

Editorial

Daily
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An act of attrition Senators cynical of ASUN

Like the comedian Rodney Dangerfield, ASUN Senate "gets no respect." Both a cause and effect of this dearth of widespread respect is the high attrition rate of people from the senate. Upwards of 50 percent of individuals once serving on the senate this year no longer sit on the assembly. While Nero fiddled, Rome burned. However, it's not obvious that most ASUN senators even have had the time to learn to play the violin.

Of those who quit or were forced to resign, some did so as a result of apathy manifested in missed meetings. Others were cynical about the prospects of meaningful service in the senate and quit out of bitterness.

The struggle over ASUN's identity and respect cannot be solved overnight. While many of the sentiments of the quitting and resigning senators are understandable by much of the student population, students are nonetheless ill served by such discontinuity in the senate population.

We're not crying over spilled milk here. A new ASUN election just around the corner raises the question: Will next year's senate have the same problem? Steps need to be taken to decrease the possibility of a repeat performance.

First, candidates for executive offices — those largely responsible for selecting the party slates for the lower offices — should redouble efforts to ensure that those running are willing to serve the entire term, except in the case of a major emergency.

Voices finally heard

RHA adds meal plan, cable, paper towels

Residence hall voices were finally heard. For several years students residing in the halls have had to deal with paying for meals they never ate and wiping their hands on their pants because restrooms didn't have paper towels. Residents also watched television that only carried the network stations.

Now, the above complaints are a part of the 1987-88 budget approved by the Residence Hall Association. Specifically, an alternative-meal plan will give residents the choice of 13 or 20 meals a week. The old system required students to pay for 20 meals whether they ate 20 or not. Also, paper-towel dispensers are

Undoubtedly, a slack candidate-selection process by party officials has led in some measure to the massive exodus. Candidates (or the senate or election commission itself) could require, say, a deposit of \$100, returnable only after a successful year of service. (Obviously true hard-luck cases would be allowed to get it returned — but none of this "I have a night class" junk.) For some reason, when money is involved in an event — especially one's own cash — apathy has a way of evaporating like dew on grass.

Cynicism represents a different problem than apathy. The solution, however, is obvious: People who are cynical about ASUN (and that involves a number of us) simply should not be members of ASUN. Anybody with enough awareness to seek a seat on the ASUN Senate has enough awareness to know the substantial constraints on positive ASUN action — there are both institutional and attitude factors severely limiting the "student government's" ability to do anything resembling real governance. Even the most surface-level understanding of the context of student government at UNL should communicate that grandiose visions of major policy changes cannot be accomplished through ASUN.

ASUN is nonetheless a service organization that is not without reason for existence. Executive candidates should ensure that their fellow party members understand completely what they're getting into and avoid a repeat of this year's embarrassment.

being added to the halls' bathrooms, and 34-channel basic-cable service is being installed.

Friday's Daily Nebraskan stated that RHA approved the budget after negotiating last semester with the Office of University Housing, and after a survey showed that residents favored the changes. Of 382 residents surveyed, 73 percent favored cable TV, 78 percent approved of the alternative-meal plan, and 78 percent wanted paper towels.

The numbers are significant, and it's a wonder the items haven't been implemented before. Each may seem trivial, especially cable TV, but all of those things are an important part of the residents' daily routines.

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is

left to the editor's discretion.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



"YOUR RÉSUMÉ IS IMPRESSIVE... BUT I REALLY NEED SOMEBODY WITH EXPERIENCE AT BEING A HOSTAGE!"

Conservatives concur for 1988 Voters shy away from too-pushy presidential candidates

The decision of White House Communications Director Pat Buchanan not to toss his hat into the ring for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination is greatly to his credit.

In announcing it, Buchanan rightly stressed the main point, which was that his candidacy would unnecessarily split conservative Republican ranks and thereby diminish the chances of some likelier conservative prospect such as Rep. Jack Kemp. But that factor, though central, wasn't the only one that played a part in Buchanan's decision not to run.

What made the idea tempting in the first place was the indisputable fact that there are a lot of outraged and frustrated conservatives around the country who have been waiting for somebody to say what they believe: namely, that the whole Iran/contras controversy is a case of much ado about very little, and is being diligently puffed up by the Democrats and their media cronies in a squalid and thus far totally unsuccessful effort to destroy Ronald Reagan and his presidency. That effort deserves to be nailed as the dingy little smear job it is, and Buchanan has made a couple of speeches around the country doing precisely that. His audiences — conservative to a man — were ecstatic, and the Buchanan presidential boomlet was under way.

The trouble is that while such hard-

shelled conservatives constitute a respectable fraction of the national electorate, and are probably even numerous enough to win or materially influence many Republican presidential primaries, there aren't enough of them to win a general election all by themselves or (probably) even capture the Republican presidential nomination.

William A. Rusher



When it comes to choosing a man for the presidency, most voters shy away from candidates, whether left or right, who have a passionate gleam in their eye. Even to have a reputation (as Tom Dewey did, for example) for wanting the job badly is enough to scare off many people. To be suspected of being dedicated, heart and soul, to some ideology, or even to a "rigid" set of principles, turns the average voter off almost automatically. It was the feat that Ronald Reagan was of this dangerous breed that kept so many voters undecided until late in the 1980 campaign; and it was his debate with Carter, which showed 60 million viewers a warm, relaxed and totally non-threat-

ening Reagan, that resulted in his landslide victory.

So it is written in the stars that, with rare exceptions, such impassioned pillars of principle as Pat Buchanan — and, for that matters, Jesse Helms — are not destined to occupy the White House.

Up through the nomination, the fantasy was shared and almost equally enjoyed by many on the left. They longed for Buchanan's nomination by the Republicans the way many conservatives long for Ted Kennedy's or Mario Cuomo's nomination by the Democrats — anticipating the rich delights of administering an historic drubbing to a veteran opponent in the general election.

Buchanan's decision returns the Republican presidential contest to approximately its prior shape, with Bush ahead, Dole second and (apparently) gaining, and Kemp still well behind.

But the time is now near when Kemp must start moving — toward open candidacy, and upward in the polls — if he is ever going to do so. And, thanks to Pat Buchanan's demonstration, he must now know that there are a great many Republicans out there who are ready to respond to a calmly principled defense of Ronald Reagan.

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Rusher is the publisher of the National Review.

Letters

Gay/lesbian needs can be met without university's money

I see no need for the gay/lesbian group to get even one penny from the UPC's 1987-88 budget. If this group got the money it is asking for, the university would not be helped in any way.

According to the Jan. 29 front-page article in the DN, Angela Swantek, UPC-City president, said, "The university is not meeting the informational and cultural needs of homosexuals on campus." Does this mean they have different informational and cultural needs than heterosexuals on campus? Swantek was also quoted as saying, "Gays are not one-dimensional; they have talents and need a way to express them." What talents do they have that they can't express? What would a way to express their talents be? Besides these two questions, why would they need the university's money to do so?

It appears to me that the gay/lesbian group just wants to be totally segregated from the rest of the students. It doesn't bother me to be in the same university with gays and lesbians, but it looks like it bothers the gay/lesbian group to be in the same university with heterosexuals.

Mike Graff
senior
marketing

Rogers' column misrepresents conservatives, reader says

Jim Rogers is doing a great disservice to conservatives. His editorial rhetoric is confusing, lengthy and (worst of all) boring.

Example: (excerpt Jan. 29) "Yet while always asserting the presuppositions of this nihilism, the modern era insanely denies the reality of the abyss." Huh?! As George Orwell noted of similar writings in "Politics and the English Language," "This mixture of vagueness and sheer incompetence is the most marked characteristic of modern English prose, and especially of any kind of political writing."

A writer's foremost goal is to relate to his audience. On this count, Rogers fails miserably. Few DN readers have a Ph.D. in b.s.

Why do I say he is doing a disservice to conservatives? Simply, because he is a poor representative of conservatives. Most conservatives don't dress up simple statements with pretentious diction.

I could be in the minority, but I doubt it. I don't question Rogers' intelligence or integrity, only his methods. People should be persuaded by clear and accurate logic and reason, not fancy words and inflated phrases.

James Feyerherm
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