

Daily Nebraskan
Editorial Board
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Quibbles 'n' bits

Bush's plan betrays higher education

George Bush once again has failed to match rhetoric with action concerning higher education.

A Bush proposal that would eliminate Social Security tax exemptions for students employed by state colleges and universities would most likely cut student jobs and increase tuition at universities across the nation.

The budget proposal would require universities nationwide to withhold 7.65 percent of student employees' paychecks for the Social Security tax. Universities would be required to match that amount.

Jim Knisely, comptroller at UNL, said last Tuesday that the proposal would cost UNL and its student employees about 1.5 million a year in taxes. UNL could pay for the tax by hiring fewer student employees or by raising revenue, Knisely said. That could mean increased appropriations or higher tuition and housing rates, he said.

College is already too expensive for many prospective students. Those students who can barely afford college are usually those students who must work their way through college. This proposal hits struggling students the hardest because it cuts the income of the working student and, at the same time, raises his or her tuition and housing costs. This is certainly not a program of an "Education President."

Military reduction a step forward

In a heavily related issue, Bush has decided to triple his original military budget cut.

In January, Bush proposed cutting 3.2 billion from the Pentagon budget. After heavy pressure from in and outside Congress, senior government officials quoted in the New York Times now say the cut will now be between 10 and 11 billion.

The reduction, although a minor one, is a positive step toward a truly peace-time economy -- an economy in which heavy federal support of education will be necessary to maintain the prominence of the United States in the world community.

-- Bob Nelson
for the Daily Nebraskan

Bowman: I've fallen from grace

In life, but especially in politics, never forget Nietzsche's axiom, "battle not with monsters, lest ye become a monster." I forgot it. Perhaps with a better organized campaign, I wouldn't have.

According to the DN editorial by Bob Nelson (March 19), at least, I have become my enemy, an "authoritarian dictator." Whereas last week, I had shown -- perhaps more than any student on this campus -- that I truly care about the social issues I talk about and that I am not afraid to fight for them.

But I've fallen from grace in the eyes of the multitude and the DN. Well, I never got involved to boost my popularity, just to do the right thing. The DN editorial says I "lost any credibility" I ever had by "taking sides in a battle of equally unsubstantiated rumors."

First of all, I would never risk my integrity on an "unsubstantiated rumor." The Fiddelke-Lindau deal is fact. I can't reveal my source because she would be ostracized if she came forward. Any journalist would understand my predicament.

I could never support or allow such an administration to be put in office. Fiddelke said to me last Thursday, "Joe, if I win, you'll have an open door." Did she mean I can go talk to her anytime, or something else? There is no doubt of the wrongness of actions such as this.

The DN suggested that STAND force our platform on the remaining parties -- and now, there is only one -- VISION. I was harshly criticized by STAND party members and the DN for taking sides, but you must understand; when you pick up a sword, you use it!

Circumstances conspired to put me

in a terrible position -- choosing between questionable and worse. Regardless, I can't stay clean and pure and walk on water away from responsibility, no matter how much I'd like to sit back and sneer, like so many already do. Nothing in life is perfect, and we can never pretend it is. We must work with what's available.

Gosch was willing to follow through on key STAND programs for an endorsement. He has, however, played the role of the politician for too long. Let's see if he can fill the role of statesman. No ASUN president has been watched and pressured the way Gosch will be. He will rise to the challenge of the coming year and perform, or perish.

Yolanda Scott now embodies the hope of the STAND party. In her work and background and heart, she shines with a goodness and freshness that ASUN has sadly lacked for too long. If you vote for no other reason, vote for hope, vote for Yolanda.

One last thing. Another DN editorial by Nelson (March 15) said, "Bowman can force his platform on" the other parties. And in the end, that I "lost my party." But it never was my party. It was ours. It wasn't my platform, it was ours, and STAND was supposed to come before Bowman. But as you can see, it was too easy to forget that.

I don't regret what I've done, only how I have done it. I promised to uphold the ideals of the STAND party, but I also remained myself. I have done the best I can. I will always do what I believe to be right, and damn the consequences.

Anyone can take a STAND; everyone should.

Joe Bowman
ex-STAND party member

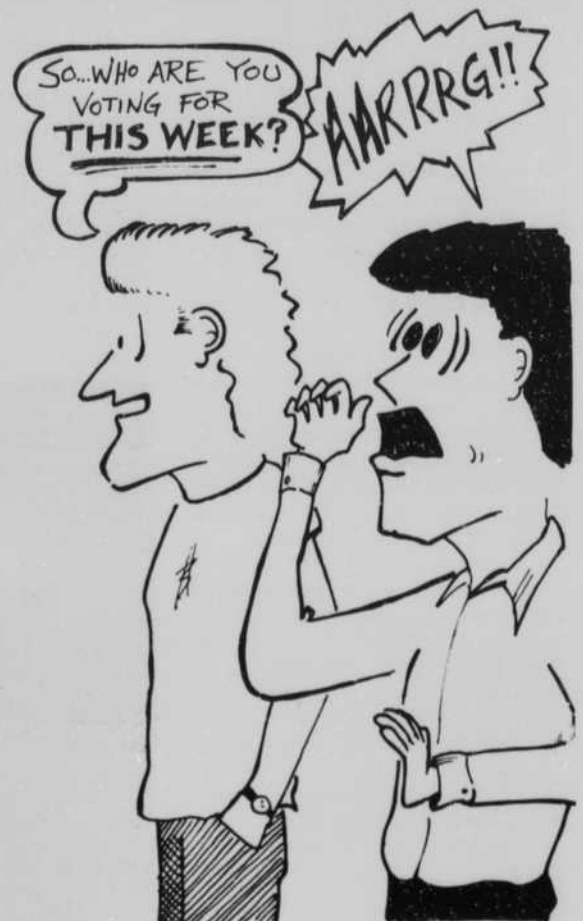
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO ON SPRING BREAK...

ASUN ELECTIONS PART 2

THE BORING

STARRING
DEB FIDDELKE
PHIL GOSCH
&
JOE BOWMAN
as the wacky neighbor

NOW PLAYING



To Langford or not to Langford?

Mature and immature voices respond to ridiculous statements

Sometimes, I talk to myself. Sometimes, I have very long conversations, most of which are private.

I have two voices -- one who is mature and one who is not.

Yesterday, I said to myself, "Bob, everybody and their dog has taken a shot at State Sen. Lorraine Langford. So what if she said students are too immature and apathetic to have a student-regent vote. Let it go. If you were mature, you would realize that a person like her would never change her opinion, especially if it's a student trying to do the changing. You are flogging dead fish in a barrel. Let sleeping fish lie. Write about something new, interesting and important, like taxes.

"Dead fish stink," my other voice said. "They shouldn't stink. Langford is a senator. She should know better. Instead, she keeps saying stupid things. She's fair game."

To Langford or not to Langford? That was the question until the mature me remembered that the senator doesn't think the mature me exists. Mature people can't handle being called non-existent. It just rubs them funny.

So, both the mature and immature me wanted to respond to:

SEN. LANGFORD RIDICULOUS STATEMENT NUMBER ONE: "...they (18- to 20-year-olds) probably make the worst decisions in the world."

MATURE RESPONSE: Many 18- to 20-year-olds already are supporting themselves and thus making the decisions of adults.

Also, Langford constantly uses "18- to 20-year-olds" to mean "students." The majority of UNL students are more than 20 years old.

Students have been the backbone of nearly every protest for constructive change on this planet. Students don't make the worst decisions; they make the most altruistic and progressive decisions. College students are bright, motivated and socially conscious. There is no group better qualified to vote.

IMMATURE RESPONSE: God, would I hate to be her kid. I can only imagine being a 20-year-old in her house.

MOM LANGFORD: "Now, honey, I'm going to the store. You're going to be alone for a while because all your baby sitters are playing bridge.

Now remember, don't put the cat in the microwave. If you think you need to move from that chair, call me first at the store and tell the clerk to page me over the loudspeaker by saying, 'State Sen. Langford, you have a very important phone call from the Governor...'"

SEN. LANGFORD RIDICULOUS STATEMENT NUMBER TWO: "I hurt (students') feelings. I didn't mean



Bob Nelson

to hurt their feelings, but what I'm saying (about student maturity) is true. They probably don't even know that."

MATURE RESPONSE: Patronizing part of one's electorate is not good politics. Also, an intelligent argument doesn't rely on the comment "what I'm saying is true." Politicians should know the subjectivity of truth and argue their position (their truth) with logic. Our political system is based on rational and intellectual debate. Imagine a senate chamber where one only hears "but what I'm saying is true." In such a case, the democratic process is reduced to playground bickering.

IMMATURE RESPONSE: "Hurt their feelings?" Get serious. Students don't get their feelings hurt by raging imbeciles. That's like saying someone gets broken-hearted when their black lab poops on the carpet. No, what you have done, Sen. Langford, is ticked off your superiors. There is a big difference.

SEN. LANGFORD RIDICULOUS COMMENT NUMBER THREE: "My experience comes from working with young sorority girls for years."

MATURE RESPONSE: I don't think young sorority girls are representative of the student body of a university.

IMMATURE RESPONSE: Those are some mighty fine credentials, Sen. Langford, if you're applying to be campus representative for Dep hair products. I can only imagine how you came to realize students are idiots "from working with young sorority

girls for years":
HOUSEMOM LANGFORD: "You kissed him?? You're not even engaged!"

Or:
HOUSEMOM LANGFORD: "You're not walking out of this house in that outfit! For God's sake, girl, your ankles are naked!"

SEN. LANGFORD RIDICULOUS STATEMENT NUMBER FOUR: "All they (students) have to do is look around at their friends and see some of the messes their friends are in. And it's because they're not emotionally mature. It's just a fact of life."

MATURE RESPONSE: "I don't see any messes."

IMMATURE RESPONSE: Emotionally mature? You, Sen. Langford, are the woman who, at an orientation for new senators, suggested a dress code that would prohibit women senators from wearing pants.

Oh, yeah. Forget the issues. We need a dress code so we can all look like Laura Ingalls.

How about a dress code for you, senator? Considering your emotional maturity, I think a nice, hot pink straightjacket might do. Or what about something in a nice tar and feather?

"Worst decisions?" "Emotionally immature?" Who is the mental sink-hole from Kearney who wanted personalized license plates at discount rates for state senators? That's right. It was once again Sen. Langford.

I only can imagine what you would put on your very special and inexpensive vanity plate, senator. Maybe I can offer a few suggestions? How about "LOON" or "ANAL RETENTIVE?" Don't worry about the last message being too long, I'm sure you would introduce a bill allowing really, really big plates for state senators.

OK, OK, this filth could go on forever and nothing would be changed. Sen. Langford has her opinion, and you can't teach an old dog new tricks. I should have let the whole issue die. The mature me apologizes for being mean. I didn't mean to hurt anyone's feelings.

Oops, I almost forgot. The mature me doesn't exist.

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