

opinion/editorial

Dworak switch initiates new Democratic style?

The Nebraska Democratic Party is in the midst of sending up some trial balloons on a possible candidate for governor that should keep party activists talking for some time.

Seeking to find a candidate who doesn't represent the kind of Democratic Party politics that was so soundly rejected last November, the state party is apparently considering running a former Republican for the state's highest office.

In their desire to seek a candidate to oppose Gov. Charles Thone, Nebraska Democrats are apparently actively considering nominating State Sen. Donald Dworak of Columbus for the spot.

Dworak was first elected in 1974

and is now in his second term in the Legislature. He recently changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat in an apparent move to make his candidacy possible.

Dworak spent last weekend at a workshop for Democrats in Des Moines, Iowa, and met with numerous party officials, according to the Omaha World-Herald.

One person he met with was National Democratic Chairman Charles Manatt. Manatt is the man in charge of rebuilding the party after last November's numerous losses.

In trying to find a candidate with a new image for the party, Nebraska Democrats must be wondering what it will take to come up with a suitable

candidate to challenge Gov. Thone.

After all, aside from being a registered Republican, Dworak was a delegate pledged to Ronald Reagan at the last two Republican National Conventions.

But, Dworak apparently soured on many Reagan policies and decided to change his political fortunes.

Many people in politics have changed their party registration to better their political career. President Reagan used to be a Democrat and the late Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff changed his registration whenever he could benefit politically.

Nebraska Democrats must be questioning their ability to survive next fall's elections. Is the new Democratic

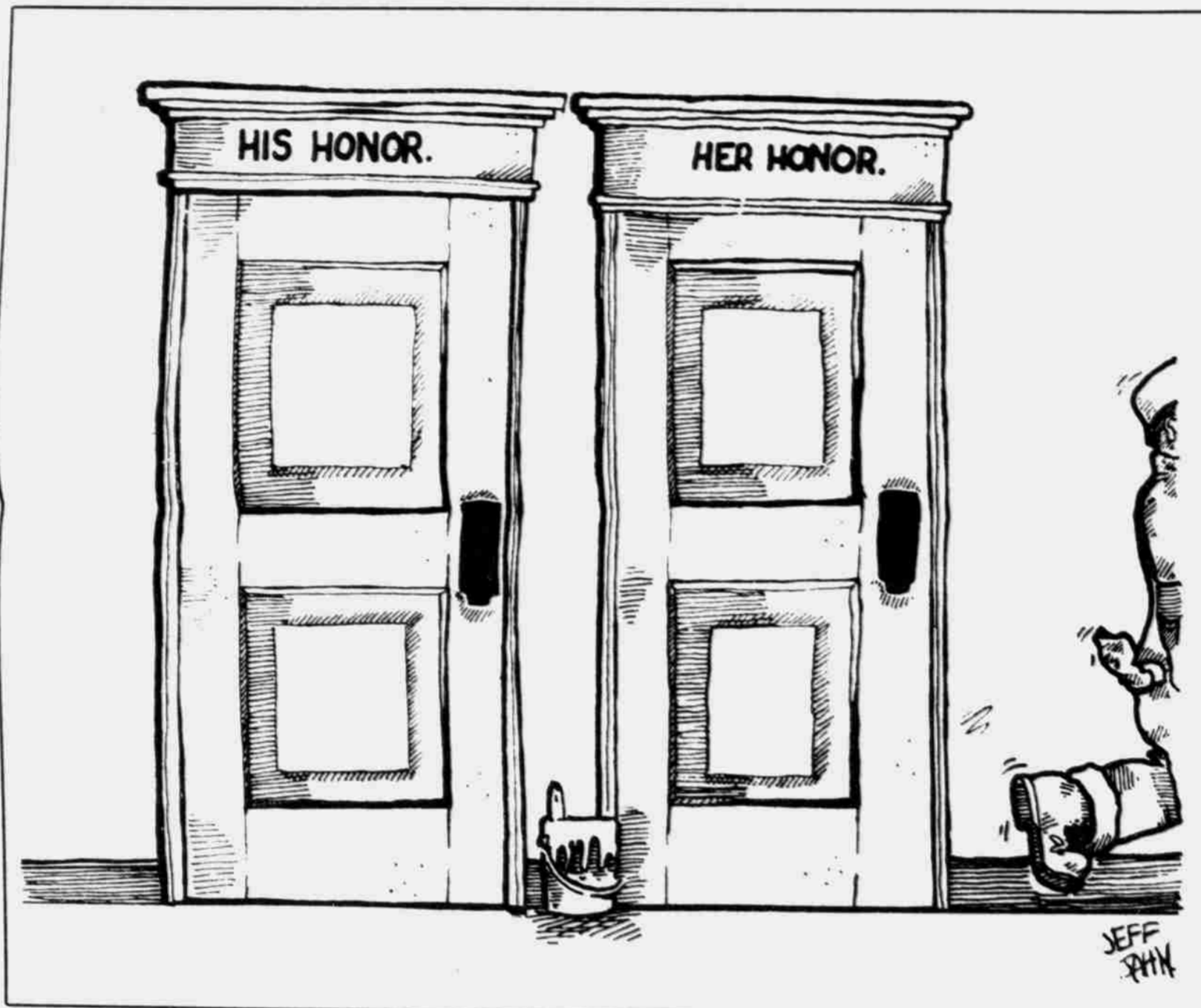
candidate going to be old Republican? Is the only road to recovery going to be finding candidates off of the typical Democratic path?

Another Democrat may surface, but so far, most state party members have been strangely silent on the possibility of a Dworak candidacy.

The whole scenario is similar to George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" later adapted to film in "My Fair Lady."

But in this instance, the Democratic Party takes in a lost political soul seeking higher office, dusts him off, teaches him some new Democratic tricks and then runs him for the state's highest office.

Sounds like the new version might be called "Our Fair Candidate."



Media masters puppet-like spokesmen

Through long practice, liberals in the news media have become adept at a technique that might be called "journalistic ventriloquism." This is the device whereby you find someone else who expresses your own opinion and then play it up as "news" — the "he said it, I didn't" approach. A few examples:

Item: Yale's president, A. Bartlett Giamatti, recently delivered a hysterical attack on the Moral Majority, calling it "racist," "violent," "coercive."

Joseph Sobran

This was the liberal equivalent of Joe McCarthy's famous Wheeling speech. Giamatti should have been called on to say who, when, and where. But nobody pressed him.

The liberal media simply relayed the attack as straight news, without any of that vaunted skepticism with which they profess to regard all our institutional spokesmen, yea, even Yale presidents. Why? Because they shared Giamatti's attitude.

Item: Barry Goldwater then delivered his own blast against the Moral Majority. This too made the front pages. Ordinarily, Goldwater can't get a classified ad in papers like the *New York Times*.

But when he attacks other conservatives, he is treated, suddenly, as an oracle, a bulwark against the extremism these same papers used to accuse him of embodying. Hardly mentioned was Goldwater's personal feud with the Moral Majority over the appointment of his protege

Sandra O'Connor, which has recently led him to other in-temperate utterances, such as that Jerry Falwell's derriere should be kicked.

Item: Wall Street's nervousness about Reaganomics is cited as proof that Reagan's program has "failed" — before the first tax cut has even gone into effect. Also in the hardly-worth-mentioning department is the fact that many investors consider Reagan hasn't gone nearly far enough, especially in spending cuts.

Item: The *Washington Post* runs a story under the headline "Soviets Approach Haig Meeting Concerned About New Arms Race." Got that? Moscow is "concerned" — how responsible that sounds — about the prospect of the bellicose Haig heating things up. Never mind the revelations about Soviet military maneuvers and threats to Poland, and, oh yes, that Afghanistan business.

Item: The *Washington Post* runs a sympathetic series on the Marxist regime of Angola, with such headlines as "Angola Sees Rebel Forces as Puppets of Pretoria."

Now there is a bit of cheek for you. Angola's regime, relying on outside help from Cuban and Russian forces, "sees native resistance forces as South African puppets," and we, presumably, should "see" it from this viewpoint too.

Enough. We need not mention all the media-sanctioned "spokesmen," "critics," and "victims" who are incessantly quoted as predicting dire effects detonated by every step the administration takes toward its domestic and foreign policy goals.

Suffice it that in the heyday of liberalism, conservative critics were never given such a free ride — or rather, a free megaphone — when they voiced serious objections against liberal programs and foreign policy postures.

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Unified university holds strangulation power over city

It's not often that the different factions of NU agree on things.

On one hand you have students, on the other hand you have faculty, on another hand (assume for the moment you have more than two hands) you have the UNL administration and on another hand you have UNL employees — secretaries, groundskeepers, maintenance workers, etc.

reid warren

It is rare that these different groups ever adhere to a common political, social or economic policy. The reasons are obvious. You have an age differential, you have political differences, you have idealisms which range from the "who will be the leaders of the future" train of thought to the "who will make the beer run before 1 a.m." train of thought.

In short, UNL is a potpourri of personalities. But there comes a time in every columnist's life when he must stand up and shout (or rather sit down and write) rallying cries which will inspire persons of diverse backgrounds to unite and take decisive steps in a common direction.

With that in mind, my hands tremble and my fingers race across the black keys of my Olympia typewriter as I write the following words which just may change the course of your lifetime: "UNL UNITE!"

Or, if that one doesn't quite suit you, try one of the following rally cries: "Students and faculty unite!" "University unite!" "UNL higher ups and lowlifers unite!" Or how about "Two, four, six, eight, power goes to those who coagulate!"

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking every unification must have a purpose, a goal, a certain something worthy of the awesome power which a unified UNL could bring.

Well, I thought of that something; it's called the city of Lincoln.

I have it all figured out, and the figuring goes like this: The economy is getting worse every day, and Lincoln is feeling the crunch of inflation. And we have dear Uncle Ronald in the White House who is eliminating a great deal of federal aid which Lincoln has been so heavily beneficent and dependent on. And for the coup de grace, we have the 7 percent spending lid on government enforced by our friendly Nebraska Legislature.

All these factors leave a part of Lincoln vulnerable: the downtown area. Which is an extremely bad tactical maneuver on the part of government officials (good for a rallying-crying columnist's purpose) because Lincoln's government has continually reinforced the position that downtown is the most important, most integral part of this city.

You see, because of Lincoln's insistence on having downtown the "center" of it all, they have put themselves in a tricky position. The trends of the last year have been towards less and less government, but downtown Lincoln is extremely reliant upon government — city, state and federal — to support its downtown.

If downtown meccas such as city hall, the Capitol, the State Office Building and varied federal offices are lessened in population, it will have a negative effect on the support of downtown Lincoln.

And so, with government taking a lesser role in the economics of downtown Lincoln, that leaves one potentially untapped segment left to bail it out: UNL.

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