

OPINION

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Daily Nebraskan

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EDITORIAL

Air pollution

Negative ads, tactics corrupt campaign

Nebraska politics got a strong dose of national publicity on Wednesday. The message, which was sent out to about 1.8 million people, was published on the front page of The Wall Street Journal.

Aren't we proud.

Death threats, stalking and lie detector tests have replaced stickers, yard signs and kissing babies in this year's 2nd Congressional District race in Nebraska.

Jon Christensen, the Republican candidate, and Peter Hoagland, the Democratic incumbent, have been at each other's throats for months.

Negative advertisements have polluted the airwaves throughout the campaign. To an extent, this is to be expected; however, the dirty politics have gone too far.

The mudslinging has gone beyond name-calling in TV

commercials and rhetoric in radio spots. Nebraska — which according to the Journal is best known for corn and college football — has been treated to a classless act of politics.

But apparently, that is what brings in votes.

"A negative piece of information is more credible than a positive one," Republican pollster Fred Steeper told the Journal.

If it really is negative information voters desire, then it will be difficult choosing a candidate. Have there been any strictly issue-oriented commercials? We don't believe so.

Both Hoagland and Christensen are to blame. This has not been a one-sided smear campaign. Hoagland said Christensen appeared from out of nowhere earlier in the campaign and eyed him "with a snarl on his face like (I'm) the devil incarnate."

It sounds to us like the Democratic incumbent is a bit paranoid.

On the other hand, Steve Thomlison, Christensen's campaign manager, hired a private detective to videotape people coming and going from a polygraph testing office.

One Omaha woman, Barbara Lebedz, was prepared to take a polygraph test to prove Christensen was lying, but she called it off mid-test.

The Lebedzes say they've received death threats for openly criticizing Christensen after he allegedly campaigned at their door and said schools were teaching "immoral values." Christensen denied having campaigned in their area.

The reported death threats make this slimy campaign downright sick.

Now, Nebraska will be known for corn, college football and lethal politics.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Fall 1994 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

Sportsmanship

A big game is coming up for the Cornhuskers; and I am sure that the enthusiasm is mounting for the Nebraska vs. Colorado game. Let me tell you up front that I am a proud graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and for this reason I am writing.

Having lived in Colorado for the last 10 years, I can attest to the fact that they have behaved atrociously. I have witnessed, firsthand, tasteless displays of their so-called team support. On the other hand, it seems there was a tit for tat in 1992 from Nebraska fans. I would like to think that we are above that sort of behavior.

I urge you to go to the game and give the team your support. Be loud, and yell your support; but please do not give those people any reason to go back to Colorado and cry about how they were mistreated. I hope that our fans will lead the way to cleaning this rivalry up and demonstrate that we can be fans without being abusive.

If you witness a Nebraska fan being abusive, say something to them. Because whether or not it works, the CU fan will see that not all of us condone that kind of behavior.

If you really want to make them mad whether we win or lose, kill them with kindness. If we win, tell them that they have a good team and wish them future success. If they are derogatory or abusive in return, tell them you are sorry that they choose to act like that, or better yet, say nothing at all. If we should lose, congratulate them for a well-executed game and wish them luck in the Orange Bowl.

Believe me, this will hurt them much more than showing what bad sports we can be, because they won't be able to go back to Colorado telling everyone how terrible we were and plan how they can retaliate when we play in Boulder.

Furthermore, when their program hits the skids down the road — and I'm pretty sure it will — don't even go to the games in Boulder and give that program any of your money. They will be begging Cornhusker fans to attend their games, so that some money is coming into their pathetic program. I know that our fans are better

than theirs; I urge you to go to the game and prove it!

Jan D. Wilson
Colorado



Bret Gottshall/DN

Oppressors

In response to Mr. Simon Liverani's article (DN, Oct. 20, 1994), I am forced to remind him of some facts.

Mr. Liverani did an excellent job of lobbying for Israelis. But I am sorry that in some parts of the world, where peace and justice are still given priority, your efforts will go in vain.

Peace-loving people all around the world do not take their hats off for oppressors. Occupying a sovereign, independent and recognized piece of land called Palestine is not a goodwill gesture. Bombing the refugee camps of innocent Palestinians is not a sign of peace.

Surrounding and trapping tens of innocent people in snow, and depriving them of food and water, by Israelis last year was not a humanitarian cause. When an oppressor like Israel occupies 70 percent of the land, commits crimes that are condemned by the world community through the U.N. resolutions and then gives back part of the land to the innocent people of Palestine on some conditions, they should not be valued by the world community.

If you think that Israel's goodwill gesture of giving back part of the occupied territories should be

valued by the world community, then Russia should be praised for committing atrocities against the Afghans and then giving back all of the occupying territories.

Iraq's goodwill should be valued for giving the occupied territories back to the Kuwaitis. Serbs should be given a salute for committing atrocities in Bosnia and giving part of the occupied territories back.

Mr. Liverani, people who work for the glory of peace, justice and humanity do not praise oppressors and aggressors. If we cannot work for a brighter tomorrow, then at least we should not try to join those who want to shatter this dream.

Abbas Ali
graduate student
mechanical engineering

Regents race

As a teacher in a rural community, I would urge you to vote for Chuck Hassebrook for the University of Nebraska Board of Regents for the following reasons:

Chuck has been a long supporter of affordable higher education for average families who work hard and struggle to make ends meet.

He will fight to constrain spending by the university's Office of Central Administration in Lincoln, which has grown by \$1 million in the last five years.

Chuck will work toward a better future for family farming, and in doing so, help to keep rural communities viable. He believes that the University of Nebraska is one of our most powerful institutions for confronting this challenge.

Linda Abboud
West Point

Kerrey/Stoney

If Bob Kerrey wanted to represent Nebraskans, why, when debating Jan Stoney, would he say he has two fears: one that he'll lose the election and one that he might win?

Maybe Bob Kerrey is starting to realize Nebraskans don't want anymore of his political beliefs of having more government in their lives.

Larry Dinkel
Norfolk

P.S.
Write Back

The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.