

Editorial

US Party may be in dreamland

Oh, what fun!
It's National Soup Month and the Campbell Kids, Kevin Goldstein and Julie Meusberger, have beaten the other Kewpie dolls to the punch by announcing their candidacy for ASUN executive offices.

Under the moniker United Students, Goldstein, Meusberger and Troy Hilliard have issued a solid, but very ambitious platform.

Goldstein has outlined many ideas that seem fundamental to university life, but never have been pursued by past student regents for various reasons.

The idea of a typing center where typewriters would be available for student use in ASUN offices will become a reality, Goldstein said, if he is elected.

The US platform also calls for a renter's union that would have listings of good and bad landlords. Goldstein said Legal Services receives many complaints every year about landlords.

US proposes that 20 students be invited weekly to substantial East Campus office and produce, in addition to its newsletter every semester, a semi-weekly "update sheet" that "will be an effective link between ASUN and students."

Within ASUN itself, US has proposed seemingly fundamental procedural changes. Standing committees that, in the past, had small projects will be replaced by ad hoc committees, a near necessity in any well-run organization.

Truly amazing is Goldstein's proposal to institute written committee reports. Written reports have not been a feature in ASUN before.

The aforementioned are all fine and noble ideas, but many points in the US platform don't seem feasible because of some strange logic by Goldstein and the nature and past performance of ASUN senators.

Figure out this Catch-22 for yourself:
"The main way ASUN can be more responsive to its constituency is through interaction with them."

This in turn, would lead to better visibility (sic), making the students more aware of issues and problems; thereby leading to more credibility for ASUN and a better attitude toward ASUN by students."

Goldstein somehow believes that students are going to care about ASUN more in the next year than they have in the past. He thinks that simply by being more visible, ASUN will become more prominent in students' lives.

This paper has given ASUN activities and elections enough press over the past three years that if students aren't aware of the body's presence, they may never be.

US proposes that 20 students be invited weekly to the ASUN offices for an "open house." Who, considering the lack of interest in ASUN in the past, will attend these intimate gatherings?

To distribute its update sheets, US will have dorm floor and fraternity and sorority representatives. However, about two-thirds of UNL's students live off campus. How might they get their information?

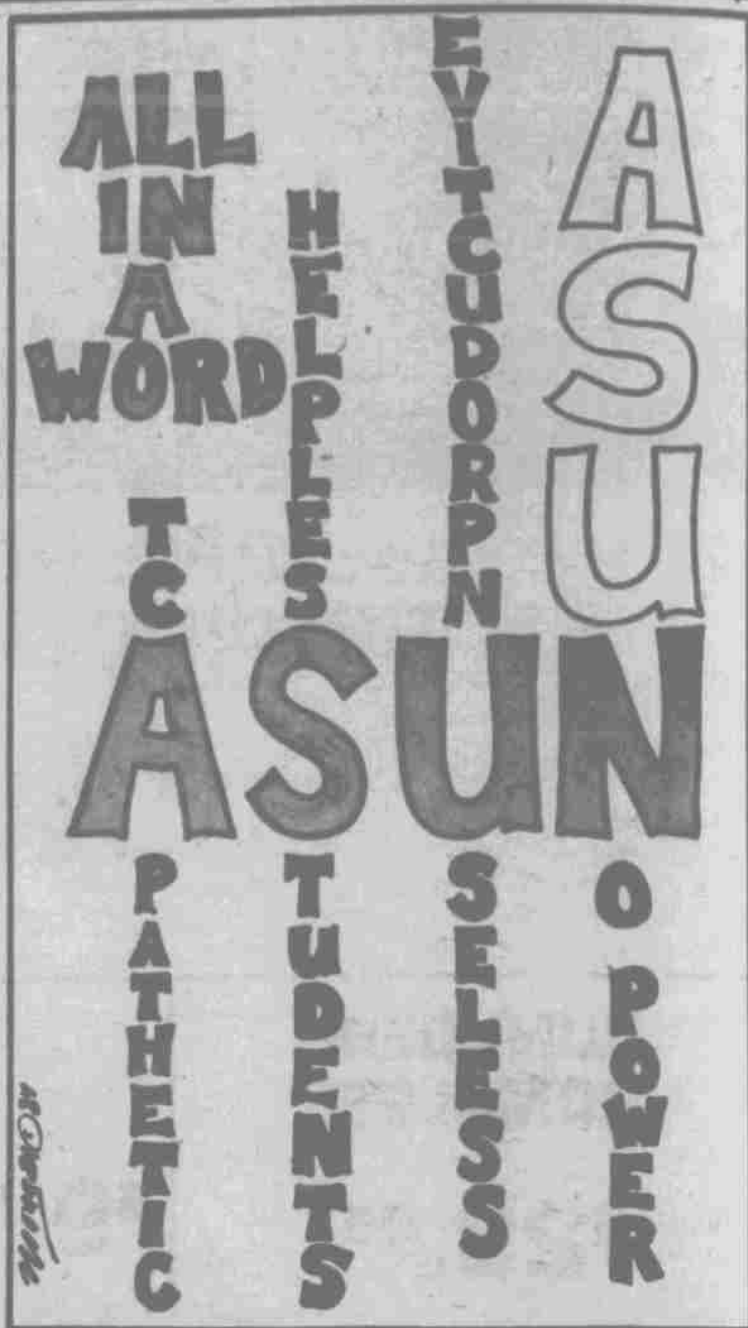
Simple, Goldstein says. It will be handed to them at various sites all around campus. Presupposing the entire student body cares about what will be in those sheets, this pamphleteering will have to be handled by ASUN senators.

Goldstein said today's college students are a very career-oriented lot. It can be presumed, then, that prospective ASUN senators aren't any different from the rest of this university.

It must be Goldstein's quest, then, to find a very dedicated group of senators and get them elected, or carrying out his ambitious platform may become next to impossible.

His hope for increased student knowledge about the ASUN can be fulfilled only by the students of this university.

— Jeff Browne



Faculty union could fight apathy, improve quality of UNL education

A faculty union could keep UNL education from becoming more mediocre than it already is. Only through a union will this university's faculty members have much of a chance for more pay — or a chance of attracting and keeping good people.

A signature campaign for UNL faculty representation by the American Association of University



Eric Peterson

Professors began Friday. When 30 percent of UNL faculty members have signed the campaign cards, the AAUP will make a request for representation to the NU Board of Regents; and when (when is really more appropriate here than if) the Board of Regents refuses, the state Commission of Industrial Relations is authorized to hold an election on the question of collective bargaining for the UNL faculty.

Two such campaigns already have failed, the most recent attempt in 1975 when professors voted down a union 634-503. However, times are worse now than they were then and UNL faculty members have noticed, perhaps with envy, that UNO teachers, who

have a union, will get a 6.6 percent pay increase this year. UNL teachers get nothing.

Because of the past several Legislature budgets, UNL faculty salaries are about 15 percent less than those of instructors at other land grant universities in the country. And those surprisingly numerous people who think university professors should be selfless scholars, living on light and air and demanding no other recompense than the joy of learning, might consider the fact that low pay isn't going to attract intelligent and committed applicants to Oldfather for hiring interviews. Many departments — speech communications, modern languages, life sciences, among others — already have seen some of their best teaching faculty leave in the past several years, in part because of low salaries.

Linda Pratt, an English professor and president of UNL's AAUP chapter, and Jerry Petr, an associate professor of economics and an AAUP member, are among the UNL faculty members working in the AAUP organizing campaign. Petr noted in a debate in the Nebraska Union that UNL faculty members have tired of waiting for other resources to turn up more pay, in spite of continued promises from the regents to make higher salaries their top priority.

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Now, another big episode of Ed Meese

Edwin Meese's recent nomination as attorney general has been hailed in many circles. Meese was described in an Associated Press story as a "law and order man." One would have assumed that this was a common denominator with attorneys general, but evidently



Mike Frost

Meese's background in law enforcement and conservative causes distinguishes him even further.

Meese's appointment comes at a crucial time for the Reagan administration. With an election just around the corner, the president's political advisers are anxious to make him more appealing to the general public without alienating his hard-core conservative support.

Meese will be the centerpiece of this

effort. Because of his reputation as a law and order kinda' guy, the White House has commissioned editorial cartoonist Dick Locher, whose cartoons appear in this very paper, to create a serial cartoon based on Meese's fights to maintain law and order. Locher, who currently draws *Dick Tracy*, has made available some of the story lines we can expect to see pursued in his new strip, *Ed Meese* (pronounced Meese.)

Locher's first idea sounds intriguing. "Meese has come face-to-face with his arch-enemy Regnuh Leech. Regnuh has been terrorizing Washington, D.C. (the strip's locale) by fraudulently cashing welfare checks under the alias of Al Hunger. You know as well as I that Hunger doesn't exist," the chief tells Meese.

"So Meese calls in his loyal toady, Mike Deaver, and says, 'Go find Regnuh and arrest him. And bring me a sandwich.'"

"So, Sam captures Regnuh and brings

him back to Meese, who's enjoying a scrumptious pastrami sandwich. Regnuh confesses everything. Meese turns him over to the chief and takes full credit for the arrest. Mike doesn't mind, though, because once and for all, they've proven that Hunger didn't really exist."

Then Locher plans to have Meese take a vacation. "We want the strip to resemble the real-life day-to-day activities at the White House as much as possible." But even on vacation, Ed Meese is still on the job.

"Ed and his family are relaxing in sunny Florida when Ed gets word that Lance Layabout, his arch enemy, is in the state as well. Layabout's been employed since 1981. Within the past few months, he's been involved in a scam where he takes his unemployment and welfare checks and invests them in an underworld thumbtack operation.

"Meese gets wind of the operation. He calls his loyal son, Junior, and says, 'Go find Layabout and bring him into

me. And bring me a sandwich.'

"So, Junior captures Layabout and brings him back to Meese who's enjoying a scrumptious pastrami sandwich. Layabout confesses everything. Meese turns him over to the chief and takes full credit for the arrest. Junior doesn't mind, but he is disillusioned. 'I always thought dad was in favor of unemployment tacks,' he mumbles."

Locher's final installment of *Ed Meese* also has a realistic tone to it. "Meese is sitting in his office, when Loot E. Yenom walks in. Yenom offers Meese a high-paying job with his multi-million dollar corporation. Meese gladly accepts. The chief goes on television and gives Meese full credit for the great job he's done. Deaver doesn't mind, though, because, knowing the chief as well as he does, he knows my next comic strip will be entitled *Mike Deaver, Attorney G.*"

At long last, we have an attorney general that not only the president can be proud of, but Dick Tracy as well.



Letters

Alcohol abuse ignored

I would like to make some additions to James Willett's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 23).

I would agree with Willett that it was unfair that fraternity members and college freshmen were singled out (without any presentation of facts) as drinking more than any other college students. However, this injustice isn't what concerns me, but rather that Willett's response ignores that alcohol abuse is probably the number one problem facing both college students and fraternities today. In view of this, I find it ridiculous to squabble over who really has a drinking problem when we should instead be directing our efforts toward solving the alcohol problems on campus.

On Feb. 17 through 23, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the Delta Delta Delta sorority will be participating in the fifth annual Week on the Wagon. The purpose of this week of abstinence from alcohol is to serve as a warning to heavy drinkers as well as to educate the general public about the often ignored serious problem of alcohol abuse. It is my sincere hope that others will join us on the wagon. I encourage any interested groups to please contact members of the fore-mentioned houses about joining us on the wagon.

John Valdrighi
Social Service Chairman
Alpha Tau Omega

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