

# OPINION

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Page 4

Daily  
Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## New era?

### IMPACTwatch begins today for students

The people have spoken.

And they said they want the same student government that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has had for many years.

The IMPACT ticket won a victory Wednesday, claiming the executive positions in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

### IMPACTwatch

Throughout the next year, the Daily Nebraskan will compare the party's accomplishments to their platform through IMPACTwatch. The IMPACT party, led by Shawntell Hurtgen, pledged to do the following if elected:

- More student input on dean renewals
- More efficient advising process
- More core class availability, especially on East Campus
- Better interaction among all students
- Better handicapped accessibility
- Improved communication between ASUN and students
- Better parking policies
- More 24-hour computer labs
- Opposing appointed regents
- Standardized teachers' evaluations
- Enhanced academic experience for students
- Maintaining student and lab fees at or below inflation rate

Students had a chance this year to make a real change, to install a student government that would actually work for its constituents and not for itself.

The 1995 election proves that apathy about ASUN is so great that students don't care enough to change a system that badly needs it. The 87 percent of students who didn't vote have no right to complain about ASUN ineffectiveness.

It is too bad that LETTUCE has not been given the chance to change student sentiment about ASUN.

That task now falls upon Shawntell Hurtgen and her crew, who have one year to make their impact.

But for students, apathy is no longer an option.

This new sentiment begins today with the Daily Nebraskan. Throughout the next year, we will be watching the IMPACT party for the students of this university.

Their actions and inactions will be examined and held up to the IMPACT party platform. Any successes they may have will be reported to the rest of campus. So will any failures.

The Daily Nebraskan will do its part to keep students abreast of their government. ASUN is meant to be the voice of UNL students, and students need to know that voice speaks for them.

We will hold IMPACT to its campaign platform, which includes:

- Better interaction between students, student advisory groups, minority organizations and senators.
- Better handicap accessibility to all university buildings, especially those not up to code.
- Working toward better parking policies on campus and more metered spaces on East Campus.
- More 24-hour computer labs and study areas.
- Representing all segments of the UNL student body.

IMPACT has one year.

We will be watching.

#### Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1995. 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.



## Intent behind shirt leaves chill

It took all of 10 seconds as a candidate for president for Lamar Alexander to lose any chance of ever getting my vote.

Even if he proves to be a man of great vision — promising to exempt columnists from all taxes, chop off the fingers of computer hackers and burst the eardrums of droolers who turn their cars into rolling boomboxes — he has already lost me.

I usually try to be patient and fair in judging candidates, listening to their speeches, pondering their backgrounds and even reading the slick position papers written by their hired campaign hucksters.

But with Alexander, all it took was one look at his shirt.

That's right, his shirt. The man announces that he is running for president of the United States — the biggest job in the world except for Judge Ito's — and what does he wear for the occasion?

A red-and-black plaid flannel shirt, open at the collar, no tie or jacket.

I'm no fashion fuss-pot, since I often dress like I live under a bridge in a cardboard crate. But I'm not asking people to make me the leader of the free world.

And it's not that there is something wrong with the shirt itself. It's obviously a respectable, sturdy, flannel shirt. Just the garment to wear if you are going to the hardware store on a Saturday, out with the family for a hamburger or maybe fishing on a cool day.

But you could say the same about a set of red long underwear with a bottom-flap; respectable and sturdy. That wouldn't make it the appropriate garment to wear while declaring a candidacy for president.

Worse than the choice of the shirt, though, is the obvious thought that went into wearing it.

Imagine for a moment that it is the morning that you are going to reveal to the whole country that you



Mike Royko

are seeking the office once held by men like Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Wilson, Roosevelt and Eisenhower.

You know that the TV camera will be there for you to introduce yourself to the nation. And your wife or someone says:

"Uh, what's with the shirt?"

"What about it? Is there a stain or something?"

"No, but it is a flannel shirt.

Red-and-black plaid flannel. I thought you were going to announce that you are running for president."

"Yes, that is precisely what I'm going to do."

"Then don't you think a dress shirt and a tie and a suit would be more appropriate? Something more formal, but quietly understated?"

"Ah, but that just proves that you know nothing about fooling some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, and if I am lucky, 51 percent of the people when it counts."

"You'll do all that by wearing a plaid flannel shirt?"

"Sure. You see, this shirt will let the folks out there in TV land know that I am really a regular Joe, sort of a plain, everyday neighborly guy like they are."

"But you are not. You were once president of a big university. And the governor of a state."

"Yeah, but this working stiff shirt will let them know that I'm not one of those evil and slick Washington Beltway insider who

has caused all the misery and grief in their tormented lives; that the absence of a dark, single-breasted suit and a red power tie means that I'm just a grass-roots kind of guy you'd ask to help tune your snow blower or jump-start your car."

"But you went to Washington and served in the Cabinet of President Bush. You can't get any more inside Washington than being a Cabinet member."

"Mebbe so, mebbe so, but this common flannel shirt — the kind that a decent non-union carpenter would wear — tells ordinary folks that I know what it's like to skimp and save and keep the wolves from the door while those Beltway insiders grab your hard-earned cookie-jar money and give it away to every loafing, malingering, baby-spawning deadbeat who can't roll out of bed in the morning and do an honest day's work."

"But people know that through some very clever, questionable investments — and knowing the right people — you have turned yourself into a millionaire. Why, you could stop working today and lead a very comfortable life, and you aren't even a major-league baseball player."

"Hush up. If those other candidates want to wear suits and ties and flaunt their insiderness, let them. Me, I'm just good old Joe."

"But your name is Lamar."

"Yeah, and I guess it's too late to get people calling me plain Lum. Say, how does this stalk of corn silk in the teeth look to you?"

"It might be a bit much. Maybe you should save it for New Hampshire."

"Good idea. And I got to remember to get to New Hampshire before the snows fall."

"Why?"

"So's I can campaign in my bare feet."

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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.