

## Daily Nebraskan

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### EDITORIAL

## Voiceless

Party focuses on wrong issues, problems

It's too early to tell what kind of election this will be, but so far there is little hope for anything different coming from the voices of ASUN.

The first party to announce its platform, VOICE, had nothing at all new to say. A sampling of VOICE's proposals:

- Improving and repairing our buildings so they can be used by all students.

An old issue. ASUN President Andrew Sigerson tried to draw attention to this problem last week. Art students have been trying to draw attention to it for years.

- Working against the inclusion of minuses in the grading system.

A selfish issue. The party members would rather protect their own grade point averages than the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's national reputation.

- Striving to hold student fees to a zero percent increase for 1994.

An economic issue. The returns students get from their student fees are well worth the money spent, and a minimal increase in the cost of living should be expected from all services.

- Investing outside donations to the university in academic programs rather than needless artwork.

A stupid issue. People donate money specifically for artwork. If it isn't used to improve the aesthetics of the university, the money can't be used at all.

- Supporting stronger English standards for graduate assistants.

An ignorant issue. Apparently VOICE thinks it can win by appealing for the votes of those few students who refuse to open their minds — or their ears.

- Increasing the number of bicycle racks in high-traffic areas.

A nonsensical issue. If students walking across campus are complaining about bicyclists, why put the bike racks in high-traffic areas, areas where more students are likely to be?

- Paving existing gravel parking lots.

- Developing a student parking czar to oversee all student parking concerns.

A dead issue. VOICE, of course, had something to say about UNL's ever-present "parking problem." Despite the lagging student interest since the "parking debate" that dominated the news three years ago, the candidates will do their best to make it an issue.

- Maintaining the traditions of UNL Homecoming.

A silly issue. But while they're at it, why not bring back the bonfire?

- Improving snow removal priorities for students with disabilities.

Another done issue. ASUN took it on with a special resolution Wednesday night.

Of course, VOICE did advance some ideas worthy of discussion. Candidates said they would push for recruiting additional minority faculty, preparing a voice for students in the Nebraska Legislature and developing minority representation on campus committees.

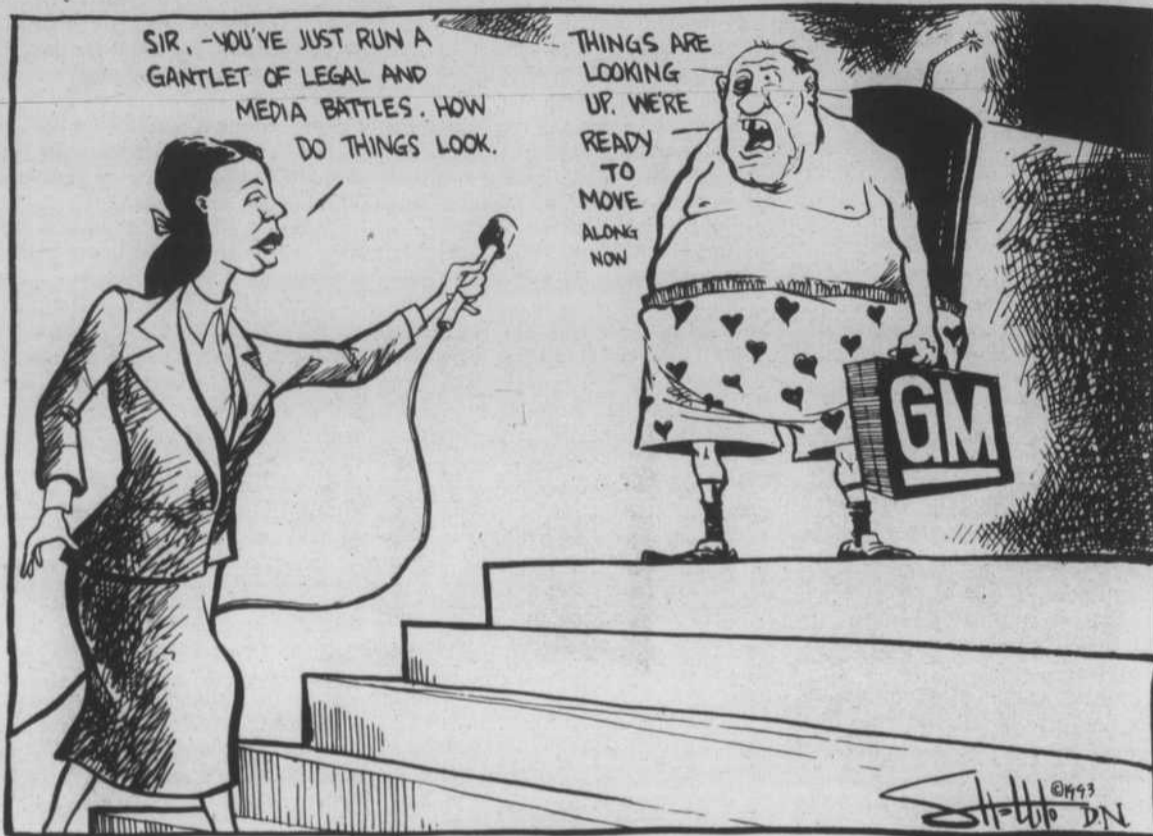
But nothing VOICE said sounded new, and the party was silent on the biggest issue facing the university — the Legislature's proposed cut of \$14 million from the University of Nebraska's budget.

### 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.



BILJANA OBRADOVIC

## Group bridges international gap

International students have to deal with a problem that may seem like a minor inconvenience, and perhaps is not understood by a lot of students whose families, friends and loved ones live close by. Many of us are halfway across the world from home. Communication is a great problem.

Not all of us come from a highly developed country where a letter could be sent by priority express mail and be received in two to three days maximum. Not everyone comes from a country linked to the United States by a satellite for easily accessible phone lines. Not everyone comes from a country for which AT&T, MCI and Sprint have a phone plan!

There is no plan for some of our countries — you cannot call them just by dialing 1-the country code-the city code-the number. Often you have to call the international operator to order a call for a particular time. Even then you may not get the call to go through. Often the weather may affect the call.

All this is if your family, friends or loved ones happen to have a phone line in your home country. Sometimes it may take several years or even as long as a decade for one to get a line in the home. When I came to the United States four and a half years ago, I was quite shocked to be able to simply call the local phone company and get my phone line installed almost immediately. As soon as I moved in, my line was open and I could start making calls.

It's so nice to call your folks back home and find out what is going on and see how everybody is doing. The nostalgia and depression hits all international students pretty hard, no matter how long we have been here, or how close we may be to our families, relatives or friends. Then we pick up the receiver and the first minute may cost as much as \$1.80 and every minute after that as much as \$1.50. Of course it is cheaper if you are on a plan. But



**By the time you get to semi-deep stuff, five minutes are gone. So you're left with a minute when your family will ask you if you have enough money and if you're healthy.**

most of the time you may end up spending approximately \$10 for an eight-minute call — if you can stop your relatives at the eight-minute mark.

Most of the time the conversations are not very deep: "Hi! How are you?!" (Screaming in the receiver.) "What's the weather like over there? Oh... 45 degrees Celsius? Here it's minus 20 degrees Celsius, and we have a lot of snow..." By the time you get to semi-deep stuff, five minutes are gone. So you're left with a minute when your family will ask you if you have enough money and if you're healthy. You never really find the details of how they actually are. So you have to write letters home.

Overseas 50-cent stamps are pretty ugly, and there isn't much variety, so I've been using Elvis stamps because my mom is fan. Aerogrammes are 5 cents cheaper, but you can't put anything inside them. Letters take anywhere from three days to three or four months to

get to some countries. Often they never reach their destination, as has been the case with Russia and the war-torn countries of Yugoslavia.

Many of UNL's international students are lonely. They spend a lot of time at home because they don't have many friends except their fellow citizens. They study hard and spend a lot of money on phone calls and on letters.

But quite a few of us are interested in improving our English conversational skills and would like to spend time doing that.

At the beginning of each semester, the International Affairs Office gets a large number of international students who sign up for the English Conversation Program. But there is never an equal number of American students who sign up to converse with international students. Even when American students sign up, it is to converse to students whose native languages are languages they themselves wish to study — French, Spanish, Russian, German, etc. People don't seem to sign up in order to help an international student get accustomed to the everyday, idiomatic and slang "American."

That's too bad. Meetings are only once a week during the semester, or as often as you'd like. In return, you would learn about the other person's culture, regardless of the language the student speaks. You can find out more from the International Affairs Office. Be sure to come to the International Student Organization's Valentine's party Friday from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Culture Center and meet some of us. I promise this will be a great experience for you. Remember that you don't have to travel far, UNL has students from more than 100 countries!

Obradovic is a graduate student in creative writing-poetry and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Abortion

In response to a front-page, vintage Daily Nebraskan liberal, article on Feb. 10, 1993, this is a pro-life argument. So all you pro-choicers out there, get ready!

First of all, Suzanne Rogers-Lipsey said, "A woman doesn't decide to have an abortion frivolously." In contrast, the sad fact is that some young women do have abortions due to frightful, unpleasant and even hostile feelings. In those instances, if LB110 is passed, factual information about adoption, the fetus, etc. will be offered, along with the 24-hour waiting period, to help the woman make a clear, sound choice that is right for her. And if you believe your choice

was not "frivolous," what harm would a waiting period do? Honestly, if it's a correct decision that you have considered seriously, won't it still be correct after the 24-hour waiting period? Why are you so afraid of a simple 24-hour wait? Guilty conscience?

I think Sen. John Lindsay ought to be commended for his continuing efforts to restore morality in the human race.

Eric J. Hrnicek  
freshman  
biological systems engineering

I read the article (DN, Feb. 10, 1993) about two abortion-related bills that are in the Legislature, and I have

just one question to ask: What are the pro-choicers afraid of?

Are they afraid that women will become educated about the development of their child and decide not to have abortions? In what way does this affect a woman's right to choose?

I think it is shameful that we are afraid of the truth — so afraid that we seek to keep it from the mother with a very important "decision" in her hands. That decision is between life and death. Shouldn't a mother know everything possible about the development of her child so that she can make the right decision?

Rene Francis  
freshman  
psychology