
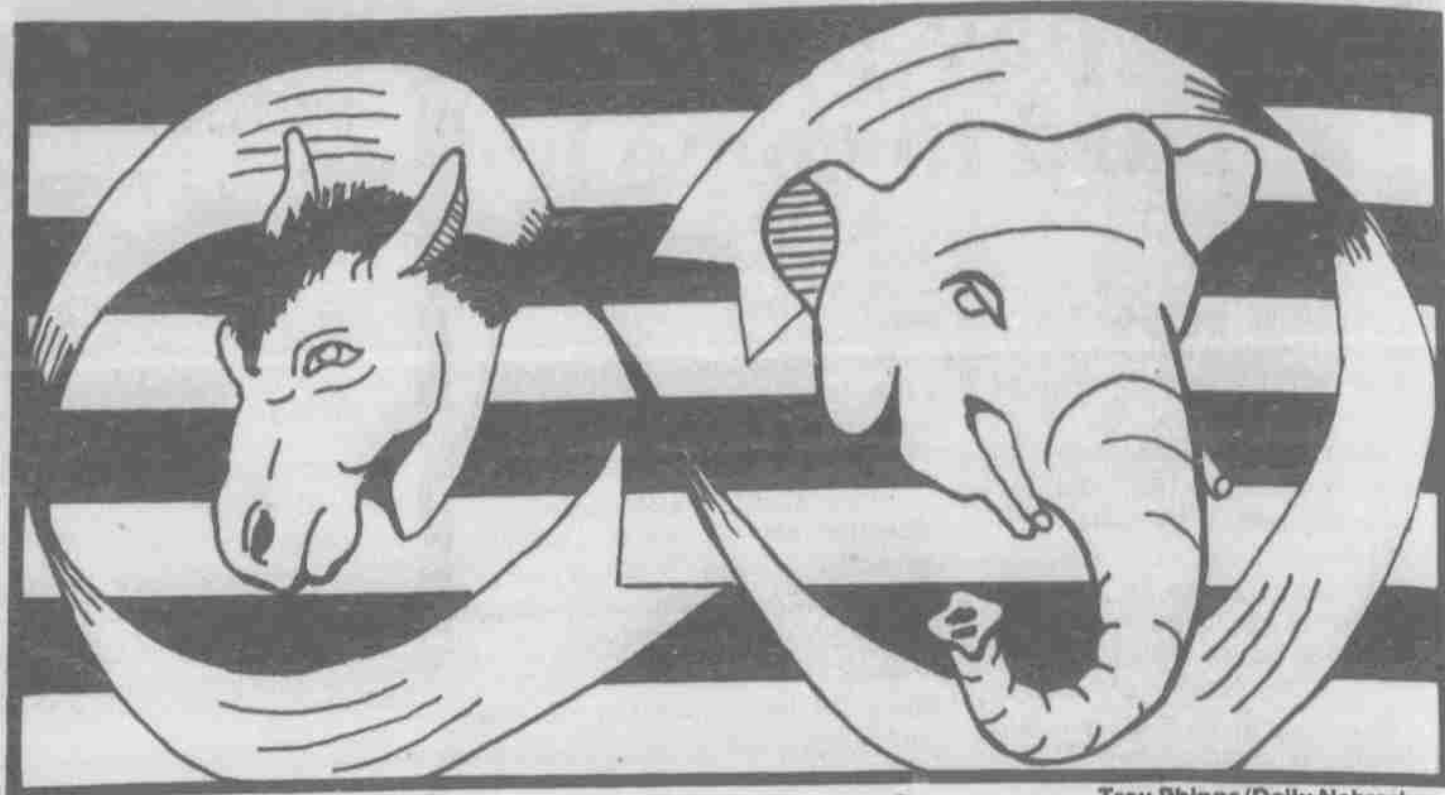


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College Politicos

Young Democrats plan to be more active during 'off times'

By Dan Lonowski
 Staff Reporter

After two years of what the current Young Democrats president calls "a trend of decline," the club has planned several activities for the 1985-86 academic year.

President Patricia Savage said the club plans to direct a voter-registration drive and to be the host of several speakers this year.

"We're trying to do more things to get more involved than we have in the past," Savage said. "We would like to help more in elections than we have in the past."

Savage said the club has helped Lincoln Sens. Shirley Marsh and Dave Wesely, Omaha Mayor Mike Boyle, and U.S. Sen. J. James Exon. The club also supported Gov. Bob Kerrey.

"The Young Democrats do minor work sometimes, but they are still getting involved in politics. It's a good start if someone wants to get into politics," she said.

Savage said three interns worked for Exon's Washington office last year. Some of their duties may not have been very important, but the interns still gained valuable experience working in a political atmosphere, she said.

Joining the Young Democrats is 'a good start if someone wants to get into politics.'

Patricia Savage
 Young Democrats President

"Our members also establish important political contacts that may help them in the future," Savage said.

The social aspect of the club also is important for members. Savage said club members have small gatherings to get to know each other better.

"It is hard to find people who have the same things in common sometimes because campus is so big," she said. "But when you get a group of people together, they already know they have at least one thing in common."

"About 130 people signed the roster at the club's first meeting this year. If half that number show up for the next meeting, she said, it would be an improvement over the last two years.

Savage said in the past the club worked only during national state or local campaigns, causing the club to die down after the event. As president, she said, she wants the club to be active even when there aren't political elections being held.

Savage said she is a non-traditional president. In taking this approach, she said, the system allows more people to get involved with leadership responsibilities.

The club meets every two weeks. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday in the Nebraska Union. The meeting is open to the public.

College Republicans try to increase political involvement

By Martha Stoddard
 Staff Reporter

The president of the UNL College Republicans says he can't characterize the members of the organization.

Joe Pigg said the College Republicans are a "very diverse group." The group includes Greeks, residence hall and off-campus students, he said.

Pigg said the members are "all conservatives," but he added that the group includes liberal, moderate and right-wing conservatives.

The average member of College Republicans "feels pretty good about where we're at as a country, likes that and wants to keep it going," Pigg said.

The group's goal is to get students involved and interested in politics and to make students aware of political issues, Pigg said.

Meeting new people and having fun are also the group's objectives, he said. Past events have ranged from formal dinners to FACs, Pigg said.

A few years ago, he said, the group sponsored a mud-wrestling tournament to benefit charities of the wrestlers' choice. Pigg said group members chose mud-wrestling to have fun and get away from their stereotype.

"Rather than be stuck in the mud," Pigg said, "we thought we'd get in the mud."

He said the group wants to continue

having speakers at one of its two meetings each month. The second meeting of the month will be more informal, focusing on organizational business and discussing issues.

Last year the group had about 30 active members, Pigg said. At the first meeting this year, when NU Regent Nancy Hoch spoke, about 60 people signed the roster.

The average College Republican member 'feels pretty good about where we're at as a country...'

— Joe Pigg
 College Republican President

Pigg said he would like to see more students involved. He said he thinks the group could have 100 members on a heavily Republican campus like UNL.

"I suppose it's an easy time in life not to become involved with other things," Pigg said.

But he said the group is planning for the future, for the time when members no longer will be students.

Many things change for college students after graduation, but Pigg said

he hopes they continue to be interested in and committed to politics. That involvement is what College Republicans is striving for at UNL, he said.

College Republicans works closely with the Young Republicans and the county Republican Party, Pigg said. The group helped other Republican groups fingerprint children for identification at the Nebraska State Fair.

Pigg said other party groups are very supportive of the College Republicans.

"They're realizing more and more that young voters can make a difference," he said.

The College Republicans don't get involved in campus politics, Pigg said, because ASUM is not structured along traditional party lines.

Although members are interested in campus issues, he said it's hard for the group to take a stand on campus issues because of the diversity of the members.

Pigg said there is some rivalry with the Democrats on campus, but he said it is friendly. Although they may disagree on basic issues, he said, Republicans and Democrats are all Americans.

He said he wants the two parties to go beyond the stereotypes of Republicans and Democrats. Pigg said he wishes people could look at all sides of issues and make their own decisions.

"That's what I've done," he said, "and I'm a Republican."

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