

Don't forget pledges

A glance at UNITY's promises

On the UNITY party's campaign platform, President-elect Andy Massey offered his vision of a New Campus Order:

"Just as a house divided against itself cannot stand, neither can our campus. Now is the time to UNITE, to stand together, to work together, to aggressively work for the betterment of our campus. . . ."

He repeated that quotation often at Association of Students of the University of Nebraska debates. He told students to judge his party by its candidates and by its platform.

Those students who voted responded with overwhelming support — 63 percent for Massey and his running mate, Eric Thurber, 67 percent for Gwyn Vaughn, second vice president-elect. Unfortunately, the vague discussion of issues at debates leaves us unsure of what that two-thirds majority has done. And a glance at UNITY's platform doesn't help much, either.

Like all student government platforms, UNITY's contains some solid, workable ideas and some that are far-fetched, nebulous appeals for good public relations. Before the platform disappears, a second look at some of its main points is in order.

- One of UNITY's most controversial ideas was the creation of a day off in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The other ASUN parties, and many students, opposed such a plan, saying a day of emphasized education — in class, instead of at home — would do more to raise awareness of minority issues. If students want to turn down a day off, it must be for a good reason.

- UNITY wants to change the UNL alcohol policy. If the party and many students had their way, of-age students would be allowed to drink in private areas. Enthusiasm for such a plan needs to be tempered, because it would have to go through the administration. But UNITY was the only party that promised to work for such a change, and deserves credit.

- The party promised to locate "start-up funding" for a new Student Information System with improved student services such as registration. In this lean budget year, such funding will be hard to find. But the student system cannot be neglected; if it is, it could collapse. (See story on pages 1 and 6).

- Under Massey's presidency, ASUN senators will be required to attend at least one Academic Senate or NU Board of Regents meeting, according to the platform. First, of course, senators will have to attend ASUN meetings. But if they do attend meetings of the other governing boards, they will learn a lot about university issues — as long as they watch and don't imitate.

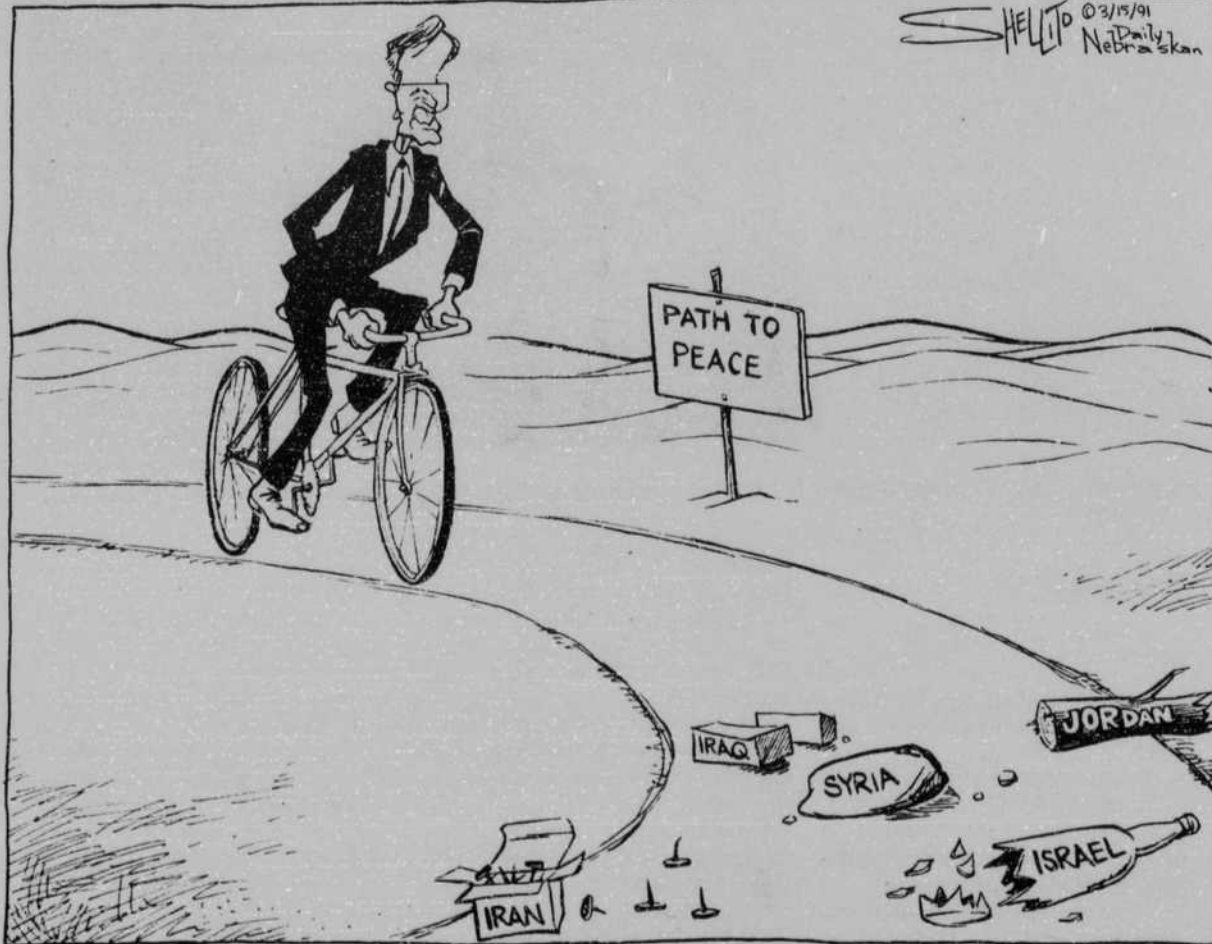
- UNITY wants to publish teacher and course evaluations. Making professors accountable while informing students is a good idea, but it could be stalled by the right to privacy.

- UNITY wants to use minority affairs committees in ASUN to "fight issues of oppression on campus." First, the committees, or any other type of minority representation, need to be added in a constitutional way. Oppression won't go away. But if the new ASUN leadership finds a structure to deal with minority issues, it will have done more than this year's student government has so far.

The platform also includes a number of items that are merely suggestions. The new ASUN members can lobby for some; others, they will have no control over.

To be effective, Massey & Co. also will need to deal with issues as they arise. But the UNITY platform provides a good barometer to measure their success. We'll get back to you in a year.

— E.F.P.



DAVID DALTON

Helpful hints offered to ASUN

Now that the ASUN elections are decided, I suppose our senators can once again turn their minds to the business of governing.

Personally, I think the incoming flock shows some real potential. And just to get things off to a good start, I'd like to take it upon myself to propose a few bits of legislation and other et cetera that deserve consideration from our esteemed representatives:

1. Do something about Danny Nee's ties. This is probably the most controversial of my suggestions, for a couple of reasons. First of all, it involves forming a committee. Also, if effective, it may eliminate the most important link in the tungsten chain of our Nebraska basketball offense.

ASUN should endorse a resolution to form a committee to identify and select candidates for someone to replace the person who currently selects Danny Nee's ties. Now, I have to admit, I didn't follow the basketball team very closely this season and, therefore, I am not the most competent authority on the subject of the coach's neckwear.

In fact, I only happened to notice the problem during a television news clip of him raving on the sidelines. But let me tell you, this man has the potential for some serious damage.

I was forced to conclude that the reason for his garishly psychedelic adornment was distraction. Maybe our winning season can be attributed to Nee's tie rendering opponents unable to concentrate on the game. An advantage, true, but I think we have to consider the regular Nebraska fans, too. The danger of emotional trauma and prolonged psychological disorder from constant exposure to Danny's dangling dregs of discord is far too significant to justify the good that can be done.

The goal of the committee would be to find a sane person to buy ties for Nee. Of course, what will happen in reality is that after millions of dollars and thousands of abused egos, Nee's wife will be the only remaining candidate. Still, the democratic process will have been heroically disturbed.

2. Find out what that old greenhouse on 16th Street is. As long as I've been a student here, I've walked past that thing and wondered exactly when it fell out of the sky and why. There used to be a historical marker on the grounds, but I consider myself

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an average college student and I ignored it at every available opportunity. And, sadly, after one night of particularly successful fraternity events, the darn thing disappeared.

Now, neither I nor — I assume — anyone else really knows what's going on with the house, except that it's old and getting older.

Who knows? Maybe there are people living inside who still think it's 1887. If we could find them and talk to them, just think what we could discover. It might even restore some credibility to the Nebraska State Historical Society after the Indian-remains fiasco.

3. Develop transporter technology. As far as I can see, this is the only realistic or economically feasible solution to our parking problem. Face it, everyone, we're just not going to get any more places to leave our cars. We'd be better off trying to create and install a network of transporter beams, just like the ones you see on Star Trek, that would whisk students from their places of residence to class in the morning. We could grass over all the pavement — just think of all the extra sleep you'd get. ASUN should just channel a little money into research and development.

"But wait," you say, "This is entirely unrealistic."
Well, shut up. You obviously have no concept of the nature of the problem. Let me explain.

I watched a report on our inadequate parking facilities on KETV Newswatch 7 at 6 p.m. last Wednesday. One of the reporter's statements went something like this: "UNL is

probably benefitting from all the illegal parking that goes on because if it didn't, the university would be 40 percent short of parking places."

Now, what in 'tarnation are we supposed to make of that brilliant revelation? That if everyone parked legally, 40 percent of those alleged parkings would be non-parkings? Like an imaginary number, except it would be imaginary parking? If so, then the problem would be purely metaphysical, and those kinds of things never bother the university anyway.

No, the real reason UNL benefits from the parking disaster is that a good parking cop doing his job well can probably bring in up to \$1,000 of profit in a single day. If we're going to wean our institution of so great a source of revenue, we'll have to dangle a pretty big carrot in front of the regents. Revolutionary transporter technology may be just the boon we're looking for.

Which, in a roundabout way leads me to my next and last and, perhaps, most important suggestion:

4. Lobby the Legislature to give the university a Board of Recompense. This entity would be made up of individuals who had come in dead last in other races, such as ASUN senate, NU Board of Regents, Knox County Board of Weed and Pest Control Commissioner, or just anybody off the street.

The Board of Recompense would have the same powers as the Board of Regents, coexist with them and even vote on the same agenda. Only the Recompensants would cast their votes exactly opposite to those of the regents, thereby cancelling them mercilessly out.

The university goes on unhindered. Just think.

This has the added advantage of clearing up the student regent vote issue, unless of course the grecks will take a shot at any position, no matter how piddling or powerless. The way they fight tooth and nail over jobs in — get this — student government, I have to wonder.

Well, that's it. I hope that some of my recommendations, at least, will be helpful. But if none of them bear any fruit, then there's always the old standby: Get ASUN to form a committee to see what it is ASUN actually does.

That would be interesting, too.

Dalton is a junior education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNITY broke campus policy

We are writing in regard to the article (DN, March 14) concerning the election results. We found a wonderful example of our leadership here at UNL. In the very first sentence on the first page, you wrote ". . . the phone rang at 10:40 p.m. Wednesday in UNITY co-campaign manager Andrew Sigerson's Delta Upsilon room . . ." Just three sentences later, the article talked about a movie that the UNITY group "had been watching over beer and pizza." So, in other words, the party we just elected to the most prestigious student position has broken one of the biggest UNL policies — drinking on a dry campus.

We know many students do these same activities on our "dry" campus, but we feel it ironic that our newly elected ASUN party so blatantly broke a major UNL policy even as they

awaited news of their victory. Way to be role models! We do not mean to say that drinking is wrong, but being in a leadership position, one must abide by the policy, no matter if they agree or disagree. Hopefully, the newly elected ASUN members can do something about the drinking on campus while they are in office. Also, perhaps the fraternities could join sororities and residence halls in the stricter enforcement of the UNL alcohol policy.

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