

More 'rhetoric' heard in third presidential debate

By Patti Gallagher

What one ASUN presidential candidate called the "spewing forth of bland rhetoric" continued Thursday night in Schramm Hall lounge, as the candidates battled in the last of three debates, accusing each other of being vague and general.

The four candidates were questioned by a crowd of about 150 after brief opening statements. In the open forum, audience members capitalized on references to past debate and platform statements.

In his opening statement, independent candidate Jay Willhoft said an ASUN president must be objective because "student interests are just one of the many things that must be considered when dealing with university policies."

He also said the president must work on a "people to people basis" to get issues aired.

After student interest

Willhoft said Tim Munson (LSD party candidate) talks about academic starvation, Renee Wessels (US party candidate) deals with the budget, and John Parsons (STAR party candidate) talks of regent responsiveness.

"I guess I'm the person just out there trying to get the students interested," he said.

In his opening statement, Munson referred to the Daily Nebraskan March 3 story on John Parsons' platform. Munson said he counted 13 "if clauses" in the article, indicating Parsons has a lack of definite ideas.

Parsons, however, specified two plans for keeping tuition costs down. Calling for public hearings on proposed tuition hikes during the school calendar rather than the summer months, and the organization of an academic union to make the regents more responsive to student wants are part of his platform, Parsons said.

Parsons challenged

Parsons said the STAR party would work to elect regents that will listen to students. When later challenged by Wessels to name the two candidates the STAR party has contacted for the regents ticket, Parsons avoided the question along with her query of how a new ASUN senate, elected March 12, could persuade regent candidates to file before the deadline two days later.

Parsons said that with a little cooperation, it would not take much to get 10 people to donate the time and money to campaign for the regent of their choice.

Wessels concentrated on her experience with the Nebraska State Legislature and budget work, calling the budget "a place to begin to rectify administrative priorities that don't always agree with student priorities."

The budget "is where education begins and where education ends," she said.

Parsons said Wessels "does not corner the market on the Legislature" because STAR has candidates that also have done work in the Legislature.

Wessels, now an ASUN senator, received a question on her decision not to vote on the Krugerrand issue. ASUN initially condemned the South African gold coins but later changed its stand to support the nearly million dollar donation.

Wessels said she could not vote for the second proposal because she had supported the initial ASUN stand against the Krugerrands. She said she could not vote against the proposal because she agreed with a clause in it commending the donors for their generosity.

Munson fielded many questions about his platform proposals, including the use of violence as a means to get things done.

Past senates ineffective

Reminding the audience that he endorses violence only as a last tactic, he repeated that the tactics employed by past student senates have been ineffective.

"In the 15 years since ASUN has been called ASUN not one thing has been accomplished," he said.

Munson said his party's first choice is to work through peaceful means.

"I'm not saying that you have to go out with a machine gun and shoot 45 people," he said. "I'll do that."

Citing historical examples of student revolutions at Columbia University and Harvard, Munson said that today these schools can undeniably be called prestigious.

An audience member asked Munson if he "might be stepping on the toes of your would-be voters" in proposing elimination of the Greek system. Munson said he could not support any institution that "perpetuates class and social discrimination."

The questioner continued that Greek houses have traditionally received high grade point averages, thus staying within the LSD platform of academic orientation. Munson responded that "if someone wants to be academic" he doesn't have to be Greek.

Munson also was questioned on his proposed elimination of non self-supporting sports. He said the funds put into sports should go to faculty salaries and academic scholarships.

Although he said he "holds nothing against women's sports, or women in particular," he said "we are here to study and learn first."



Photo by Tom Gessner

Hand in hand

A child holds tight to his mother's fingers in the hustle and bustle of downtown Lincoln.

Speaker: United States should avoid Afghanistan

By Mary Louise Knapp

"The United States should not get militarily involved in Afghanistan," David Champagne, assistant director of the Afghan Studies Center in Omaha told a crowd of about 50 Friday night at the Glass Onion.

His speech, entitled "The Crisis in Afghanistan," was part of the "Glass Onion Chautauqua" series sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace.

Champagne has done research in Afghanistan and has spent three years there working for the Peace Corps.

Champagne said tribal groups have always dominated Afghanistan, and said that loyalty to family is vastly more important than loyalty to a leader of a nation-state.

Champagne said Afghanistan has never been a nation-state, that it is instead a loose confederation that has chosen to recognize one leader.

In the 19th century, Afghanistan became a buffer zone between India and Russia—the "Berlin of the 19th century," Champagne said.

"Afghanistan is one of the few non-European countries that has remained independent and free from colonization," Champagne said. "The Afghans have a long tradition of patriotism and for a long time were afraid of opening the country to the influence of other nations."

During the Cold War of the 1950s, Afghanistan received aid from the Soviet Union, the United States and China. After detente was established in the early 1970s, however, most of the foreign aid was cut off.

"The shah of Afghanistan asked for a mutual defense pact with the United States in the 1950s, but the United

States did not approve," Champagne said.

During the 1970s, Afghanistan sent officers to the Soviet Union to be educated, but had no fear of Soviet influence because of Afghanistan's strong patriotic tradition.

After a 1978 coup the leaders of Afghanistan made pacts with the Soviets for aid and defense. The leaders let the contracts of Western officials lapse and eventually sent the officials out of the country.

Many new laws were passed that were unpopular with the conservative Moslem population of Afghanistan, Champagne said.

Soviet advisers and military took up residence in the country shortly afterward.

"The Afghans could not throw the Russians out because they had no weapons," Champagne said, "but the opposition grew and grew."

In 1978 Amnesty International condemned the actions of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, but neither the United States nor Western Europe did anything about it, Champagne said.

"If the United States had acted on Amnesty International's report, the Soviets probably would not have sent troops in December of 1979," he said.

Champagne said the Soviets were not looking for a major confrontation when they invaded Afghanistan.

"However, the signals were right. The United States had not acted to stop them, so why not?" Champagne said he believes the Soviets will not pull out of Afghanistan. "I don't think that we (United States) need to apologize for not having acted in 1978 because Europe did not act either."

Champagne said he believes, although he is not certain, that the Afghan rebels are receiving aid from the United States and possibly China.

Champagne said the Afghans have to fight in order to keep their own culture and traditions.

"They think that it is better to be free and poor than a developed country that is under domination," he said.

Party sponsors rally; 120 hear rock bands

"Hello, we're the Grapes and I'm Jesus Christ." The audience greeted with laughter ASUN presidential candidate Tim I. Munson's band introduction Saturday night at a Let Students Dominate party rally.

During a debate in the Nebraska Union last Wednesday, Munson said he saw similarities between his positions and Christ's.

The rally was held in a rented hall at 732 S. 27th St. The Town Dogs played 1960s rock 'n' roll until the Grapes took over at 10 p.m. By then the small hall was filled with about 120 people who paid a cover charge of \$1.50.

Munson said the money raised would not go to the LSD party.

"A rally is held either for economic reasons or to support the party," he said. "This was to get people who support the party together one last time."

Munson said after paying \$149 to rent the hall, \$30 was left to split between the nine members of the bands. Although members of the audience occasionally shouted political slogans and jokes, Munson said there wasn't much political atmosphere to the rally.

"Our party is an aggressive party and this rally is for aggressive people," he said.

Munson predicted his party would be in a run-off with the US party.

"We won't do worse than second," he said.