

# Landslide doesn't bury losers' spirits

## Party suffers ENERGY loss, takes pride in clean campaign

By Dionne Searcey  
Staff Reporter

Silence filled Harry's Wonder Bar as ENERGY presidential candidate J. Matt Wickless received news by phone that his party had lost the ASUN election by a landslide.

Under the flashing neon lights of the bar, 1621 O St., party members ran their fingers through their hair and guzzled drinks as they watched Wickless write down the election results.

"We didn't make it, folks," Wickless said, "but we put in one hell of a fight."

ENERGY members sat in silence as the song "Blinded By the Light" blared in the background.

The ENERGY presidential ticket of Wickless and Kristi Truex received 18.11 percent of the vote, with 413 students voting for them. Second vice presidential candidate Chris Halligan received 26.78 percent of the vote to 67.67 percent for UNITY's Gwyn Vaughn.

ENERGY campaign manager John Gibson said he was "incredibly disappointed" by the loss.

"We ran a good clean campaign," he said. "We didn't lie, cheat or rip any damn posters down like other parties."

ENERGY members hugged one another, said, "life goes on" and buried their heads in their arms as Wickless remained calm and managed a smile.

ENERGY executive candidates then raced to the Cherry Hut, 424 W. Dawes Ave., to break the bad news to students partying in support of ENERGY.

Wickless entered the room and about 50 supporters stopped talking. Wickless and Gibson announced election results from atop a picnic table.

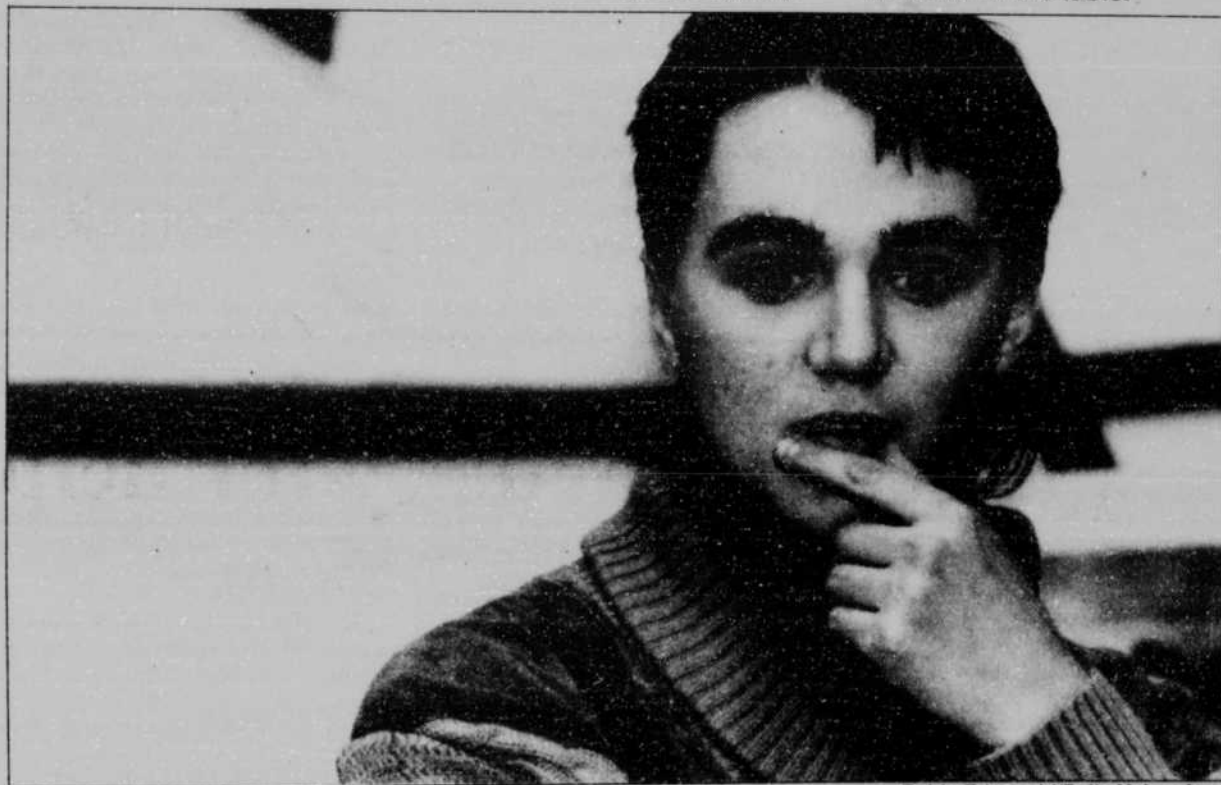
"Well, we gave it a good shot, but we didn't do it," Wickless said. "We haven't lost anything. I'll wake up tomorrow the same person."

"We haven't lost anything. It's just that we haven't gained anything."



Staci McKee/Daily Nebraskan

ENERGY second vice presidential candidate Chris Halligan, first vice presidential candidate Kristi Truex and senatorial candidate Wendy Nielsen wait as presidential candidate J. Matt Wickless receives news of ENERGY's election loss. Campaign manager John Gibson sits with his head on the table.



Robin Trimarchi/Daily Nebraskan

CHANGE presidential candidate Matt McKeever expresses his disappointment with the party's loss in the ASUN elections, but said he was pleased that his party finished close to ENERGY, which was second place. Change had 15.08 percent of the vote to ENERGY's 18.11 percent. UNITY won with 63.55 percent of the vote.

## Party still promises CHANGE despite decisive UNITY win

By Cindy Kimbrough  
and Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Staff Reporters

CHANGE presidential candidate Matt McKeever appeared in good spirits despite his party's loss when he arrived at midnight at a small house party at 2310 Holdrege St.

"Overall, I think, we did pretty well," he said. "We were the only group that kept our credibility intact. The three other parties each did a little mudslinging."

McKeever arrived about an hour after the party received the results of the elections at a CHANGE member's house.

CHANGE got 15.08 percent of the total, or 344 student votes.

McKeever said the CHANGE party was successful considering it was organized in late December and January.

He said he originally was a member of the UNITY party, but that he formed his own party with members of the Residence Hall Association and off-campus and homosexual representatives after he saw that UNITY was not equally representative.

But, he said, he thought ASUN President-elect Andy Massey would do a good job.

CHANGE first vice presidential candidate Lynn Kister said from the Electoral Commission headquarters in Omaha that she was satisfied with the vote.

"I'm impressed with the vote we got because we didn't do a lot of campaigning," Kister said. "It would've been nice to win, but that's the way it goes."

Kister and McKeever said this would not be the end of their involvement.

"CHANGE came out in good shape," McKeever said, "and I bet we will be back in one form or another."

Kister said she plans to continue working to implement the CHANGE party's platform in ASUN. One of the party's main goals was to restructure ASUN.

"This isn't the end. Matt and I and our party members will still be working towards attaining the goals we want to attain," said Kister, a member of the Alternative Candidate Resource Association.

## UNITY

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elected to office.

Thurber agreed, adding that they would integrate some of the other parties' good ideas.

Unlike past elections, Massey said, he thought the campaign had been relatively clean.

"I think it was better than last year. All the parties tried to run a pretty good campaign," he said.

Thurber said he didn't think accusations leveled against J. Matt Wickless, ENERGY presidential candidate, affected the race.

"I would like to think that we were

elected because of our proven leadership and effort and the accusations against J. Matt were irrelevant," he said.

After a short celebration in Sigerson's room, UNITY party leaders walked to the Sigma Phi Epsilon house to tell a crowd of about 75 supporters the election results.

"Our supporters were so dedicated," Massey said while he walked.

Thurber added, "They sat out in the snow for two or three hours at a time and told people about UNITY. That's why we won."

While Massey, Thurber and Vaughn waited just outside the party room, Sigerson and Hubka thanked the partygoers for their support in solemn voices.

"Before we bring in the candidates, we want to say, 'Thank you' to the people who gave 100 percent," Sigerson said. Faces around the room were downcast, braced for poor results.

Massey then walked in, thanking his supporters.

"I also have one additional comment," he said, stifling a smile, "not anyone from UNITY lost tonight!"

As the room exploded in screams, Sigerson stood on a table and read off the numbers, once again setting off a celebration with the words "63 percent."

"It's hard to run a campaign but I think the outcome was worth it. I know we'll benefit the university," Massey said.

## Professor: U.S. optimism naive

By Julie Skar  
Staff Reporter

Americans' assumption that winning the war in the Middle East also means winning peace is naive, a UNL political science professor said Wednesday.

David Forsythe, speaking at a Persian Gulf forum in the Nebraska Union, said the allied victory in the Middle East does not necessarily mean an end to conflict in that area, despite what Americans think.

He said Americans believe two fundamental principles about the Middle East — that America will inject pragmatism into the area and that the Soviet Union no longer will

be a major player there.

As a result, Iraq cannot rely on the Soviet Union any longer and will have to stand alone, Forsythe said.

However, there are many things that could spoil Americans' assumptions, he said.

"King Hussein of Jordan could be overthrown and Israel could move in and take over, and the fate of Kuwait along with Saudia Arabia is faced with general instability," he said. "Five or 10 years from now there could be a lot more instability in the area and the United States will be forced to keep military in the area."

He said there is "continuous bubbling" of problems, and the war did not change the political turmoil in the region.

"Everyone pretends to be interested in peace, but no one wants to make any concessions or choices when it comes to dealing with it."

For instance, the Syrians, Palestinians and Israelis probably will not risk losing land for peace, he said.

But despite all the problems that remain in the Middle East, there is some hope for peace, he said.

A start would be for Syria and Israel to recognize each other and begin negotiations, possibly causing a domino effect in surrounding countries.

But Forsythe said he does not think a domino effect will happen.

"Anyone that is optimistic about the Middle East does not really know the Middle East," he said.

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