

OPINION

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Page 4

Daily
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EDITORIAL

Campaign '94 Daily Nebraskan Endorsements

Time to vote

UNL students can be a powerful voice

Last week, a Daily Nebraskan story about the voting habits of 18- to 24-year-olds suggested that most students probably would not vote today.

John Hibbing, a political science professor, said 18- to 24-year-olds were the least likely age group to vote in an election.

Hibbing explained that members of this age group often don't have deep enough roots in the community to be involved in local politics.

And the widespread view of national issues is that one vote doesn't really count.

But what students don't know is how much of a force they could be.

What if, instead of the approximately 35 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds who vote, 50, 60, or even 90 percent of this age group voted?

UNL alone has more than 20,000 voices to raise, if only students would use them.

Use it or lose it, the saying goes.

Whoever said it first probably wasn't talking about voting, but it applies. And although there's not much danger of losing these rights, there's also not much room for complaints if one hasn't taken time to vote.

Forget the Generation X label, stop pulling your hair out over that take-home exam, look up from the want ads and take a few minutes to use your voice.

Please, vote.

Campaign '94 Endorsements

Today, campaign 1994 enters its final day. The Daily Nebraskan has endorsed the following Nebraska candidates in the past week. Here is a review of our selections:

U.S. Senate

Bob Kerrey

House of Representatives

1st District: Patrick Combs

2nd District: Peter Hoagland

3rd District: Bill Barrett

Governor

Ben Nelson

Attorney General

Steve Scherr

NU Board of Regents

District 3: Chuck Hasebrook

District 4: Drew Miller

District 5: Robert Allen

District 8: Richard Berkshire

Constitutional Amendment

Vote "no" for term limit initiative

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.



SHANE TUCKER

Single ticket is smartest vote

I hear the same idiocy during every election season.

"Well, I don't vote fur the party," says Jo Bob "informed" voter, "I jus' vote fur the individual."

Oh, really, Jo Bob? And how do you inform yourself about the plethora of individuals out there running for office?

"Well, I watch lots a TV, and you can learn all sorts of neat stuff there. Have you ever seen that Discovery channel?"

So you watch the televised debates and make your decisions based on that?

"Oh, no, them debates are real boring. I just watch the commercials. They're short and kinda colorful, and they tell ya lots in just a few minutes, and they're real pretty to look at, too."

So then, you're planning to vote today, Jo Bob?

"Oh, yes indeedy, I surely am. I even cut out the Daily Nebraskan endorsements so I could take 'em to the polls (some a those there names are pretty long, and I can't remember 'em). Those DN folks sure are smart."

All right, let's hear it for the individual. An overwhelmingly uninformed, or at best, underinformed electorate picking the best man (or woman, in the cases of Jan Stoney and Kate Witek) to represent us.

The problem isn't necessarily with us, however. Although there are certainly some very stupid people out there who, informed or uninformed, will vote for folks like Bob Kerrey and Peter Hoagland, most of us just don't have time to find out everything there is to know about the candidates.

It's unfortunate, but we have school, jobs, families and many other things in our lives that supersede spending hours wading through campaign paraphernalia in order to decide who should get our vote.

On top of the time commitment



Contrary to popular opinion, there's nothing unintelligent about voting for one party down the line. In fact, it's probably the smartest thing you can do.

of becoming informed, we also have to worry about lying politicians. Often, we inform ourselves only to find that the information was a ruse.

Certainly, six years ago Nebraskans thought they were electing an independent spirit to the U.S. Senate. But when push comes to shove, Sen. Bob Kerrey puts his vote against Nebraska and for the president, voting in the largest tax increase in U.S. history. Kerrey, like most politicians, votes with his party.

What? Politicians vote with their party? Well, maybe we've saved Jo Bob from making some gratuitous voting errors.

Political parties give us a window into the basic ideology of the individual we're voting for. And although they don't tell us how the individual will vote on every issue, they do give us an idea of where our representatives will lean.

Republicans, for example, generally have a desire to curb the growth of government and make it less intrusive in the lives of Americans. They often believe that institutions like the family, churches, and community organizations can solve many problems that government can't begin to understand. They tend to be pro-life and to support the line item veto, the balanced budget amendment, term limits, a strong defense, the death penalty and easing the tax burden on working families and expanding businesses.

Democrats, on the other hand,

traditionally believe that government can and should intervene into the lives of everyday Americans in order to make them happier.

Although there are exceptions, Democrats generally are pro-abortion, against term limits and the balanced budget amendment and support slashing defense and raising taxes to support their plethora of pork-filled social legislation.

You might think I'm exaggerating, but take a look at the two parties' platforms — or for a more current comparison, look at the recent GOP Contract with America.

There's definitely a difference between the two parties, and therein lies the answer to Jo Bob's dilemma. The party has a track record, and when you can't know the candidate (which is most of the time), why not just vote for the party?

Why vote on conjecture; why not vote on what you know? Vote for the party that the candidate identifies himself with (unless you're a tax and spend pro-abortionist, then you don't have to go to the polls at all).

Contrary to popular opinion, there's nothing unintelligent about voting for one party down the line. In fact, it's probably the smartest thing you can do. Let's not have any split tickets out there today.

Don't be an ass, vote Republican.

Tucker is a senior biology major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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.