

Editorial

Hoch as regent: a welcome change

Perhaps the best reason to elect Nancy Hoch to the NU Board of Regents is to rid it of Robert Prokop, the incumbent candidate.

Prokop, running for his third six-year term for the 4th District seat, has proved himself one of the board's most anti-student members, consistently dismissing student concerns. He has more than once abused his power as regent and generally is more worried about keeping taxes down in his district than building a strong state university.

Which is not to say that Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City cannot stand on her own merits. Her experience on university boards, her support of higher faculty salaries and her positive attitude toward NU should earn her a place on the board. Coupled with Prokop's lamentable record during his two terms, she should be a shoo-in.

Selected facts from the recent past illustrate why Prokop, the forensic pathologist from Wilbur, should be defeated. They are:

- charging the university for calls that seem to be more personal than regent-related. Prokop has inadequately defended his calls to his parents in Wilbur, to an aunt in Los Angeles and to various coaches, umpires and league officials connected with semi-pro baseball. Charging NU for the calls, an action revealed in late September of this year by the Omaha World-Herald, was thoughtless abuse of power.

- racking up more than \$5,000 worth of expenses in 1981. Prokop said then that as board chairman, he had to travel more. That never explained why the next highest expense account totaled only \$1,954.53, and the lowest expense account showed a mere \$255.49.

- Prokop's constant defense that he is the board's most active regent does not explain away the large discrepancy between his expenses and those of others.

- fighting a policy that would have allowed students to get a refund for their Fund A student fees. (It was passed anyway.) He has consistently opposed collection of student fees - not because he is worried about overcharging students, but because he doesn't think the Daily Nebraskan and ASUN, both Fund A fee users, should receive student fees.

- refusing to appoint a student regent to the executive committee of the board. Back in February of 1981, when Renee Wessels, then ASUN president, requested a student regent be added to the committee, Prokop opposed it, saying student regents lacked respect for other board members and leaked embarrassing information to the press.

- In an Oct. 21, 1982 article, Prokop continued in that vein. He said he is opposed to having student regents altogether, because they are not elected from districts as other board members are.

- dabbling in plagiarism. Long forgotten, but still pertinent, is Regent Prokop's 1972 plagiarism. He violated his professional ethics when he wrote an article, printed in the Douglas County Gazette, discussing the evils of homosexuality. The article was a near word-for-word copy of excerpts from "Homosexuality, Disease or Way of Life" by Edmund Bergler.

- lack of accessibility. Prokop is the most difficult board member for the press to reach. He lists no home telephone number in the Centrex directory. He returns messages left at the NU Medical Center several days late. As an elected official, Prokop's unwillingness to cooperate with the student press is appalling.

In the Daily Nebraskan's most recent article about Prokop, published last week, he emphasized the need to hold down tax increases in the 4th District.

While a regent has a responsibility to the people of his district, he or she first and foremost has the obligation to make the university strong. Yet Prokop's only comment on low faculty salaries at NU was: "In order to increase salaries, you would also have to support a tax increase. Is she (Hoch) willing to go out into the district and say we need a tax increase?"

Right now, Nancy Hoch is an untested commodity. We know her university experience includes serving on the President's Advisory Council, the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Wick Alumni Center Committee and the University Health Center Board of Councilors.

We also know that she has obtained the formal support of the other five candidates in the primary elections and that she has been campaigning heavily.

We know, too, that she has said she will listen to students, something Prokop has not been famous for. And although she does not advocate allowing student regents to vote on board matters, she has said that the regents "should hear their opinions."

Hoch would provide a refreshing and informed voice on this university's governing board. The Daily Nebraskan endorses her wholeheartedly and asks all 4th District voters to consider Robert Prokop's record when they mark their ballots Nov. 2.

WE SIMPLY BELIEVE THAT
DEMOCRACY IS BEST SERVED IF WE
ENCOURAGE UNANIMITY.....



Ban of Solidarity war inevitable

It had to be, the banning of Solidarity. It had to be, not in the sense that it is good, but in the sense that it was inevitable. Solidarity mounted the most serious (and potentially most damaging) threat to communism ever experienced in the Soviet block, and had to be rubbed out.

Poland is different. There have been other challenges to Soviet hegemony - Hungary and Czechoslovakia are



Ross Mackenzie

the most obvious examples - but neither country approaches Poland's centrality. It is the Kremlin's biggest East European province. Its population is twice Czechoslovakia's and three times Hungary's. That population is massively Christian (95 percent Catholic) and devoutly anti-Soviet.

What's more, because of the accident of its geography - because of its vital strategic placement - Poland has suffered hugely for centuries. It has been divided by Prussians, Germans and Russians. As the Pope, a Pole, has noted, "For us, the word 'motherland' has a meaning, both for the mind and for the heart, such as the other nations of Europe and the world appear not to know, especially those nations that have not experienced, as ours has, historical wrongs, injustices and menaces." Today, Poland is the very nexus of the Soviets' western front.

As Poland is different, so Solidarity fashioned an assault against communism profoundly different from those that went before. Founded two years ago, it was - is - a union with 10 million members, nearly one-third

of Poland's entire population. As such, it was a dagger poised at the heart of Marxism-Leninism: notably at the tenet postulating the Communist Party as the sole representative of the working class.

Solidarity said, in effect, "No. We speak for the workers. In their name, we deplore and oppose the official policies of atheism, and of public ownership of the land, and of terror as the government's crucial instrument."

Solidarity's founder Lech Walesa, made clear the intention of Solidarity in some of the things he said - for instance: "I want democracy" and "Nobody has the right to beat anyone up." It was an intention the Kremlin understood very well, even if much of the West did not. That is why the Kremlin ordered that Solidarity be smashed.

The campaign to do so took increasingly vicious form - first in the unproductive efforts of Stanislaw Kania's regime, then in the threat of Soviet invasion; then in the replacement of Kania by the more knuckle-crunching Wojciech Jaruzelski; then in Jaruzelski's Dec. 13 declaration of martial law and the jailing of many Solidarity members, then - on Friday - in the banning of Solidarity altogether.

If the West - in its abiding failure to face the reality of communism - generally has underappreciated what Solidarity has been doing, President Ronald Reagan has appreciated it in full. In support of Solidarity, he has fought fang and talon against construction of the Soviets' Yamal natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. In support of Solidarity, he should have halted all trade with the Soviet bloc, including the sale of American grain.

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Backlash unfair to working mothers

My best friend had a baby a couple of weeks ago, a little boy. He's cut and cuddly and makes funny gurgling noises.

Trish was lucky. She had a fairly easy delivery and her baby is handsome and healthy. She has a supportive



Julia O'Gara

husband and an assortment of friends and relatives close by, willing to help out when needed. She also has her job waiting for her when she finishes a three-month leave of absence.

There's nothing so remarkable about all this except that my friend is 29 and this is her first baby. Trish and I were children of the '60s, the last of the "baby boom" generation. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, a woman today might be expected to have 1.8 children during her childbearing years as compared with the 3.6 children a woman might have had 20 years ago.

My friend is among a group of women which has made a conscious decision to delay having children until they are in their late 20s and early 30s. There are a number of reasons why women would choose to wait until they are a little older to have children, not the least of which is economic stability.

A generation ago, the so-called "traditional" family consisted of one father who worked outside the home, one mother who didn't, and three or four children.

Actually, there was a very large number of working mothers in the '50s and '60s who held jobs outside the home to supplement the family income. For these women, as for most women today, working was a matter of keeping the family solvent.

The difference now might be that a larger number of young women are not only attending college and receiving degrees (as did many in their mother's generation), but are actually pursuing careers in their chosen fields.

When Betty Friedan interviewed some of her fellow Smith College graduates from the class of 1942 for her seminal work "The Feminine Mystique," she found that nearly all those former liberal arts majors had abandoned their career plans in favor of homemaking. Regardless of her educational background, the married college graduate of the '50s and '60s was likely to identify her occupation as "housewife."

Back then, the rationale was to get married and raise a family first, then pursue a career after the children were older. But the women who followed that course found that their education did them little good unless they entered the job market soon after graduation and built up some experience in their fields. Entering a field of work with no experience and with a diploma that is 10 years old is difficult at best.

Now, however, the trend seems to be reversed. Many women, like my friend, are choosing to establish their careers first and start families later. The types of careers, too, are changing with more women entering such non-traditional fields as engineering and architecture.

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