

Readers urged to take stand, realize unjust 'excuses'

Students urged to listen, vote during elections

Student government at the University of Nebraska stands in need of fundamental changes. Every year before elections, the embarrassing fact that only roughly 10 percent of eligible student voters actually vote resounds throughout the Daily Nebraskan and campaign party meetings. And here it starts again with this letter.

There are two serious implications of this embarrassing fact. First, the drive for a student vote on the Board of Regents is impeded. Second, the students at the University of Nebraska are apathetic. I reject the second implication, but the truth of the first must be accepted.

Every time a student vote is proposed, the board rejects it out of hand, merely citing the figures for the last student election. Why should a person who only represents 10 percent of the student body have anything to say about the course of education for the other 90 percent?

If any of us are to have a say in the important decisions currently being made for us, this year must be different. Do you know where the money you send each semester to the university goes? The Board of Regents does. The Board of Regents makes those decisions. Yet they listen to you with a half-deaf ear when they make them. The questionable integrity of the board is readily apparent to any who have followed the arbitrary firing of Ronald Roskens.

This year must be the year that students take away the easy response the board has given in the past. Ronald Reagan was re-elected in 1984 with only 53.3 percent voter participation. As students, we should aim for that number and higher.

This year's campaign promises one of the first serious opportunities to include more students in the decision-making process because this year's campaign promises to pursue serious issues facing students.

The second implication of the embarrassing fact of 10 percent stu-

dent voter participation is that the students on the campus of the University of Nebraska just don't care. They don't care about where their money goes; they don't care about political issues; they don't care about the arbitrary management by the Board of Regents.

I reject this analysis. Students do care. The apathetic student is rare.

The problem lies not with the students, but with the election process and the common perception of ASUN. Many students simply don't know what ASUN is. Others feel excluded, as if the members of ASUN are part of some elitist clique of future politicians and lawyers who are merely filling resumes.

ASUN is the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. By implication, every single student enrolled at the university is part of it, whether they know it or not. The executive and legislative body of the association are the representatives of the rest of the association, not the association itself. ASUN is not the president, first vice president, second vice president and assorted senators. These are the people who are elected to do the work of the rest of the association.

The time has come for the real ASUN to step forward. It is you and every other student of the University of Nebraska. Voting takes only a few minutes. Considering the potential benefits, giving a few minutes is a bargain.

One way to facilitate this may be a fundamental change in the way senators are elected. Currently, each college is allowed a number of senators proportionate to the total population of the college (arts and sciences, business, engineering, teachers, etc.). While the college each student attends is one of the most important aspects of his or her life, it is by no means the most important.

Equally important are housing arrangements. Where you live has at least as great an importance in your life as what college you attend. This is just a possibility. There are many other ways to capture the important aspects of a student's life.

The time has come for a serious challenge to the NU Board of Regents. The time has come to clear the misperceptions of what ASUN is. I

appeal to all students: listen to the issues, choose your party and vote. The time has come to take a stand.

Chris Potter
senior
physics and philosophy

Health too often used as excuse to justify abortion

Once again, we have a terribly misguided member of the pro-abortion/pro-murder/pro-death community making a feeble attempt to rationalize the senseless slaughter of unborn children. Rebecca de la Motte (DN, Feb. 7), I will try to make this as simple as possible so you can understand.

The "emotional" risks of pregnancy have received an unprecedented amount of attention of late. It is argued that an unwanted pregnancy can be devastating to a woman in a fragile psychological state. Interesting to note is that pregnant women in general are found to be in healthier emotional form than non-pregnant women. Suicide rates drop to a level far below normal in women carrying children.

Clearly, an unhappily pregnant woman can be distraught over her situation, but if abortion was permitted only when an actual mental breakdown threatened, how rarely it would be used! Even then, can we weigh the psychological hardships of a pregnancy against the life of a child? Counseling is available for women in this situation.

In the abortion arena, "health" has become an elastic word, stretching easily to meet a diverse assortment of needs. As intimated by the Supreme Court in 1973, the term is construed to encompass a woman's physical, emotional, even familial and financial satisfaction and well-being. Once again, this imprecise handling of language creates a catch-all into which any level of mental discomfort, hardship or frustration can be deposited.

For all intents and purposes, abortion for "health," under the court's working definition, is abortion on demand.

The conclusion is two-fold. First, the specious argument for abortion to protect the mother has been fervently misused. So much of what passes for concern for maternal safety, particularly in late pregnancy, is no more than the erection of a safe passage to permissible abortion. A distressingly large number of children are put to death each year under the rubric of "saving the mother's life."

Secondly, medical statistics and

risk factors, with their margins of error and susceptibility to misinterpretation, are non-absolute guidelines and can find no welcome in a morality that places a premium on life. For what is absolutely certain is that two lives are involved in a pregnancy -- each deserving consideration, respect and the full advantages of modern medical knowledge and application.

Andrew Meyer
sophomore
pre-med and pro-life



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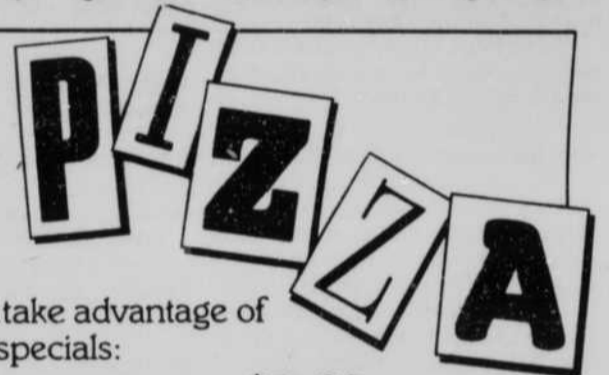
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NOTICE TO STUDENTS

All students are eligible to apply for a refund of their "A" portion of student fees during a period beginning January 15, 1990 and ending February 16, 1990. Students claiming a refund will lose benefits provided by Fund "A" users during the Spring Semester 1989-90.

Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, City Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union; or the East CAP Office, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Offices should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 (phone 472-5667) before February 9, 1990 to make arrangements.

Students who have completed a refund application and returned it on or before February 16, 1990 will be mailed a check for the amount of the refund claimed. Refund checks will be mailed between the dates of February 19 and March 2, 1990.

Fund "A" refund amounts are as follows:

A.S.U.N	\$2.59
Daily Nebraskan84
University Program Council ...	3.80
Total Refund	7.23

Students claiming a refund will lose certain benefits provided by the above listed Fund "A" users. For details on which benefits may be lost, please refer to the cover sheet on the refund application.