

Editorial

There's no excuse not to vote

In 24 hours, it will be all over but the shouting — and the crying. Nebraskans will know who will be their next governor, their next legislators and their next representatives on the Weed Control Board.

But before the celebration and the consolation, something very important must happen. People must vote.

This obvious fact often seems to be overlooked on Election Day. According to the Oct. 31 Sunday Journal and Star, Nebraska's Secretary of State Allen Beermann is predicting a higher-than-usual voter turnout — 60 percent.

While the increase is heartening, it still means that 40 percent of the state's registered voters, for one reason or another, will neglect to go to the polls.

It isn't as if the races aren't important. Nebraska voters will choose the state's next governor, a U.S. senator, three representatives to the House of Representatives and 24 state legislators. Four members of the NU Board of Regents will be elected, as will the attorney general and numerous local officials.

Voters will decide whether Initiative 300, the so-called family farm amendment, will be part of the state constitution. They also will decide the fate of five other constitutional amendments.

We've all heard the excuses for not voting, such as "one vote doesn't count." Yet if just one vote had changed in each precinct in Illinois, John Kennedy could have lost the 1960 presidential election. And with various polls showing the gubernatorial race to be extremely close, one vote could make a big difference in it.

Another common excuse is "but I didn't like either of the candidates." While this attitude may be understandable in some races, one of the candidates still will be elected. Making a choice between the lesser of two evils is sometimes necessary.

Then there's the comment that "it doesn't really matter who wins because all politicians are alike." But it does matter. Candidates elected today will make decisions that will directly affect the country and the state. And of special importance to students, some of these decisions also will affect the university.

Unfortunately, young people sometimes are stereotyped as being apathetic about politics. In an article in the Sept. 20 Daily Nebraskan, state Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha was quoted as saying to a group of students, "You can vote, and you will not even do that."

The 1,237 people who signed up during a recent voter registration drive at the Nebraska and East Unions went half the way to refute that statement. By voting today, they can complete their duty.

If you are registered, vote. If you are voting by absentee ballot, notaries public will be available in the Nebraska Union Main Lounge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are registered in Lincoln and are unsure about where to vote, call the election commissioner at 471-7311. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And if you aren't registered, make a vow that this will be the last Election Day that you will be on the sidelines.

Lori Siewert



Republicans' recovery plan praised

The history of economic debate between conservatives and liberals can be read with comparative accuracy in the charts showing the swings in public concern about inflation and jobs. Conservatives tend to stress the former, liberals the latter.

In the 1980 presidential campaign, for example, the



Ross Mackenzie

key question was what to do about high inflation and interest rates. Ronald Reagan insisted they could be brought down; Jimmy Carter insisted that the cost of doing so in losses of jobs would be unacceptable. That was a conservative time. The voters believed Reagan — in a big way.

Since then, largely as a consequence of Reagan's leadership, inflation has plummeted more than 50 percent and interest rates have fallen almost as much. Yet the unemployment rate has risen nearly 30 percent, from less than 8 percent to more than 10. Today about 11 million persons are out of work.

And in the congressional elections this year, the Democrats — and their allies in the factories of opinion that count — have made jobs the central issue. Newsweek terms jobs the one issue "dominating all others." Virginia's Democratic candidate for the Senate, Dick Davis, says, "Jobs, jobs, jobs . . . that's the heart of it." We'll see after today.

About jobs, an issue deserving the full measure of compassion that our humanity demands, it is possible to say a number of things. Among them:

— It is insufficient to dismiss the matter of jobs as a liberal Democratic obsession with a single statistic. To those without a job, it is perhaps the only statistic of importance.

— The president and his fellow conservative Republicans have been consistent. They have argued that stabilizing the economy — bringing down inflation and interest rates and thereby boosting investment and production — could not be accomplished without considerable pain, particularly in the form of a short-term increase in unemployment. Yet to say that they have been not only consistent but correct does not diminish the pain.

— Shattering as that pain can be, for many, our government cushion, our system of public assistance, has made the financial suffering less than it might be. If the economy can be turned around, then for many unemployed the pain and humiliation may be blessedly brief.

— In keeping our eye on the ball — in "staying the course," as Mr. Reagan urges — let us keep in mind as well that he is correct in placing the blame where it belongs. Our current economic difficulties, which reached their peak under Jimmy Carter, are the consequences of years of federal profligacy and irresponsibility occurring well before Ronald Reagan arrived in D.C. He was the modern-day Hercules who inherited the task of cleaning out the Augean stables. So let us grant him the considerable credit he and the Republicans deserve.

Continued on Page 5



Letters

Why tow cars at night?

Since the Daily Nebraskan has adopted the policy of printing reports of the campus police activity, I thought readers might be interested in hearing about an incident that for some reason didn't happen to get included in the reports.

On the evening of Oct. 21, a friend of mine attended class from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Barkley Center on East Campus. Upon leaving class (at about 9:30 p.m.), she found that her car had been towed, compliments of the University Police. Granted, the car did have outstanding tickets, but that is not the issue.

It is very inconsiderate of the police to tow cars this late at night. My friend had her purse in her car that contained the identification and money she needed to call someone for a ride home and find the whereabouts of her car, not to mention money to get the car out of tow.

But the main issue is the hour the car was towed. Consider the possibilities: Had my friend not been lucky enough to obtain a ride, she would have been forced to walk home, a good three miles from campus. I have always believed that the police are here to protect and help the students. In this case, they created a situation of potential danger — the perfect setting for an assault or rape. Fortunately, neither happened.

This makes me wonder what the priorities of the UNL Police are. Do they value a \$40 ticket and tow charge more than the life of a student? Couldn't they tow during the day and spend dark hours doing more important things?

I was told that only three officers are on night duty between both campuses. Why was one of these three so concerned with parking tickets when obviously there are more important or dangerous situations to be dealt with?

When my friend finally arrived home, her roommate was so worried and upset that she called the UNL police and asked for an explanation. Admittedly, she was upset and may not have used the nicest language, but having been assaulted once herself she realized exactly what might have happened. The best answer the officer could give was — "We have to tow cars sometime."

I hope that the UNL police will think twice about towing cars at night again. I realize the job they do is difficult at times, but when they put someone in danger for the sake of a few parking tickets, I can't think too highly of them. They could have easily collected another \$40 from some illegally parked car the following day, but I could not have replaced my friend had she been hurt.

Suzu Kuhr
senior, English

Choices will be difficult

The Oct. 28 Daily Nebraskan editorial refers to all the faculty budget-cutting suggestions reported as "preposterous money-savers." I'd like to know what suggestions your own fiscal experts have that would not be preposterous. Do you envision a university without heat or electricity for two or three months? How about closing down all the residence halls for part of the semester, or eliminating all mail and telephone service for the rest of the fiscal year? Perhaps we could install coin-operated toilets or have a charge for each use of university sidewalks. It seems to me that some of the faculty proposals are less preposterous than you think; they may be the best possible choices in preposterous circumstances.

Frederick M. Link
professor and chairman of English

'Low standards' shown

While conversing with a friend next to the fountain on Centennial Mall, I had a horrifying experience. A dozen or so fraternity brothers carried out a fully dressed fellow brother by the hands and feet and tossed him in the water. During this outrage, screams, grunts and hollers emerged from windows of the fraternity, occupied by more brothers.

If that's how they get their kicks I'd rather live off campus than with such low standards in a fraternity. Weren't fraternities meant to promote higher moral lifestyles to a young man?

On the positive side, I truly believe that all sororities and fraternities were established to equip young males and females with solid Christian values — self-esteem, courage and an attitude of success. Perhaps it's time to get back to the basics and give God and discipline first place in life. A person living his or her life totally committed to God and doing good works will have respect.

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Letters continued on Page 5