

Daily
Nebraskan
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Vote for TODAY

Candidates, platform display strengths

The Daily Nebraskan editorial board asks you to vote TODAY in the ASUN elections.

Deb Fiddelke is easily the strongest pick for ASUN president. She has proven that she knows how to use the system to lobby student concerns.

And while she is yet another in a long line of Government Liaison Committee chairmen to graduate to ASUN president, she has shown in debates that her motives for the presidency are genuine.

Yolanda Scott, second vice presidential candidate for TODAY, is another solid choice. While her speaking style is not as polished as some of the other politicians', she knows the issues and has specific answers to questions about minority recruitment and retention, on the faculty level as well as the student level.

Scott also has the contacts with student groups other than ASUN -- a vital part of the second vice position.

Brad Vasa, first vice presidential candidate, is the weakest link in TODAY's platform. He is, however, enthusiastic. We hope that enthusiasm will continue when he begins working with the ASUN Senate.

TODAY also offers a more diversified ticket. While it is far too greek -- with a more than 60-40 split, TODAY has recruited four minority senators for their ballot.

VISION has one on the ballot and STAND has two minority write-in senatorial candidates.

Some of the strengths of TODAY's platform are the following:

- Aggressively pursuing a voting student member on either the current NU Board of Regents or the proposed board of trustees on the legislative floor.

- Working for additional full-time professors with an emphasis on minority and women faculty.

- Establishing a 100-level multi-cultural course and working for the adoption of its requirement within all colleges.

- Creating a Legislative Research Committee open to all students to assist the ASUN Senate with issues and legislation.

- Increasing the number and availability of computers.
- Revising the alcohol policy.

The strength in TODAY's platform is that its ideas are feasible. And while VISION posed some valid concerns, it offered few specifics to solve those concerns.

Phil Gosch, presidential candidate for VISION, is entirely too political. His slate has run the gamut of middle-of-the-road, politically correct ideas, and the editorial board doubts his ability to confront regents and legislators when student concerns do not mesh with theirs.

Joe Bowman, presidential candidate for STAND, is the most refreshing person in the entire campaign. Bowman has shown in the last three years -- perhaps more than any other student on this campus -- that he truly cares about the social issues he talks about and is not afraid to fight for them.

His downfall is a lack of experience within the system. He reacts quickly, and his ideas are innovative and necessary for change in ASUN, and TODAY should work with Bowman to incorporate those ideas in the new government.

Bowman himself is vital to whatever form ASUN takes. If the new executives do not tap his ideas and energy, they will be the ones who lose.

-- The Daily Nebraskan editorial board

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Daily Nebraskan



Nelson comes to a conclusion

National Orgasm Week and ASUN elections have similarities

About a month ago, I received a letter from a student accusing me of being flippant. The student said I should address more issues. "That's what columns are for," she said. She also said I split infinitives.

If I remember correctly, she was responding to my claims that I had seen Manuel Noriega at the Sonic Drive-in in Falls City.

Because of that letter, I have tried my best to be more pertinent. I would like to continue that trend.

This, of course, means that I need to address the issue of National Orgasm Week.

First of all, you must realize that I'm not the kind of guy who would fake an Orgasm Week. This thing is for real. I promise.

And you might be saying to yourself, "I've seen this Nelson guy. He's a sleaze. He would promise anything for an Orgasm Week."

For the fourth gala year, sexologist Dr. Roger Libby has declared the first week of spring (March 18-25) to be National Orgasm Week. According to a press release, Orgasm Week "is devoted to orgasms through self-pleasuring and with sexual partners. The fun-filled week is a retort to the moralistic, censorship biases of the Bush administration." Libby supports safe sex and argues that sexual desire and caring flourish, despite media-fueled heterosexual AIDS paranoia.

As you know, Wednesday often is referred to as the "hump" day of the week. When people call Wednesday the "hump" day, they only are drawing parallels between the work week and the climbing and descending of a mountain. There is nothing sexual in the term. But, this does mean that next week, my column will appear on the "hump" day of National Orgasm Week. Obviously, I feel an obligation to write about the issue.

And also, today is ASUN election day. This means that the announcement of our new student government will come at the climax of the weekly cycle, exactly one week from the climax of National Orgasm Week.

Now that you understand the link between me, orgasms and ASUN, I

can explain how this all relates to you.

On Monday, the Daily Nebraskan editorial board interviewed the executive candidates for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. After about 40 minutes of intense and serious interrogation, I placed before the candidates the final and most important question:

"How do you plan to celebrate National Orgasm Week?"

I realize that on the surface, this question seems like nothing more than tasteless buffoonery.



Bob Nelson

But for the last two weeks, the candidates have heard the same questions over and over again. They have memorized answers to questions about student and senate apathy, regents, parking, campus security and minority recruitment.

One of the last questions a candidate would expect to hear is how he or she would celebrate an orgasm week.

I'll use Dan Quayle as an example of the importance of this question. According to an article in Tuesday's Omaha World-Herald, a souvenir hunt in a Chilean street market took an embarrassing twist for the vice president. Strolling into one of the souvenir stands -- the story says -- Quayle innocently lifted a carved wooden figurine of a smiling Indian who exposes himself when picked up. Quayle reportedly blushed, turned to his wife and said, "I could take this home, Marilyn. This is something teenage boys might find of interest."

Oops. In an attempt to be spontaneously clever about sex, Quayle came across sounding like a pervert. He failed the test.

To answer the question about National Orgasm Week, the candidates had to be spontaneously pertinent, clever and tasteful. These are

traits that only can be exposed by a strange and unexpected situation in which someone is forced to instantly comment on a delicate subject.

I tried to compile some of my own answers to the question, "How would you celebrate National Orgasm Week?" They are:

1. "What's an orgasm?"
2. "In leather."
3. "With a handshake."
4. "Naked."
5. "Blue."
6. "Alone."
7. "By visiting a farm."

But I didn't like my answers very much. As it turns out, I liked the answers of our three presidential candidates much better.

And here they are:
DEB FIDDELKE: "With a condom."

PHIL GOSCH: "By asking Shawn (Burnham) on a date."

JOE BOWMAN: "I celebrate orgasm week all year."

Now understand that these candidates were not implying necessarily that any of their methods of celebration included an orgasm. This is very important in understanding that all three answers were made in extremely good taste.

Each answer has specific strengths. Fiddelke's answer addresses an important campus issue, Gosch's answer shows party unity, and Bowman's answer shows a never-ending commitment to the improvement of the human condition. All three are fine traits in an ASUN president.

So what do you do? You have three candidates who should be vice president of the United States. The problem is that only one can be ASUN president.

Well, figure it out for yourself. I've done my job. I've given you information with which to make an informed decision.

And after you make your decision, ask yourself that all-important question:

"What will I do to celebrate National Orgasm Week?"

Nelson is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan editorial page editor and a columnist.

Letter

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of

the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

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 will not be granted.

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

editorial

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