

Editorial

ASUN evaluation- we want less 'talk,' more 'do'

As the semester draws to an end, so too does the work of the student government here at UNL.

Yes, members of the ASUN Senate will serve until next March. But for all practical purposes, the terms of senators and executives end with the fall semester. Major projects are either done or dead by now; when school resumes in January, the only student government business apparent will be the selection of new members.

Thus, now is a good time to assess the contributions of the ASUN president and troops during their term. In fact, since nothing much happened in the senate between the March elections and the start of the fall semester, let's start "assessing" in September.

On Sept. 1, the senate passed a resolution supporting an override of President Reagan's veto of a supplemental spending bill. The bill contained appropriations for major student aid packages. Senators debated whether the resolution was too political.

At that time, the ASUN second vice president asked for suggestions on how to distribute an ASUN newsletter.

On Sept. 8, the senate passed a resolution to help with the University Health Center's Wellness Week. On Sept. 15, the senate hosted a speaker; the topic was now a congressional attempt to override the supplemental spending bill.

On Sept. 22, the senate passed a resolution opposing changes in federal protection of education for the handicapped.

On Sept. 29, the senate passed a resolution supporting longer hours for Nebraska Hall. On Oct. 13, senators heard a proposal to close a portion of R Street to build mall. On Oct. 20 they decided to wait to communicate with Nebraska Union and university officials before taking a stand on the R Street Mall.

On Oct. 27, the senate passed a resolution calling for an investigation of allegedly personal phone calls made by Regent Robert Prokop of Wilber.

On Nov. 3, senators passed a resolution against cutting the NU budget. They planned to visit students and ask them and their parents to contact state legislators to oppose the cuts. They also planned two lobbying days at the state Legislature.

On Nov. 11, the senate heard about a new program to patrol some campus

buildings and areas at night. And the second veep again announced that ASUN newsletters were forthcoming.

The week of Nov. 14, it finally happened: The newsletters were published and circulated on campus.

On Dec. 1, the senate tabled a resolution calling for a freeze on nuclear weapons. The senators also learned that presidential candidates for the upcoming elections (a mere four months away) could spend more on their campaigns while senate candidates could spend less.

In addition, the senate (successfully) conducted its twice-yearly book sale, worked with the Lincoln Transportation System to get students free bus rides and helped with projects undertaken by some organizations connected to ASUN.

Now unless we've missed something major (and we sincerely apologize if we have) what is listed above is the bulk of what ASUN representatives have done since being elected March 4.

Not altogether breathtaking. A handful of resolutions, a few guest appearances, some heated discussions and a newsletter. We recognize that ASUN members are

students subject to the time constraints and pressures all students share. We recognize that ASUN is basically powerless; the senate cannot make policy and therefore is relegated to passing resolutions.

But we also recognize that this senate and the senates before it have ignored the oft-repeated campaign promise — to give students something tangible, to give them as much "service" as "representation."

Thus, we recommend that before next March, this senate attempts to offer more services and fewer resolutions. We recommend that senators don't waste time debating things they can't realistically change. Yes, resolutions on student aid and nuclear power have a place; their passage can send a message to the people who do make policy.

But resolutions aren't action. And most students — the ones who as a body paid more than \$53,000 in student fees to ASUN this fall — want action.

In sum, we want more "do" and less "talk." Thus far, the ASUN senate members have failed to offer that.



Child molesters too often go free

Jenny is a beautiful child, all any parent could hope for.

At age 6, she is not, her mother admits, the neatest kid in the world, but she is cheerful and affectionate. She has a cat and a new puppy and has been careful to divide her time equally so the cat will not sulk.

Jenny likes art and sports and is entertaining thoughts



Roger Simon

of becoming either a ballerina or a gymnast. She reserves the right to change her mind.

Jenny's mother loves her very much. Which is why she blames herself so very much for what happened to Jenny.

"I'm a fool," Jenny's mother said. "Just a fool. When I think of what that slime did," Her voice broke with tears and fury. "What I think about it, I just want to ... well, I'm just a fool."

She is not. She is just a parent trying to do the best she can. She works. And therefore, at various times, she must find people to stay with Jenny. Not long ago, she found the wrong person.

He was the relative of a neighbor, a young man well liked around the apartment building where they live.

"He was always helping people out," Jenny's mother said. "He was always asking if he could do the dishes or the laundry or take the dog out for a walk. He was continually coming around."

The afternoon it happened, Jenny's mother was gone for just a few minutes. "All I did was go to the store," she said. "It is only about three minutes away. And well, he was around the apartment anyway. The jerk was always around."

So Jenny was left with the man, the man everyone liked. About a week later, the story came out. Jenny told her mother the man had done things to her. A modern child, Jenny knew all the correct words for the parts of her body and the parts of his body.

"I felt sick to my stomach while she was telling me," Jenny's mother said. "It was hard for her. I kept telling her I wasn't mad at her and it wasn't her fault. I told her that I loved her."

Jenny was taken to the hospital, where no permanent physical injuries were found. The psychological injuries will be more difficult to determine.

The police were called. And the hospital did a hard, but correct thing. They refused to allow Jenny to go home with her mother. That is because in many sexual abuse cases, someone in the home is the abuser. Twenty-four hours later, however, after the hospital and police had investigated, Jenny was allowed to return home.

Two police officers came out to talk to Jenny. They brought anatomical dolls with them to help Jenny tell her story.

"The policemen were very, very good," Jenny's mother said. "I want people to know that. Jenny really likes them very much now. The police did a good job."

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It's been a real pleasure. Amen.

I've been pleased, no *really* pleased, to have received so many nice cards and letters from readers of the Daily Nebraskan since I started this column in August. Most of them have been quite complimentary, and, of course, have included significant sums of money. A typical letter:

"Mike: Just a quick note to let you know that me and my buddies, Sparky and Roger, really like your columns.



Mike Frost

Here's \$20. I have to go now. Your friend, (signed) Francois Mitterand."

I always keep these letters to myself. (I give the money to the NU Foundation, of course. You wonderful readers have contributed \$203,516.18 during the course of this semester.) But occasionally, and I'm not ashamed to admit it, I get negative letters. There's always a few rotten apples that spoil it for the rest, aren't there?

However, I don't mind them. I feel that I can benefit from any criticism, no matter how childish and p-er-nickity it may be. So, I have taken all the criticisms I have received throughout this semester, and from them, have constructed the perfect column.

Before I begin with this week's column, a prayer: "O, Lord, you have guided me through the darkness and kept the sunlight from blinding my eyes. I pray now that you, in your infinite mercy, will guide me through the coming paragraphs, now and forever. Amen."

My topic for today is Ronald Reagan. He sure is a

funny kind of guy, isn't he? God (the Lord, who art in heaven) knows, I don't mean his policies or anything. His economic policies have once and for all saved us from the hell that the path from socialism leads. And certainly not his military proposals. Through his recommendations, we have learned a great deal about the peoples of the worlds and about ourselves as well. Who knew that Wyoming or Utah or western Nebraska even existed before MX?

No, what strikes me as odd is how he could wait until he was 70 years old before he became president.

How could he wait so long to be the head of a great land such as ours? What if he had been our president when he was 35? He could have guided us through the dark, confusing days following World War II. Or when he was 60? Watergate would be nothing more than a fancy schmancy hotel with a check-out time of noon. Or when he was 65? Iran would be a Christian state, full of love and goodness and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

No, we had to wait. But, we've got him now. And God bless him. And you all. And our great nation. And Country Music. Amen.

Actually, I forgot to adapt to the major criticism I get. For example, this gentleman writes:

"Dear Mike, I love your column. Here's \$20. But you should get more personal in it. You know what the UNL campus really wants is to better know Mike Frost the man. We want to see what makes you tick. No, make it \$40. Love, Marty Massengale."

So, for you Marty: To Shelley, M5, Eric, Ben, Mike, Tom, Marty, Beth, Joni, Patty, Diane, John, Chris, Bill, Chuck, Brian, Lynette, Kal, another Mike, Mary Louise, Glenn, Tish, Tana, H-S-S Food Service, Grandpa, Auntie Allee and Emmylou: Thank you. Have a Happy New Year.