

## Daily Nebraskan

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### Quibbles 'n' bits

*Political solutions, not rhetoric, needed*

With issues such as the budget deficit and homelessness facing candidates during this election year, one wouldn't think Republicans would be worried about words.

But recently GOPAC, a conservative political action committee, distributed suggested words and phrases that could boost the GOP's image while dogging its opponents.

About 6,000 Republican officeholders and candidates across the country received copies of the list.

Some of the words that could be mentioned in a speech include "strength" and "hard work" when referring to Republicans, while Democrats could be referred to as "sniveling" and "liberal."

Maybe some of these grand old politicians need something to do. They could start by formulating some practical ways to tackle the nation's problems -- not its rhetoric.

*New name doesn't erase old reputation*

It's got a new name, a new assignment and a new life. Now if only this reincarnation could leave behind the reputation of the oil tanker Exxon Valdez.

Almost 1 1/2 years after the Valdez, now the Exxon Mediterranean, spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound, the tanker is ready for active duty.

The Exxon Mediterranean, with a new coat of paint, a new crew and a new skipper, left San Diego Wednesday -- setting out on its new task of hauling crude oil from Turkey and Egypt to France.

But it wasn't completely smooth sailing.

Members of Greenpeace, an environmental activist group, tried to block the ship's exit from the harbor. To Greenpeace, the repairs on the tanker weren't enough to cover up the memories of the tanker's March 1989 spill.

Who does Exxon think it's kidding? Time reported this summer that Gus Elmer, president of Exxon Shipping Co., said the ship's new assignment had nothing to do with blotting out memories of the spill.

Good thing. For the victims of the spill, the memories might never be blotted out.

-- Lisa Donovan  
for the Daily Nebraskan

### Impartial examination needed in ASUN crisis

In retrospect, having learned of the underhanded dealings of Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Phil Gosch and the Bowman/Buhrdorf cabal, last spring's ASUN elections really appear to have been too good to be true.

I remember how much serious debate occurred over real issues. An almost unheard of event in the previous ASUN elections that I've witnessed in my time at UNL. The very absence of a major joke party gave this election some credibility. Perhaps though, a joke was played on those of us who supported STAND.

This party had some very high ideals, and realistically I knew many of them were too utopian to be achieved. Somehow it never occurred to me that under the allegations of Bowman toward Deb Fiddelke lurked an entirely new strain of corruption.

I can't say I'd agree with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen's opinion that Phil Gosch did the "honorable" thing in admitting his mistake. He took the first step toward regaining the trust of the student body and purging himself of any guilt he may have had. I think serving his term with this blemish on his record has rather a light punishment, but I cannot rationally advocate anything further.

If there had been a really significant reason for this pact that these three joined into, I still wouldn't have approved, but I may have understood a little better. There just has not been enough credible evidence put forth publicly to justify the allegations against Marlene Beyke.

Still, the numerous quotes defending her character are of course the opinions of those who have had previous working relationships with her and may in fact be biased. If ASUN is to survive this crisis, any allegations and evidence regarding these allegations must be brought forth and scrutinized by impartial examination. If this doesn't occur ASUN risks being characterized as elitist and as secretive as the regents.

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### editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1990 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are: Eric Pfanner, editor; Lisa Donovan, editorial page editor; Victoria Ayotte, managing editor; Diane Brayton, associate news editor; Darcie Wiegert, associate news editor; Emily Rosenbaum, copy desk chief; Jana Pedersen, wire editor. Editorials do not necessarily re-

fect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

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According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial



### Time for some political awards

*Observing politicians can be an enjoyable, yet enraging hobby*

I consider myself to be an amateur political observer, with emphasis on the word "amateur." My problem is that, while I don't know enough to be considered an expert, I do know just enough to be dangerous.

All I could handle as an undergraduate was a minor in political science because there's only so much I can take of a slanted, one-sided perspective -- can you say "liberal?" -- on the world's politics. So I simply resort to reading the nation's newspapers and magazines, and watching "Crossfire" in an attempt to familiarize myself with what is going on around the world.

Take Sunday night. I was flipping through the channels on my television when I came upon an Iowa Senate debate.

I have never been much of a fan of Iowa politics for the simple fact that I'm not from Iowa. The only time I even thought about Iowa politics up to Sunday was when Fred Grandy, former star of that intellectual hit series "The Love Boat," was elected to the House of Representatives.

I used to lie awake at night wondering what they would refer to him as on the floor of the House. Mr. Gopher? Congressman Gopher? Oh well, back to the debate. It featured Tom Harkin, the Democratic incumbent, against Republican challenger Tom Tauke.

The two differed on virtually every issue. With every question posed, Harkin literally had the "million-dollar answer." Energy, the environment and education: Harkin had multi-billion-dollar plans for all three. The federal deficit? That seems to be the only question he didn't answer.

Harkin's approach reminds me of a quote by everyone's favorite rosy-cheeked, shoe-banging communist, Nikita Khrushchev, when he said, "Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges, even where there are no rivers."

But I don't mean to pick on Tom Harkin. There is certainly no shortage of idealistic, opportunistic, corrupt or hypocritical politicians to go around. And with less than two months before the upcoming elections, I feel as if I should commemorate this election year. I hereby announce the winners of the First Annual Lousy, Lying, Thieving Politician Awards. Drumroll, please . . .

He is a former presidential candidate known for his ability to take credit for authoring previously published materials and wins this year's "Pinochio Award" hands down. And who am I referring to? Why Delaware Senator Joe Biden, of course.

Recently, Biden began saying he had been cleared of all plagiarism charges while attending Syracuse University law school. During a C-



Mark Fahleson

SPAN interview last week, Biden proclaimed, "I never plagiarized in law school." Hmm? Not too smart, Joe. Some people actually watch C-SPAN.

Reporters from the Washington Times began gathering evidence to prove that Biden was not only a fabricator but a liar, the National Review said. The Times reprinted passages from a May 1965 law review article and from a supposedly original research paper written by Biden in October 1965. Almost verbatim.

But give him some credit. He did take the time to renumber his footnotes to make it appear that he gathered the citations himself. And now Biden heads the Senate Judiciary Committee, which this week began probing whether David Souter has the integrity to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. See, boys and girls, cheating gets you nowhere -- except on Capital Hill.

Winner of the "Willie Horton Achievement Award" is California gubernatorial candidate Dianne Feinstein. Certainly you remember Horton, the object of television spots for which George Bush was so heavily criticized. The Horton advertisements were entirely accurate: Horton was a rapist, a murderer and was furloughed by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Yet the advertisement was called "negative campaigning."

Maybe so. But during Feinstein's hotly contested primary, she had a heyday with opponent John Van de Kamp. Her television ads showed the bagged body of a victim of the Hillside Strangler, a serial killer of a decade ago. The commercial stated

that the deaths resulted from Van de Kamp's failure to prosecute the Strangler.

It worked. Feinstein won the primary. But was she criticized for "Hortonizing" Van de Kamp? Hardly. Observers applauded her tactics and labeled her "feisty" and "charismatic," according to the National Review. I believe the term "double standard" comes to mind.

How does one commemorate being ousted from the position of federal judge due to bribery and corruption charges? Why, one throws a party to announce one's candidacy for Florida secretary of state. And that is why the "Let Bygones Be Bygones Award" goes to Alcee Hastings.

The National Review reported that Hastings justified his candidacy by stating, "Floridians are tired of ordinariness, and if there's nothing else I bring to an experience, it is not ordinariness." Huh? Things like this make me thankful I'm from Nebraska. Considering that Hastings' campaign advocates legalized casino gambling and his opponent is a newspaper columnist and former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, as Time reported, he might just win. After all, the only thing worse than a corrupt politician is a newspaper columnist.

Last, but certainly not least, the "Don't Say No; Just Say Entrapment Award" goes to Marion Barry. Only Barry could be seen on nationwide television smoking a pipe of cocaine, charge that he was the victim of a racial vendetta, allege that the FBI tried to kill him and get an acquittal and a mistrial ruling. And he even ticked off the entire country of Colombia to boot.

But let's show some respect for the mayor of our nation's capital. He's now running for city council.

Did I forget anyone? What about Jesse Jackson? Certainly the former presidential candidate/minister/shadow senator/talk show host could qualify for some award. But in case you haven't heard, folks, Jesse is a now a journalist. He traveled to Baghdad to be the first to interview Saddam Hussein, only to be beaten by Dan Rather. Not all is lost, however.

At least he now has a job to put on his resume.

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