

Disabled

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Many ADA regulations require program accessibility, Horn said. For example, if a class in which a disabled student was enrolled had been scheduled in an inaccessible room, the class would be moved to an accessible area.

But being in compliance with ADA is not necessarily enough, Horn said.

"There is a difference between being in compliance with the letter of the law and being in compliance with human dignity," she said.

UNL is currently in a transition phase between providing program accessibility and removing physical barriers, Horn said.

C.Y. Thompson Library on East Campus, for example, is accessible to disabled students, but only through a loading dock in the back of the building. Horn said she would like to see the front entrances of all buildings on campus accessible to all students.

Another building that presents special problems is the Bob Devaney Sports Center. People in wheelchairs currently sit alongside the court, which is dangerous for both the players and the disabled person, Horn said.

Special padded partitions similar to those in front of the press table could be added to help alleviate the problem, she said.

Under ADA, emergency evacuation plans also are being devised for all buildings on campus. In the event of a fire, when elevators cannot be used, disabled students would be taken to a safe area equipped with a phone to allow communication with paramedics.

The plan is necessary, Horn said, because if disabled students are carried incorrectly, they run a greater risk of injury. Paramedics are specially trained for emergency situations involving disabled people.

"If we want to create a totally enabling environment, we must do these kinds of things," she said.

"What we need to do on this campus, more than anything else, is adjust people's attitudes," she said, "and that takes education."

"We all like the idea of being independent — that's part of what going to college is about."

Young Gun

UNL student youngest state coordinator for national group

By Nicole Sheets
Staff Reporter

Since his first visit to Washington, D.C. with his family during junior high, J. Matt Wickless has dreamed of being in politics.

Wickless, a senior political science major, is making that dream a reality by being the youngest state coordinator of United We Stand America, the 1992 election campaign committee that supported independent candidate Ross Perot.

Wickless became involved in the presidential election last March when he worked as a volunteer in the Perot petition drive. He worked his way into the position of Nebraska delegate, where he represented Perot's Nebraska supporters during frequent trips to the national headquarters in Dallas.

"On July 16, 1992, when Perot dropped out of the race, there was a major fallout of the campaign. I spent much of my time traveling back and forth to Dallas after this," Wickless said.

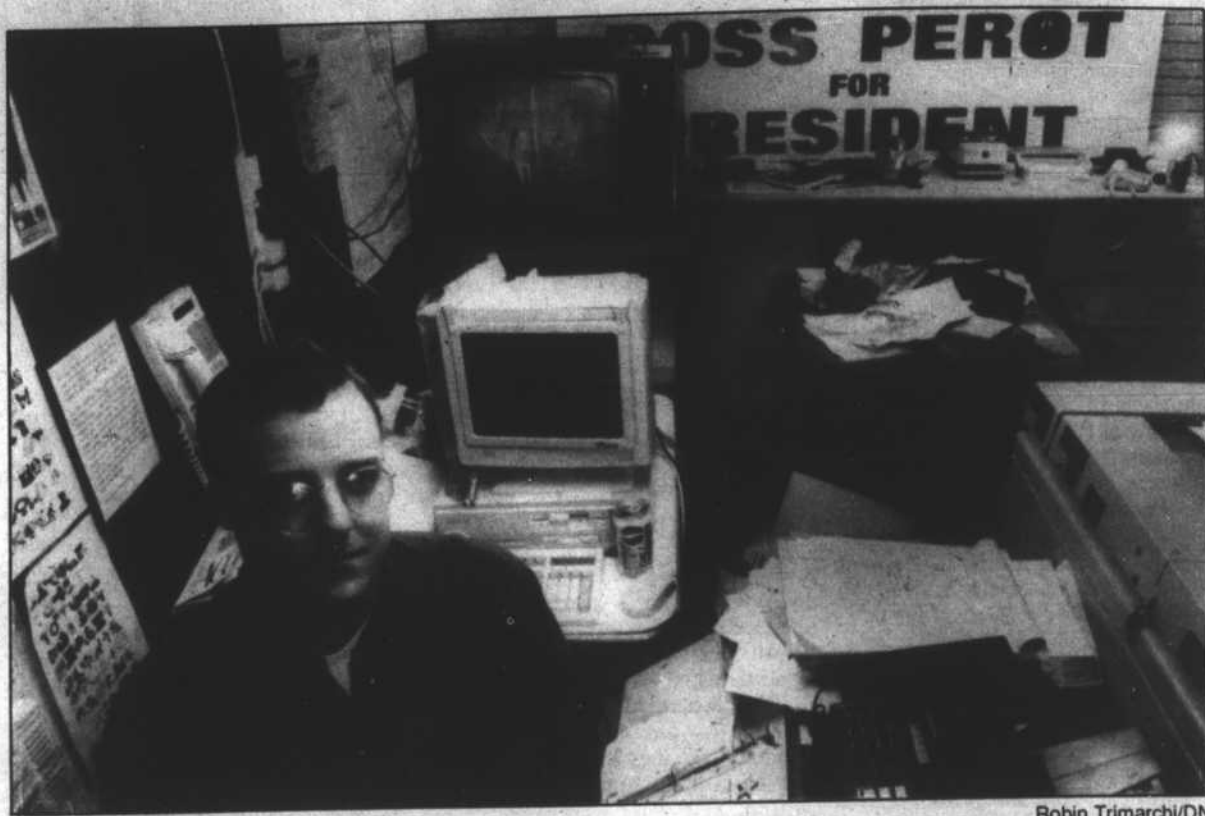
In August, Wickless became the state coordinator for Nebraska's United We Stand America, the independent party that rose out of the remnants of the Perot campaign.

Wickless's position as an intermediary between Dallas and Nebraska operations entailed meetings with 34 county coordinators and 3 congressional coordinators. He also organizes United We Stand America county activities.

"In this position, I travel throughout Nebraska to help get the organization going in new counties," Wickless said.

Wickless said his position soon will become a paid job, but he enjoyed the work even without the money.

"This has been a fantastic experience for me," Wickless said. "I would love to continue doing it



Robin Trimarchi/DN

J. Matt Wickless sits in his basement, home of Nebraska's United We Stand America, an organization that supported independent candidate Ross Perot. Wickless, the youngest United We Stand America state coordinator, says that he has always wanted to be in politics.

until we get our goals accomplished and as long as I can afford to be poor."

With strong family support from his parents and younger brother, Wickless knows he will go far.

"I've always dreamed of being in the Senate, and I want to stay here in Nebraska forever. I love this state," Wickless said.

Once in the Senate, Wickless said he hoped to work with issues such as campaign finance reform, former legislators becoming lobbyists and reducing government

spending.

Originally a Republican, Wickless switched to the Democratic party in 1988 to vote for Al Gore in the Democratic presidential primaries. Today he sees himself as an independent, largely because he looks up to the courage and determination of Perot.

"Ross is willing to take on the system and to take the flack along with it. He was brave enough to say what needed to be said, and I admire that," Wickless said. "I hope to be able to do that same thing

some day."

Wickless stressed that United We Stand America was a non-partisan party that encouraged participation by anyone concerned with government.

"This is not a Ross Perot fan club," Wickless said. "United We Stand America makes people realize that the government should be accountable for its actions. It keeps people informed."

"Ross stirred something in the American people. They are more aware now."



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