

Editorial



Don Fricke for first district NU regents' seat

The Daily Nebraskan supports Don Fricke for the first district NU Board of Regent's seat now held by Ed Schwartzkopf.

Schwartzkopf has been a regent for 18 years and we believe he has done a good job. However, the board needs someone who can build a similar record of experience and who can provide leadership in the years ahead.

Fricke's concern for upgrading academic standards and maintaining the status of UNL as "the flagship" of the university show he has his priorities in the right place. His stance on the veterinary school also demonstrates his concern for quality education.

Fricke aptly points out that the planned \$18 million vet school won't help upgrade the quality of education — NU needs that money to upgrade research facilities, the archaic computer system and teacher salaries. There is no point to expansion when other areas of the university are lagging. Fricke supports increased funding for the engineering and business schools as well as other programs.

Schwartzkopf defends the vet school and, in a recent speech on campus, said the computer issue has not come to the attention of the Board of Regents.

It has been one of the most important issues on campus for at least three years.

Fricke won the primary by a slim margin — 636 votes. We urge voters to cast their ballots Nov. 6 for him again in the best interests of the students and the institution. Fricke would be the best choice for building the future of the university.

Fricke has a background that will keep him aware of all facets of the university. A native of Hastings, Fricke is a local dentist. He graduated from NU's dental school in 1964 and was an academic all-American on NU's football team in 1960. He's lived in Lincoln for years.

Fricke's relative youth will allow him to build a long, productive career on the board of regents.

Schwartzkopf, 65, deserves commendation for his service as regent, but a new voice, and one that will last, is needed on the board.

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Happy Halloween! Tonight ghosts, goblins and gremlins will be groveling and slinking all over town. If you're out celebrating, be extra careful driving home. Some of those creepy critters run around in black clothes and aren't very visible.

Enjoy this delightfully freaky holiday, drive sober and all will be safe (and spooky).

Crime, education issues wither from presidential campaign scenes

If you are easily entertained — if you are the sort of person who sees drama in the sight of, say, a small mailman delivering a big package — we are ending 12 months of golden memories. My favorite is of Gary Hart describing how, if a Czech airliner penetrates U.S.

primarily the responsibility of state and local governments, and will be influenced only marginally by federal decisions.

The same is true of another issue that, you may have noticed, is no longer noticeable as a national issue. Last year, in one out of every five households, someone suffered an assault, burglary, larceny, rape or robbery. Few of the criminals involved were or will be caught, and fewer will be prosecuted, and fewer still will be convicted. In California, where one-tenth of the electorate lives (lives anxiously, evidently), a reliable poll reveals that crime is now the foremost concern. Yet crime has not been an issue in the presidential campaign.

One reason is that crime is declining. For the first time in 20 years the crime rate has declined in two consecutive years. That fact has, naturally, caused the administration to puff out its chest and point with pride. Never mind that, as conservatives know, and if they were out of office would be quick to proclaim, the decline has little to do with government action at any level and almost nothing to do with federal action. It has a lot to do with demography. There is a decline in the crime rate because there is, at the moment, a decline in the number of young men between the ages 16 and 25.

The Phrase "demography is destiny" contains much truth, including the conservative truth that social dynamics often govern life more than government does. But that truth sometimes limits the ability to brag.

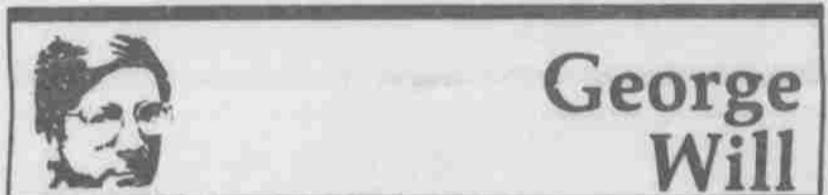
However, the main reason crime is not an issue is not that the crime rate has changed. It is that the electorate has changed. It recognizes that federal policy is peripheral to the problem.

Like the issues that are not, as November nears, issues, another interesting aspect of this election is a regional bonanza that is not sure to materialize. If, as seems likely, Republicans retain control of the Senate, that will be the worst defeat for the South since the Army of the Potomac completed the siege of Petersburg.

If Democrats recapture the Senate, these Southerners would acquire (in some cases re-acquire) committee chairmanships: Mississippi's John Stennis, Appropriations; Louisiana's Russell Long, Finance; Georgia's Sam Nunn, Armed Services; Florida's Lawton Chiles, Budget; South Carolina's Fritz Hollings, Commerce; Louisiana's J. Bennett Johnson, Energy; Texas' Lloyd Bentsen, Environment and Public Works.

The only chairmanships the South would lose are those held by Republicans Strom Thurmond of South Carolina (Judiciary) and Jesse Helms of North Carolina (Agriculture). Helm's re-election is in doubt in any case. If you count Kentucky as part of the South, Democratic capture of the Senate would keep the Agriculture chairmanship in the region, with Kentucky's Walter Huddleston. But correct thinkers do not count Kentucky as part of the South, that state having behaved reasonably well in those days when Lincoln said he hoped to have God on his side but had to have Kentucky.

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airspace heading for the air-defense center in Colorado Springs, he would order interceptors to peek in the windows to see if the passengers were wearing uniforms. But among the other fascinating features of these 12 months has been things left unsaid, or said and then soon abandoned.

Twelve months ago, seven Democrats (Jesse Jackson had not yet entered the Syrian primary; can you name the seven?) were elbowing one another and stepping on each other's insteps in the struggle to see who would break his lance against Ronald Reagan. A presidential commission — announcing a crisis, of course — had all the candidates rattling on about one issue. What was it? Education, the decline and fall thereof. But that issue was worn out by Thanksgiving, and little has been heard about it since, for two reasons.

First, saturation journalism especially on television, quickly wears out most issues, or at least the public's interest in them. Some issues are more durable than others. It took two weeks to beat into a shapeless pulp the Good-Lord-(If-You-Will-Pardon-the-Expression)-Religion-and-Politics-Are-Getting-Tangled-Up-In-This-Nation-Begun-By-Pilgrims issue.

But another, reason the education issue withered is that the electorate is smarter than it was even a decade ago. It knows that education always has been, is today, should be, and will for the foreseeable future remain,



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