

Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

Elections

Vote for Hoagland, Finnegan and Barrett

If the polls are correct, paradoxical Nebraskans appear to be ready to approve term limits with one check mark and send three incumbents back to the U.S. House of Representatives with another.

The voters' reluctance to practice what they preach makes little sense, but the inconsistency is a bit more understandable in at least one of the three races.



David Badders/DN

Peter Hoagland of the 2nd District is the most deserving of re-election. Hoagland is more experienced and capable than his rival, Ronald Staskiewicz, an Omaha restaurant owner.

Hoagland has pledged to continue working for education and the environment — issues vital to students. He also supports the idea of a tuition assistance program in which students could pay for college by performing public service after graduation.

On the other hand, Doug Bereuter, the seven-term Republican serving the 1st District, has lasted beyond his limit.

Bereuter said that last year, he was a part of the "most partisan and least productive House" in his 14 years in Washington. His solution is "balance," and he urges voters to reduce the Democratic Party's majority in Congress.

A better way to effect change would be to reduce Congressional gridlock by voting for more able Democrats. Gerry Finnegan of Lincoln is one such man.

Finnegan is dedicated to reducing the federal budget deficit and reforming the health care system. Bereuter and other long-term professional politicians have presided over the problems for years, with little result.

Many voters this year believe that there hasn't been a lot of good news in Washington worthy enough to write home about. But Bereuter has kept in touch anyway, sending his 1st District constituents 1,232,872 pieces of franked mail in 1991 alone.

In the 3rd District, the choice is not quite as clear.

Barrett, in his first Congressional term, hasn't much of a record to discuss. But the Lexington businessman, a former state senator who has held several state Republican offices, seems poised to tow the party line and jump on the career politician bandwagon.

And while Bill Barrett, like many of his Republican colleagues, has accepted campaign funding from the National Rifle Association, Lowell Fisher is definitely his own man.

"It's difficult to change the system if you are a product of the system," Fisher said. "Lowell Fisher is not a product of the system."

That may be true, but Fisher is, in fact, so far out of the system, he leaves a bitter taste in many Nebraskans' memories — few can forget Fisher's hunger strike over the Boyd County nuclear waste dump.

While dedication to a cause is admirable, extremism does not often get much accomplished in a system where compromise is the key.

Vote Hoagland, Finnegan and, ahem, Barrett next Tuesday.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.

LETTER POLICY

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Cheap shot'

I am writing in response to your editorial on Oct. 26 ("Get a bike").

Congratulations on yet another brilliant piece of journalism on the topic of parking at UNL! The days of calling parking officials Gestapo seem to be over, only to be replaced by uneducated comparisons of a student representative to Don Quixote (I recommend taking a Spanish literature class to fill you in on that character!). Ridiculing people working on parking and campus security issues is a cheap shot, especially since students/staff/faculty moan and groan non-stop, but never volunteer constructive input.

After you have sunk the time and energy into a similar project like Mark Goldfeder's parking garage proposal, then you may shoot your mouth off! Citizens of this campus always suggest parking garages as the solution to all parking problems; now Goldfeder has given this concept a financial framework. This at least ends the daydreaming and activists can start to hunt for donations.

Christina Brantner
assistant professor
German

'Blatant racism'

I am writing in response to the DN article "Senator charges police with discrimination" (Oct. 28) and statements made by Mr. Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs. The justifications Mr. Griesen gave for assisting the police and other officials in singling out five African-American males in a large anthropology class for questioning in the Harms case were, for the lack of a better term, pathetic. Also, the fact that Mr. Griesen attempted to defend this blatant act of racism should not only worry minority students, but the student population at large.

I refer to this act as blatant and hereby openly challenge Mr. Griesen and other officials to prove otherwise by not just questioning those five African-American males, but the entire anthropology class. Could it be quite possible that in this large lecture class of more than 180 students, other people may have spoken to Ms. Harms? And if one is going to single out individuals and question them for allegedly speaking to a classmate, are you planning to question those students in her other courses to find those classmates who had spoken to her as well?

I think I speak for a number of minority students when I say that your assistance in releasing this information on these five African-American

students out of a large class, as this one was, for allegedly speaking to a classmate, and denying any possibility of it being racially biased, are being viewed as an insult.

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University officials say they want to look into the reasons why minority students don't view the climate on campus as favorable as non-minority (white students) do and this is one of many real-life examples! Mr. Griesen and other university officials claim they want to do something about making the campus environment more satisfactory to minority students, but how all of you (the administration) deal with this situation will prove whether you are truly concerned with the present atmosphere on campus for students or whether you are just trying to placate us.

Tanja D. Copeland
senior
psychology

Chambers' charge

I concur with Senator Chambers' assessment of the actions undertaken by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department ("Senator charges police with discrimination," DN, Oct. 28) as racist. We should not condone confining a police investigation to African-American males in a particular anthropology course merely because the individual they seek is an African-American male in a particular anthropology course. Such conduct is reminiscent of the heavy-handed abuse by police officers that characterized this country in the 1950s. I had hoped that we would have put that behind us.

If we permit this conduct we should be prepared for the intolerable results that no doubt would follow. The police might restrict their searches for car thieves to people who can see over the steering wheel. They might confine their searches for rape suspects to men based simply on a victim's report of penile penetration. They might exclude from their pool of eligible suspects in a shooting those physically challenged persons who have no arms with which to point or shoot a gun. Such discrimination on the basis of age, sex or physical handicap are

no less intolerable than the racial factors at issue in this case.

The police need to broaden their focus in the interest of fairness to all persons. The police should not exclude women from their dragnet merely because the description they have is of a male. Similarly, white people and persons of color who are not African-American should have their opportunity to be equally represented. Inclusion, not exclusion, should be the rule for suspect or witness identification just as it is in other areas of society. This is especially so because of the emotionally laden nature of the classifications that are being used.

It is now true that it will probably take several years to interview every person who is (or was) a student at UNL at the time of the disappearance. It is also the case that such police practices will undoubtedly lead to losses of property, assaults and deaths that would have otherwise been prevented by a more timely investigation. This, however, is the price we must pay for equality and fairness.

Finally, I urge the university officials to take seriously Sen. Chambers' thinly veiled threat about gaining "an implacable enemy in the Legislature." I hope that you will not consider one person's disappearance to be a serious enough issue to warrant jeopardizing university funding by continuing this investigation. What could be more important than money?

Phillip Lyons
graduate student
psychology

Bitter truth

This letter is in response to a comment made by David Medina in the letters to the editor column ("Racism," DN, Oct. 29). Mr. Medina states he wants to hear Kim Spurlock speak about other issues, rather than being suffocated in a constant wave of the same issue. Some of my friends have told me that they're sick and tired of hearing about racism and racial issues. See, it's easy for non-minorities to turn their heads on the issue, but we can't. Racism is something we deal with every day of our lives. Minorities are sick of racism, too. It's not as simple as turning our backs, because it's everywhere. I believe Ms. Spurlock is doing a great job in representing the racial issues. To some, maybe her articles seem to have a bitter sense, but what she writes is true to life.

Jenine Johnson
freshman
business administration
Afrikan People's Union