

Daily
Nebraskan
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Primary concern

Arizona voters give race new pace

And out of chaos came order. After the biggest single day so far in the 1996 presidential campaign Tuesday, the race for the Republican nomination appears to be taking shape.

The 1996 presidential campaign has now seen three solid candidates emerge. Senate majority leader Bob Dole picked up needed victories in North Dakota and South Dakota. Pat Buchanan, who scored an upset victory in New Hampshire, failed to win another race but picked up some delegates in the Dakotas. Meanwhile, Steve Forbes, who was left for dead after finishing far back in Iowa and New Hampshire, scored the biggest single victory so far by taking the winner-take-all Arizona primary and its 39 delegates.

Gramm is gone. Soon to follow will be Bob Dornan, Alan Keyes, Dick Lugar and Morry Taylor, who have all finished far back in the contests so far. Lamar Alexander, who got a boost from strong third-place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire, still has not won any state and seems to be fading fast.

The largest question ringing in the minds of political pundits after Tuesday's primaries is who among Dole, Forbes and Buchanan is the frontrunner?

It seems as though the Buchanan bashing since the columnist and speechwriter won New Hampshire has helped resurrect the Dole and Forbes campaigns. The Buchanan campaign is on the losing side of a noticeable shift in momentum — he and his extremist views are likely to continue to fade. However, the issues he has raised may continue to shape the campaign on into November.

That leaves Dole and Forbes — two well-financed candidates. Dole has his intricate nationwide political organization. Forbes has his personal fortune and the flat tax. Dole is the experienced Washington politician. Forbes is the anti-establishment outsider.

The two men have positioned themselves well. Where things will go from here is anyone's guess. Both men have a mainstream appeal that will win them votes across the nation.

The deciding factor will be whether the wins in the Dakotas will invigorate Dole, who has looked tired, even exhausted, at times during this campaign. If Dole can run an energetic campaign, he may be able to hold off Forbes.

If not, the "outsider" may just find himself an "in."

Editorial policy

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Letter policy

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Geezers' stay active

Now wait just a gosh-durn minute, Brian Priesman! Do I detect geezer-discrimination in your latest review, "... no one wants to see old people kissing ...?"

Since when did you young pups get a monopoly on displays of affection, in movies or real life, anyway? Keep in mind that there is love and affection and even sex after 35. And after 45, 55, 65, etc.

Besides the scene could not have been any more repulsive than some of the scenes depicting the amateur gropings and carrying on by you young unskilled folks. You'd better watch the pros — you might learn something.

On behalf of geezers everywhere

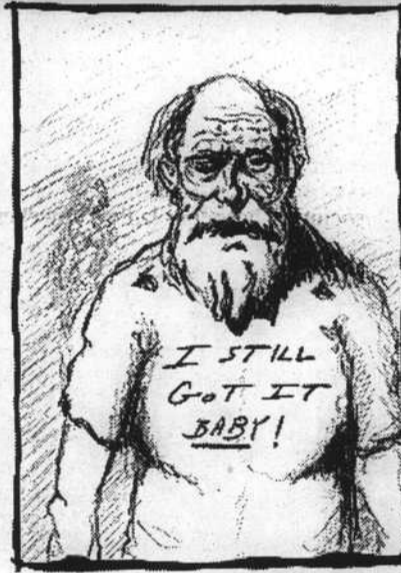
Jerry Frobom
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via e-mail

Truth hurts

Veera Supinen's columns have provoked a somewhat defensive reaction from two ironically optimistic scientists (Feb. 23).

I empathize with Julie Paschold's view that Europe is not perfect, just as the U.S. isn't perfect, but Ms. Supinen is not a "foreigner" to Europe, nor is she living there. I am glad she has the valuable opportunity to hold a mirror up to Nebraska, to comment on whatever flaws she might see. If Ms. Paschold were in Ms. Supinen's native country and had a similar opportunity, I hope she would do the same.

Professor Ilya Fabrikant raises a true point about the tolerance of America to dissident or foreign opinions. People of our country are fairly tolerant, in that we do not often resort to violence to quiet the throats of dissenters. I think the voices of immigrants such as Prof.



Bret Gottschall/DN

Fabrikant are, more than anything else, responsible for such tolerance in our country.

Veera Supinen raises some important questions about the character of American civilization. For instance, America's death penalty is evidence of some powerful contradictions about the value of human life in our nation, and Ms. Supinen is not the first to wonder how civilized a country really is if its response to crime is to murder the criminal.

As the most powerful nation on the planet, the United States must realize that the world holds us to a high standard, and when we falter, the world is rightfully quick to judge. We falter much too often to retain a uniformly rosy picture of ourselves.

We must acknowledge rather than avoid our responsibility for the negative, if we plan to first "concentrate on the positive."

I want to thank Veera Supinen for her thoughtful, well-written columns. She deserves our respect, our attention and, if necessary, our tolerance.

Scott Wesley
alumnus, class of 1990
Lincoln

Column unfair to candidates

In regard to Jennifer Mapes' column "Primary Peeves" (Feb. 26):

Please offer me real evidence, if you are going to say there is a weak selection of GOP candidates running in the primaries. Your statements are illogical, "dime a dozen," and stereotypically degrading, serving no purpose. You sum up candidates by saying Bob Dole is dumb because he seeks the presidency and needs to seek the Wizard to give him a brain; Steve Forbes could be an alien; Lamar and Honey Alexander have

funny names; and Pat Buchanan is the head of the party for racists. Your use of humor and ignorance of the candidates divert attention from your main argument.

If you actually knew they were weak, you would tell me why instead of just boring me with mindless name-calling. You say of people running for the presidency, "I'm deeply suspicious of anyone dumb

enough to want the job in the first place. The hours are terrible, and no matter what you do, millions of people will be furious with you."

First of all, what is to be suspicious about someone who is not intelligent? Second, is anyone who runs for the job really dumb? Some people find satisfaction in working

hard, and the millions of people they help overshadow the ones who are "furious." George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were dumb? This is a new argument. These men held

together the nation in times of crisis and triumphed over adversity and cynical people who lacked wisdom to see at the level of great men.

Bill Armstrong
junior
agribusiness



...to the

Daily
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