

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Solving quarrels

DN suggests solution for poll problem

Stop bickering. There's a simple solution to the quarrel about where to put polls for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elections.

If student leaders want to increase participation in elections, they should locate the polls based on high-traffic districts instead of just where people live.

This isn't an issue of whether the polls belong in the residence halls or greek houses. It's an issue of where they would be most effective.

The Residence Hall Association has encouraged ASUN to place polling sites in the residence halls. Polling sites are currently located in the Nebraska Union, the Walter Scott Engineering Building and East Campus.

RHA officials have said adding sites will encourage voter participation in the residence halls. True.

But fraternity and sorority members argue that if polls are put in residence halls, they should be in the greek houses too. Good point. Therefore, to be fair to everyone, the polling sites should be located where all students have access to them.

That was the inspiration for the Daily Nebraskan's poll location plan (see map above). This plan would break the campus into five districts, each with a centrally located polling site.

It also would break down the whining between the residence hall officials and greek houses.

The DN's plan would keep the three current polling sites and add booths at Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall and at Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St.

The five sites would be spread far enough across campus to serve the entire UNL community.

The current plan makes it difficult for some students to get to the polls. Many Harper-Schramm-Smith students never come to the Nebraska Union and would have to make a special trip there or to Walter Scott.

Under the DN's plan, the Walter Scott site would serve Abel-Sandoz residence halls and a few greek houses. The Cornerstone site would cover several fraternities and sororities along 16th street, the Neihardt and Cather-Pound residence hall complexes.

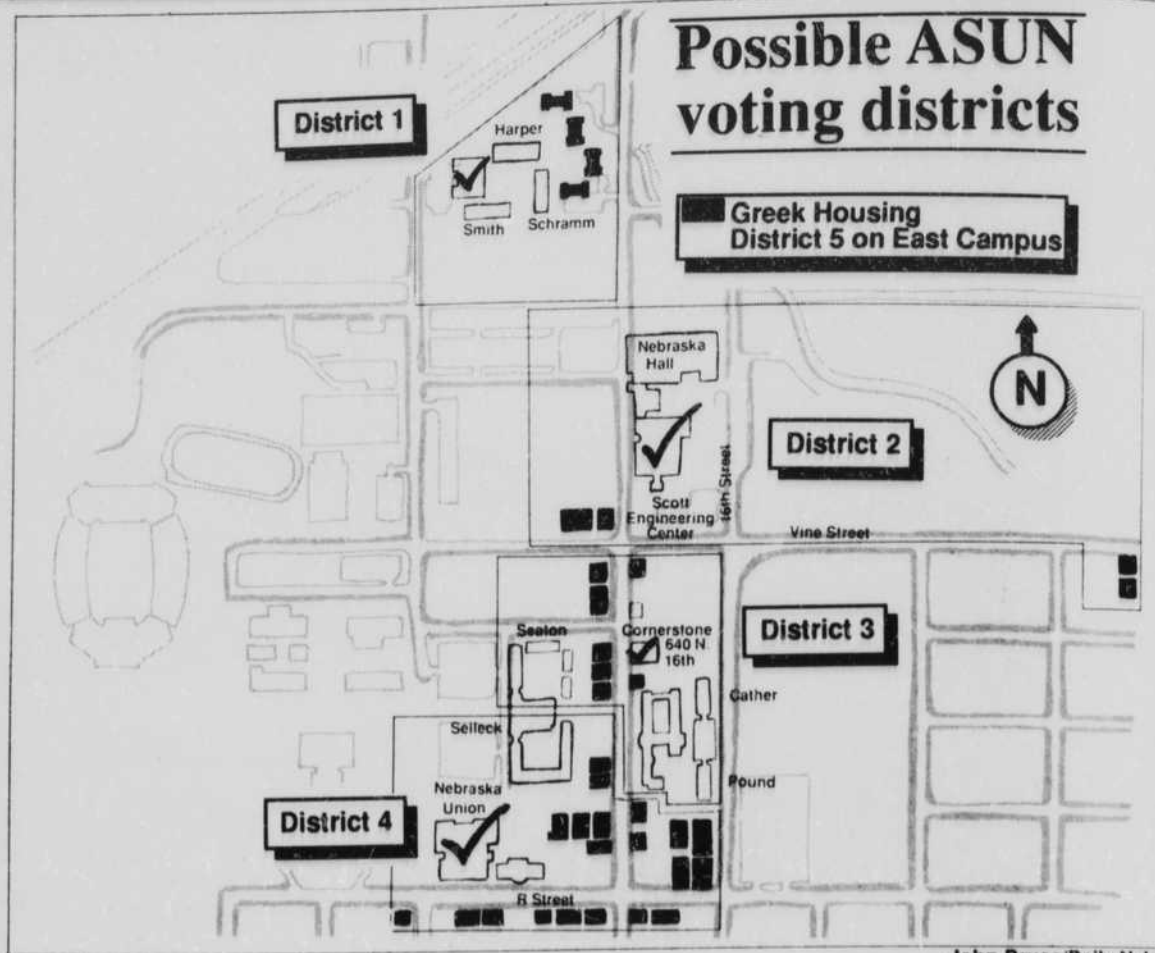
Off-campus students often spend time at the unions and could vote there. The Nebraska Union also would serve the fraternities and sororities on the south side of R Street and Selleck Quadrangle.

Harper-Schramm-Smith's voting site would cover the traffic on the north side of campus, which includes two fraternities and two sororities. East Campus would have a booth all its own.

The plan also would make it as convenient as possible for the apathetic (but quick-to-criticize) students who claim they are not given an opportunity to participate in student government. This will give them a chance to show up or shut up. No strings attached.

As far as the student leaders go, they can do what they want with the proposal. The DN just wants them to stop quarreling and get something done through cooperation -- for once.

-- Mike Reilley
and Curt Wagner
for The Daily Nebraskan



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Sennett gives annual awards

'There's one born every minute' prizes listed

Once again, we come to that colorful ritual known as "Dead Week" -- the infamous days of glory before the coming doom. As much as orientation and exams, Dead Week has its time-honored traditions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Among the most cherished are professional violations of Dead Week regulations and the long lines at the No-Doz counter of the University Bookstore. But no Dead Week custom is more cherished (for me, at least) than the semi-annual presentation of the "There's One Born Every Minute" Awards, brought to you each semester through this column.

This award is reserved for those who have gone out of their individual ways to make our lives especially tedious and devoid of any obvious connection with rationality. These people cause us to challenge the claim that we are the highest life form on earth, and yet we take them in.

We put them on our front pages and build entire television talk shows around them. We buy magazines that feature them and talk about them in bars. We even create cutesie awards columns to make fun of them. It is not they who are the suckers, so much as we. They cry "Wolf," and we come running with our tongues hanging out.

This semester was especially rich in its potential winners. As a result, while there are more winners than usual, there are even more who are deserving but not recognized.

One hundred lines only go so far, and they must be reserved for the elite fool-makers among us. So, without further delay, here are the December 1988 winners.

The "Seat at the Back of the Campaign" award goes to Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, who pledged last summer that runner-up Jesse Jackson would play a major part in his run for the White House. Jackson was slightly less visible on the Democratic trail than Dan Quayle was on the Republican. And Dukakis wonders why blacks stayed at home or voted Republican in near record numbers.

The "Ghostboosters" award goes to all the Boo Birds at UNL home games this fall. On separate occasions these bastions of taste and decorum razed Nebraska Gov. Kay Orr and our beloved Cornhusker football team (when they left the field at halftime of the Missouri game). Best Supporting Actor in this cate-

gory goes to those who chided the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska for doing the only decent thing in apologizing to our chief of state. Say what you will -- there is no such thing as the right to be obnoxious.

Celebrity brat Christine Crawford wins this year's "Literarily Guided" award for publication of her new book, "Survivor." It is an account of all the abuse she took from literary critics in response to her first book, "Mommie Dearest," her graphic and tasteless account of life with Hollywood mom Joan Crawford.

Well, if her latest effort is anything like the former, the critical tidal wave may have only begun. I guess next year we'll get "Child of Survivor."



James Sennett

Outgoing Omaha Congressman Hal Daub takes home the "With Friends Like You" award for his single-handed decimation of Republican Party strength in Nebraska. Miffed by Orr's refusal to appoint him to the Senate seat vacated by the late Ed Zorinsky, Daub committed a political breach of etiquette of the highest order by challenging Orr's appointee David Karnes in the Republican primary last spring.

As a result, Daub managed to split the Republican Party, pulling support from Karnes and contributing to his humiliating defeat at the hands of Wunderkind Bob Kerrey, while simultaneously abandoning a sure-bet re-election to the House of Representatives and turning the state's second congressional seat over to the Democrats. I hear the Democratic Party has unofficially voted Daub its most valuable player for this year's campaign.

The 1988 "Pew-litzer Prize" goes to the Daily Nebraskan editorial staff for two of the greatest guffaws in newspaper ranks. The morning after the elections, when George Bush was elected to the most important political post in the world, the DN lead story was about Kerrey trouncing Karnes. Kerrey's picture was splattered over the width of the front page

(you could almost hear the echoing strains of "Waltzing Matilda") while our new chief executive managed a small story on the bottom left-hand corner.

Then, the Monday after Nebraska's first victory over Oklahoma in five years -- clearly the biggest Nebraska sports story since Moe Iba resigned -- the lead headline on the sports page read, "Citrus Bowl Awaits OU." 'Nuff said.

Nebraskans for the Right to Vote takes home our "One Foot in the Grave" award for not knowing when to die. The organization has announced that it will continue in existence to make sure that Nebraskans' rights are protected in the location of a low-level nuclear waste dump in the state. Look folks, you wanted us to vote on the low-level nuclear dump. We voted. You lost. Now pay your bills, be quiet and leave us alone.

Finally, the "Watery Grave Diggers" award goes to those beloved whalers of Point Barrow, Ala., who worked so long and hard to save those two whales from the arctic ice, then resumed their livelihood of seeking and destroying whales for profit. I guess it's no fun shooting fish in a barrel.

It is intriguing, though, that the whales stood a better chance of getting out of the ice block alive than they did of making it to the warmer southern waters alive.

Once, I was passed by a red pickup truck with a gun rack and a silk screen of flying geese on the back window. My wife commented, "Isn't it strange how people who put pictures of animals on their trucks and clothes usually spend a lot of their time killing those animals? Love of nature sure can make for strange bedfellows."

Well, there you have it. The votes are in and the "There's One Born (etc.)" Alumni Association has several new members. Of course there are many who were deserving but simply didn't make the cut. Well, like the Chicago Cubs and the Democratic presidential hopefuls, there is always next time.

And just think -- I managed to make it all the way through this without once mentioning Andrew Meyer or the host of letter writers who insisted on sparring with him on the DN editorial page. Some things aren't even deserving of this dubious notice.

Sennett is a graduate student in philosophy and is a Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.

opinion READER

Timing of suicide story called disappointing

We would like to comment in regard to the article concerning the suicide in Harper Residence Hall (Daily Nebraskan, Dec. 12).

It is our opinion that the DN used poor judgment in printing that particular article at this time. Dead Week and Finals Week are the most stressful times of the semester and articles such as the one the DN printed only instill thoughts of such irrational behavior. It's from articles like these that cause the domino effect in suicides to occur. We realize that the DN has the right to print relevant information and news, but

its poor timing in reporting this story disappoints us.

Beth Kuchta
sophomore
psychology

Jean Svoboda
sophomore
psychology

Editor's note: The DN also printed an editorial in the Dec. 13 issue about several University of Nebraska-Lincoln counseling programs for students with depression.