

Daily Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Abortion on fine line Veto fails to get overridden by House

The U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday failed to override a veto by President Bush that would have allowed federally financed Medicaid abortions for victims of rape or incest.

The vote was 231 to 191 in favor of the override -- 51 votes short of the necessary two-thirds margin.

Closer to home, two out of three of Nebraska's House representatives supported Bush's override. Republicans Doug Bereuter and Virginia Smith voted no on the override, while Democrat Peter Hoagland voted yes.

Anti-abortion leaders consider the House vote to be a decisive victory in the ever-controversial and heated debate over abortion rights.

But they are not the ones who will be forced to suffer the consequences of Bush's successful veto.

Indigent women -- who endure the kind of abuse President Bush will never understand -- will.

In addition to being raped and abused physically and emotionally, these women will be forced to carry to term pregnancies resulting from horrendous crimes against them.

The House cannot be blamed for this atrocity -- it tried. Had Bush kept his tongue in cheek, representatives would have succeeded in providing these women with an option.

Now these women have no choice -- even though other women fortunate enough to have money do, whether or not they have sustained similar abuse.

It's ironic that Bush successfully badgered some 1988 voters into believing that Michael Dukakis was responsible for freeing convicted and violent rapists like Willie Horton.

Does this mean he accepts responsibility for forcing women to bear children from the likes of Horton? Would he force Barbara Bush to do so?

It's a fine line, the abortion line. But it should be crystal clear that as long as women are legally allowed to have abortions, poverty-stricken victims of rape or incest should be given the same choice.

-- Lee Rood
for the Daily Nebraskan

Focus on the real problem

In response to Brian Svoboda's article (DN, Oct. 19) on the overabundance of grecks on this year's Homecoming royalty slate, I believe that, first of all, congratulations are in order.

Brian should be congratulated for pointing out a problem that has plagued our student government, honoraries and other organizations for years: misrepresentation of the student body. Administrators, student leaders, organizational advisers, and Daily Nebraskan editors and columnists, among others, have certainly been aware of this perpetual influence of grecks for decades and have worked hard to make changes in the attitudes and levels of involvement by non-grecks. However, these campaigns and notices of social injustice have often been perceived as a slap in the face to grecks who were active and involved, instead of having a positive response in terms of increased non-greek interest and participation in campus organizations and events.

Where does the problem truly lie? Certainly not upon the shoulders of this year's Homecoming royalty. Let's let them enjoy this reward that they all deserve, and focus, instead, upon some concrete problems and issues that can make a difference.

The difference in the Residence Hall Association and greek system must first be analyzed. The greek system, although certainly not perfect, does a great service to their young members, for the most part, by

perpetuating involvement in campus organizations and providing a social atmosphere for them to meet others within the system.

RHA, on the other hand, does not lend itself so adequately to the integration of its young members into the university system. The large number of people obviously has an effect upon the ability of leaders to motivate such large groups.

Non-greek student leaders must be the motivators of younger people if they want a change to occur. They must positively help to integrate younger students. The never-ending condemnations of the greek system and its leaders are old hat, and obviously they (grecks) are able to withstand the treatment.

Brian, please don't condemn the success of certain individuals who have worked hard and are deserving of recognition. Also, in the future, when you take up your pen in thought of attacking the greek system, please consider its success in getting people involved.

Increasing the number of non-greek applicants to campus organizations is the true challenge. If this can be accomplished, there will be non-greek Homecoming candidates in the future, and maybe a concentrated motivational movement might even elect that person king or queen.

It is time to put up or shut up.

John Bergmeyer
business
fifth-year senior



Elections loom on the horizon

Studying Board of Regents campaigns will help decision-making

So now that the all-important Homecoming elections are over, we can look toward 1990 and elections of real significance.

Seriously, though, next year's elections for state and local offices promise to be interesting, to say the least. One of the hotter races will be for Lincolnite Don Fricke's District One seat on the NU Board of Regents.

Fricke indicated two weeks ago that he plans to run for re-election to the board. But that hasn't seemed to keep others out of the race. One candidate -- Lincoln optometrist Dick Powell -- already has announced his candidacy, and according to the rumor mill, others are waiting in the wings.

So why all the interest in this race? The bottom line is that Fricke is seen as a weak candidate. The July firing of NU President Ronald Roskens brought a firestorm of criticism on the board, no doubt leaving the regents who are not up for re-election thanking God they don't have to face the voters yet.

And for Lancaster County, where UNL is to Lincoln what the Big Three are to Detroit, Fricke's six years in office have been accompanied by some unsettling developments. The Kearney State merger and the proposed addition of doctoral programs to the University of Nebraska at Omaha have been seen by many as a threat to Lincoln interests, and some have called into question Fricke's ability as the Lincoln regent to protect those interests.

So Fricke enters the race as a weakened incumbent, and potential challengers are seeing a golden opportunity. But the race is far from over. One question in particular needs to be answered: What's the best strategy for a challenger in the District One regents' race?

In 1990, a good, issue-oriented campaign can be run against the board in general and Fricke in particular. Here are three silver bullets available to a would-be Lone Ranger, salient issues which could help make a campaign:

1. OPEN AND HONEST GOVERNMENT -- Talk about this issue, and the Roskens firing comes immediately to mind.

But the secrecy surrounding Roskens' firing is only one example. The regents traditionally have conducted much of their business out of the public eye.

An effective candidacy could raise this point and propose specific, concrete strategies to promote citizen involvement, as opposed to corporate or NU Foundation involvement -- which already is high in university governance.

It would be relatively easy for a candidate to demagogue on Roskens' firing. But a sledgehammer approach to this issue loses the main idea -- that the regents should be inclusive, rather than exclusive, in their general decision-making.



Brian Svoboda

2. UNL AS FLAGSHIP CAMPUS -- Regionalism is an ugly specter to summon in a campaign. It's short-sighted and doesn't serve a useful purpose. Nevertheless, regionalism is a major concern for the citizens of Lancaster County, since the role of UNL is inextricably linked with the local economy.

University growth occurring outside of Lincoln, whether it is the addition of Kearney State to the university or the addition of doctoral programs to UNO, generally is seen by Lincolnites as being at the expense of UNL. Right or wrong, this is the view held by hundreds of registered voters in Lancaster County.

A candidate for regent should carefully and thoughtfully present his or her vision of UNL's role in the university system. And this vision must place UNL at the center. A Lincoln regent candidate who distances himself or herself from the idea of the flagship campus is sure to be pummeled by the other candidates, including the incumbent.

3. THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN THE ECONOMY --

The university always has done well by the local business elite. The Board of Regents, the NU Foundation and large corporations such as FirstTier, Woodmen Life and Casualty, and Enron often have exchanged directors and contracted each others' services.

But small-business people in Lincoln may have a different attitude toward the university. The Lied Center, along with the city's downtown redevelopment initiatives, have disrupted and dislodged a number of relatively small, successful businesses such as Ted and Wally's, the Skylight Bistro, Nebraska Bookstore and others.

A candidate for regent should promote the idea of partnership between Lincoln's small businesses and the university. He or she could perhaps even pledge to take an active, brokering role in such cooperation.

This idea could be coupled with a call for a coherent, strategic plan for UNL campus expansion. Recent dealings regarding the old Whittier Junior High School building, the Lied Center and the Reunion indicate that no such plan exists.

These issues, of course, are not the only ones which should be raised in the campaign. Issues such as the quality of campus life, competitive faculty salaries and academic freedom should and surely will be discussed.

The three issues listed here, however, provide a base for some good, creative debate in the campaign. They also provide some good strategies for a challenger to Fricke -- thoughtful, hard-hitting points that the electorate can understand and relate to.

As for the electorate, well, they need to get involved. State Senator David Landis said last week that the number of UNL students could decide the winner in the Lancaster County regent election. He's right. So register to vote, watch the campaigns as they develop, and choose a candidate. It's the best way to make a difference.

Svoboda is a senior political science and Russian major, and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

letter

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