

OPINION

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Daily
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Vote LETTUCE

Fat-free platform offers meaty plans

Four choices can make for a difficult decision, but that's not the case in this year's ASUN election.

Clearly, in this campaign there are two parties of words — IMPACT and ACCESS — and two parties of action — CUT COST and LETTUCE.

Students do not need empty promises from student government; they need ASUN to work for them.

LETTUCE is the party that will do that, and the Daily Nebraskan endorses its candidates in this election.

Last year, LETTUCE was a joke. But this year the group is serious about the election and about student government. It is a full-blown party and has quality candidates running for the ASUN Senate and college advisory boards.

The members of the LETTUCE party seem sincere when they say they will represent students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

It's the party's realistic attitude that makes them believable.

ASUN cannot change the world. In many cases, it can't even change things at UNL. LETTUCE's Brian Fitzgerald, Andy Smith and Matt Kissler realize this and want to work within the means available to them to accomplish their goals.

Despite its name, the IMPACT party is the least likely to make one. IMPACT represents the status quo and the negative feelings that many students harbor about ASUN: that its members don't care about their constituents, that its members are only trying to pad their résumés and that it is a joke.

ASUN should not be a joke.

Indeed, IMPACT presidential candidate Shawntell Hurtgen has experience in ASUN. She has followed the ASUN playbook to the letter, but it is time for that manual to be rewritten from the days of VISION, VOICE and COMMIT.

ACCESS represents a segment of UNL students that have long been underrepresented by ASUN. Its all-residence hall ticket could potentially deliver a huge block of voters, but with only three people running for the party, it is unlikely to do so.

Mark McGoveran of CUT COST has noble goals, like reducing UNL administrative paperwork and fighting for students' rights, but many of his aims fall beyond the scope of ASUN's powers.

While his promise to personally argue student's problems with professors might provide some entertainment, it is hardly a reason to vote for him. And students don't need a public-access television star for an ASUN president.

It isn't LETTUCE's fat-free platform or cheese and crackers that should win you over. It is their willingness to criticize the stagnant system of student government.

LETTUCE's hijinx and gimmicks do not speak poorly of the party. Again, it has to do with attitude.

In the past, we shouldn't have let ASUN get away with doing nothing, and we can't let the same happen next year.

ASUN is the voice of UNL students. Until UNL's student government is disbanded, we need to use that voice and make sure it speaks for us.

LETTUCE is what ACCESS's Chad Pekron claimed his party was: the only serious alternative in this campaign.

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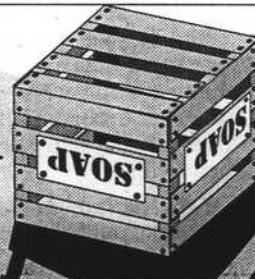
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Motorcycles

As a student of UNL and a veteran motorcycle rider, I would like to voice my opinion on the subject of charging motorcyclists for parking.

This is a ridiculous proposal any way you approach it and I fully agree with and support the position of ASUN. I also would like to present additional points to oppose the idea of charging a fee to motorcyclists.

It seems to me that Parking Services should be more concerned with alleviating the parking problem at UNL by encouraging students and faculty to ride motorcycles, which are far more space-efficient than cars. Motorcycles are more efficient in other ways also: they use less gas, tires, oil and other fluids, and therefore expend less resources in the production and disposal thereof.

On the subject of the permit itself, any removable device would invite theft or loss by any of a number of means, and I would strongly object to placing any sticker on my motorcycle. It also needs to be mentioned that current motorcycle parking is making use of areas inaccessible to cars, anyway.

Parking services claims it wants to be more fair. At what cost? There aren't that many motorcycles at UNL. Would the money generated support the program? If I am forced to buy one of these permits for a given month and that month turns out to be a cold and rainy one, I will get my money refunded for the days that I am unable to ride, right? After all, fairness is the objective.

David Trail
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Union expansion

While reading the article "Worth the money? Students will decide Wednesday," I pondered a few questions about the necessity of a renovated Nebraska Union and the unmentioned items surrounding this debate.

The biggest and most important question I came up with was "Why

is UNL wanting to spend \$11.83 million on the union when we have other buildings in need of renovation? Can we or UNL justify the



Bret Gottschall/DN

cost of renovation because it has represented more than 57 years of 'unions' among students, faculty and the community? Aren't there buildings on campus, which serve an educational purpose, that have precedence in renovation over the union?"

If you really want to know who should decide this issue, go to the high school students who plan to attend this university and, even, to those students who plan to be here in 1997. These are the scholars who will have to endure the ever-increasing cost of high education.

I doubt this will occur, but we need to ask ourselves what has priority. Apparently, the union is a place that students can meet, study, grab a bite to eat or get ripped off at the University Bookstore.

I propose that UNL go with a much cheaper plan of necessary renovation, like improved access for the physically challenged and the removal of asbestos. Then, the university could put the rest into the renovation of buildings utilized for classrooms.

Oh, yes! I wonder why the Daily Nebraskan is so eager to put a huge article in its paper. Could it be that its area would be expanded due to

renovation? Take a step back, evaluate the need and find concrete reasons for expansion.

Jay Brooke
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Kwame Ture

I was shocked and appalled by the front-page story on Kwame Ture, a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael, in the March 6 Daily Nebraskan.

First off, I couldn't see how Ture can be labeled a "rights activist," when he touts socialism as the solution to today's problems. Like Marx, Lenin and others, Ture is wrong.

The socialist, not communist, system of the former Soviet Union saw the death of millions because they refused to be stripped of their humanity. Socialism has historically proved to be intolerant of those who disagree with its principles. Capitalism, on the other hand, makes it possible for individuals to express their diversity.

Contrary to radical belief, capitalism is not the culprit of racial tensions, but in fact, crude social engineering by previous law, such as segregation, slavery and Jim Crow laws, is to blame.

There is no way to repay the loss of dignity that victims of racism have felt, but the ultimate solution is toleration. Socialism does not even consider toleration. Remember, Nazi Germany was itself a form of socialism.

Ture's views are radical and somewhat understandable, but his view of turning the tables on racists will not heal old wounds. The only way for the United States to incorporate a tolerant capitalist society is to rid ourselves of the socialist programs of welfare, affirmative action and centralized banking. This system must also come through the society wanting it, and for this to happen, people must be educated and informed of their rights.

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