated by none.

Additionally, Nigro and the SOAR Party should be commended for being the only party to slate candidates for the important Committee for Fee Allocation.

Although lacking Nigro's experience, SUN Party candidate Bud Cuca places a close second on the list. Cuca has shown knowledge of university problems and has express-

ed a willingness to tackle them for new and reasonable solutions.

The *Daily Nebraskan* strongly urges those students who visit the polls Wednesday to carefully consider the qualifications of Nigro and the SOAR Party's evenly distributed representation. We believe they are the ones best equipped to work for students in the coming year.

Pete Mason  
L. Kent Wolgamott

## DeCamp chews crow when he's wrong

By Randy Essex

Sometimes, in the interest of presenting news as rapidly as possible, all the fun has to be taken out of the news, making it the same old dry, dull stuff that most of my stories are composed of.

So Wednesday, when the *Daily Nebraskan* ran a story about what the Legislature did on the abortion bill Tuesday, there was not room for some of the best quotes I've pulled out of legislative debate this year.

So my column affords me the opportunity to share an entertaining — and somewhat insightful — exchange between Neligh Sen. John DeCamp, one of the bill's sponsors, and Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, who repeatedly warned the Legislature it was passing an unconstitutional bill.

Chambers claimed victory Tuesday because he had offered the same amendments DeCamp had passed Tuesday, a week before DeCamp offered them. But when Chambers offered them, the Legislature voted them down.

Support DeCamp

"I am getting my pound of flesh,"

Chambers said, daring the senators to reverse their earlier votes and support DeCamp.

"Sen. DeCamp isn't making you pass these amendments, I am making you pass these amendments," Chambers said.

DeCamp was not to be outdone, however, saying he could not afford the luxury of saying "I'm right and you're wrong." DeCamp said he was too busy trying to serve the state in the best way he knew how to take time out for luxury.

"Heck, if you want me to say I was wrong, I'll say I was wrong," DeCamp said. "And if I have to eat some crow, then I'll bite off a leg of crow."

But Chambers bounced right back, offering another explanation of why DeCamp couldn't take time to say who was right and wrong.

Chambers said DeCamp was too busy trying to negotiate differences between pro-choice and pro-life lobbyists.

Tangled strings

"You try to hold eight yo-yos in two hands and not get the strings tangled," Chambers said. "That is exactly what went

wrong with 316."

Chambers wore a button his shirt Wednesday reading simply, "Satan." The button seems appropriate, but not because Chambers is evil, but rather because he plays the antagonist role in many legislative debates, and may be regarded as the devil by some of his fellow senators on those occasions.

"And he lives it," a long time unicameral observer commented.

My column, in addition to allowing to print quotable quotes, lets me pat myself on the back occasionally, since no one else feels the need to do it. (whimper)

Just as the quotes above were edited from the story, they were originally part of, my byline was left off a story about the Colorado legislature in yesterday's paper because there was no room for it. (whine)

WELL, IT WAS I WHO WROTE THAT STORY, AND I WORKED HARD TO GET IT (my index finger has a blister from pushing buttons on the phone), AND I WANT CREDIT. BY RANDY ESSEX, BY GOD. (cry)



## letters to the editor

I feel that the NU Board of Regents was hasty in its decision to accept the proposal to keep the present wage for the university-employed student, and not to increase the wage to the present federal minimum wage. There is no question that NU has the legal right to defer paying the federal minimum wage, but what should be questioned is the unethical practice of this privilege.

According to a letter posted in the area in which I work (Cather/Pound/Neihardt kitchen), the main reason for the exercising of this right is an attempt to keep the same number of university-employed students working and yet remain within the allocated budget. However, simple as this solution may seem, it complicates and worsens many other situations involved.

The State Department of Labor has stated that it is customary for such institutions to continue keeping pace with the federal minimum wage. My experience in working with the federal, state and city governments has confirmed this conviction (not only was I paid federal minimum wage or above, but I was also paid the same hourly rate for working part-time). In the past the university has also confirmed the policy of keeping pace with the federal minimum wage, and I feel that there is no reason for it to discontinue this policy.

In addition, because of the higher cost of living many students find that their expenses are too much of a burden to be relieved by the sub-minimum wage they are being paid. Thus, many students seek off-campus jobs that pay much higher wages, leading to an increase in the number of vacant jobs on campus that are filled by non-student workers. The replacement of students by non-students places a much heavier burden upon UNL because of the higher wages and benefits that are paid to non-students. Because of all of this hassle there is increasing tension between the workers and the supervisors.

It would help if the regents can allocate

the amount of the budget for each department more efficiently. For example, the \$8,000 raise in Tom Osborne's wages would alone pay for the wages of 28 students for ten weeks at the present federal minimum wage providing each student works 10 hours a week.

For the good of UNL, I suggest that the regents consider more carefully its most important resource — the student. The students are generally good workers and should be treated as such. The UNL should expect sub-minimum work for sub-minimum wages. The students feel slighted when they do not receive expected wages for such work.

An important question that is yet to be answered is whether the regents plan again to employ this unethical tactic during the next school year.

Darrell Larson  
Freshman Psychology major

### Law school

Last week an article appeared in the *Daily Nebraskan* written by Vince Powers, a former UNL law student, which violently attacked the law school's grading system, Dean Strong, and several of the school's organizations.

Although many of the points made in the article were valid, the general tone was paranoid and many of the accusations thrown around lacked any substantiating facts.

We feel that, because of the unfairness of many of these accusations, it is our duty as the representative organization of the law school's student body, to add a little reasoned elaboration to the issues raised by Mr. Powers in his writing.

The grading system seems to particularly disturb Mr. Powers. This is understand-

able; it disturbs about 90 percent of the law students in the country. Most law schools are patterned after the Harvard system and, for better or worse, follow methods of instruction and grading that are employed at that institution. While many may perceive the system as being inherently unfair, it is patently absurd to accuse Dean Strong as being the ringleader of a nefarious grading conspiracy. Before such accusations can be viewed with any degree of seriousness, there should be some evidence brought forth. We would submit that there was more to the Evidence grades situation than the whimperings of Law Review students.

The other problems that Mr. Powers refers to are valid issues. Few will deny that. It's strange, if Mr. Powers believes as strongly about these things as he seems to, that he didn't raise them to the Dean or SBA while he was in attendance at the Law School.

In the last two years, the SBA has never denied an audience to any student who had an issue to present us.

In each case SBA made a good faith attempt to act upon the issue. We haven't always met with success, but we have dealt honestly in our proceedings.

What we are saying is that if a student has a concern that he/she wishes to air or a plan to help ease a pressing problem that it would be much more productive to bring such a concern or plan to the SBA, Dean Strong, or any other organization which might be able to deal with it in a positive manner, than to write a castigating letter to the *Daily Nebraskan*.

Again, we want to emphasize that many of the issues that were raised in last week's letter are valid. What we object to is Mr. Powers' modus operandi, which took the nature of a cheap shot rather than constructive criticism.

UNL Student Bar Association

## Columnist says ASUN party soars above all

The following excerpts are from a top secret report prepared for the Harvard of the Plains Board of Regents.

Gentlemen:

During your last secret executive session, you asked me to evaluate the various ASUN presidential candidates as to their ability to represent UNL students (i.e., their potential threat to this board). Here it is.

### michael gibson

The most capable candidate this year is SOAR's Joe Nigro. Nigro is an excellent speaker and debater (he was one of three Outstanding Delegates at UNL's Model United Nations) and should be an articulate and effective voice for students. We could be in big trouble.

Nigro also has something the other candidates lack: experience. One of the most vocal ASUN senators, Nigro's knowledge of university affairs was shown last week. In a test about UNL and its political power structure, Nigro scored 88 percent, 19 points higher than any other ASUN presidential candidate.

Equally dangerous

And Nigro's party, SOAR, could be equally dangerous to Regents Hall. With executive candidates from both the residence halls and the Greek system, SOAR also includes many current ASUN senators which provides experience and continuity.

Finally, Nigro would be an ASUN president who would act in a responsible manner, but who would not hesitate to take more radical action if the regents did not cooperate.

The other presidential candidates pose less of a threat. Both Bud Cuca of SUN and Denny Wurtz of OSI have good heads on their shoulders, but lack the experience and personal contacts that Nigro can use to the advantage of UNL students.

In addition, both SUN and OSI have weak parties—neither of them include candidates for the Committee on Fees Allocation, perhaps the most important ASUN committee. And while both parties argue that their fresh approach to student government will outweigh SOAR's experience, what else could they possibly argue?

Stay the same

But no matter who is elected, we should be able to effectively ignore them, if past election patterns stay the same.

You see, UNL students apparently believe the best way to voice their discontent with the university's high tuition, low teacher's salaries, and over-protective regents is simply to remain silent and not vote at all.

So let the *Daily Nebraskan* endorse Joe Nigro as the best candidate. We have nothing to worry about—unless the students vote.