

Daily Nebraskan

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Quibbles 'n' Bits

Lack of computers shortchanges students

One of the first questions most job interviewers ask is, "Do you have experience with computers?" Those who answer "No" often see a similar reply on their applications. Computer experience is essential to almost any profession these days.

One purpose of college is to prepare students for the real world. That means they at least should be familiar with some of the equipment they will encounter when they graduate.

Nationwide, many students at universities about the size of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are receiving that kind of access to computers.

A study released last week by the University of Southern California indicates that the average ratio of students to computers at those universities is about 1 to 45.

But UNL continues to lag behind.

Although it has closed the technology gap somewhat, UNL's ratio is still only about one-third the national average — about 1 to 136, up from about 1 to 200 last year. UNL also has the fewest public-access computers in the Big Eight.

As long as that shortage continues, UNL students' future careers are being shortchanged.

— Eric Pfanner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Racist actions punished by slap on wrist

For two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies, racial discrimination merited a mere slap on the wrist.

The Los Angeles Daily News reported that the two white deputies, fired more than a year ago for burning a cross in front of black inmates in a local jail, quietly were reinstated as deputies last month and given partial back pay.

The deputies were asked to leave after sheriff's officials found that two black prisoners had been taken to a special jail module, where they listened to racial remarks and were forced to watch a paper cross burn.

Today, one deputy works in a sheriff's station outside of Los Angeles and the other is back working at a county jail.

It is difficult to understand how these deputies, who apparently took lessons about justice from the likes of the Ku Klux Klan, are of any use to law enforcement.

What's worse is that blatant discrimination in what should be a controlled environment sends a message that intolerance is acceptable and institutionalized.

When law enforcement officials are allowed to break the rules, how can they teach others to abide by the law?

Makes you wonder who should be behind bars.

— Lisa Donovan
for the Daily Nebraskan

opinion READER

Students: Show opposition to lid at Colorado game

Though TV exposure for the Nebraska vs. Colorado game will finally show that the Huskers are for real, there is a more important aspect that needs to take advantage of this TV exposure. On Saturday, Nov. 3, three days before we vote, a very high percentage of Nebraska's voters will concentrate on Memorial Stadium. This may be the best opportunity thus far to show opposition to the 2 percent lid. We as students understand the drastic ramifications that Measure 405 will have on education and the state's future, but unfortunately there are a great many who can't see past the fact that their pocketbooks may get fatter. This college student is scared as hell that this nonsense actually has a chance to pass! Here is my proposal. All organizations, fraternities, sororities, clubs, etc. should make banners showing opposition to the lid. Instead of saying "Elvis lives in Nebraska," say "Please vote against

Measure 405," or "Preserve your children's future in Nebraska, vote against the 2 percent lid." I think that statements like "The 2 percent lid sucks" would be ineffective. We need to appeal to the voters sense of security for their family. Use your own judgment here, but we as students have a prime opportunity to make one last-ditch effort to sway voters to the obvious choice and save this great state.

Please consider this proposal and pass the word on. With your help, there will be all kinds of celebrating to do next week. The Huskers will finally move up instead of down in the polls after gaining revenge on the Buffs, and we'll all breathe a little easier knowing that the "Good Life" will continue.

Darron M. Arlt
senior
Wayne State College



GOL' DERN THOSE RAP SINGIN' PUNKS...

THEN GITTIN' OFF SCOT-FREE...



STIRRIN' UP RACIAL ANGER LIKE 'DAT...



HONEY, ZIP ME UP WILL YA!

Sample ballot offers trial run

Voter homework necessary for understanding ticket wording

My roommate brought home a sample ballot Friday, and we spent a couple of hours trying to figure out what the initiative explanations really meant.

They're long and confusing and irritating, and it's a good idea to study them as if you were preparing for the LSAT.

If you've never seen a ballot measure explanation before, here's a completely fictional example:

"A vote for Initiative XXX would create a separate commission for public education to study the possibility that students in Nebraska are a tad bit stupid and finding that possibility to hold true, to look into raising the level of education to equal that in our neighboring state of Iowa."

Joe Voter goes to the polls, reads this explanation and is offended. He thinks his kids are pretty smart, and the thought of some stupid commission proposing that they might not be smart really ticks him off. Besides, Joe thinks that Iowa is an acronym for Idiots Out Wandering Around and no way no how does he want his kids to grow up like Iowans.

So Joe votes against Initiative XXX, not realizing that raising the standards of education might actually be a good thing.

Five years later in our little scenario, Joe's oldest kid is applying to a prestigious college. He wants to study nuclear biophysical molecular chemistry, and thinks he has a pretty good shot at a Nobel Prize somewhere down the road.

But competition is tough, and Joe's kid loses his slot to a kid from Iowa, who's studied twice the amount of new material. She's not really any smarter than Joe's kid, but her courses were more varied, her materials were more up-to-date, and her state cared about providing the best education possible to its kids. (I did say this was fictional, didn't I?)

Anyway, the point is that any ballot measure probably will affect your

life in some way. It may not happen Nov. 6, and it may not happen in 1992, but how you vote on initiatives and amendments may affect how you pay off your student loans or what determines your child's course of education.

So get a sample ballot and read it



Amy Edwards

carefully, preferably before you go to the polls. You have a week and a day to decide how you want to vote and why.

If the ballot is confusing, give somebody a call and ask for some help. There are plenty of people out there who will be more than happy to tell you how to vote.

And in case you're afraid of getting some bum advice from pretentious people trying to push their opinions on you, here are three completely objective hints to help you make up your mind at the polls. (I'll touch on a few more next week):

1. Vote no on Initiative 405. That's the 2 percent lid deal. We've talked about the utter stupidity of this thing before, but in case you forgot, here's a quick summary of what this initiative would do:

A yes vote on Initiative 405 would create a 2 percent lid on government expenditures (I love that word) in the state of Nebraska. That's lower than the rate of inflation, so the state would fall even further behind on really cool stuff like public education. The University of Nebraska would be the first to go.

2. Vote yes on Initiative 404. This initiative would create a statewide lottery for Nebraska. Opponents of

this initiative say it would allow people who would otherwise spend their money on food and shelter to blow it all on lottery tickets and turn them into destitute burdens on the rest of society. I disagree. People who have been truly bitten by the gambling bug don't waste their time with dollar lotto tickets. Besides, they're already spending their money on lotteries in Iowa and other states, so we might as well bring that money home.

And if you don't like gambling, don't gamble on the lottery when it comes. But don't vote against a lottery and spoil everyone else's fun.

3. When you get to the box that says governor, close your eyes and point. I'm not sure I can come up with any better advice than that. It's all so sad.

The only good thing that's happened is that Ben Nelson stuck to his word (so far anyway) and took his negative advertising off the television.

For those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about, I'll briefly recap last week's events so the rest of this column makes sense. Last week Nelson and Gov. Kay Orr had a debate. Nelson asked Orr to join him in ending the negative campaigning they've been shoving down our throats all fall. Orr agreed and the two shook hands. Immediately after the handshake, Orr asked Nelson if that meant he would stop calling her a liar.

Yeah Kay, whatever. The next day, Nelson removed all his negative ads mentioning Orr. The governor kept her negative ads about Nelson on television.

Nelson doesn't need to call the governor a liar. She's proving her sincerity well enough on her own.

Never fear. There's still time to make up your mind about the governor's race. There's a whole 'nother week to figure out who's the best buffoon on the ballot.

Edwards is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist and Diversions editor.

letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

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 sub-

mit 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.

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