

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Here's the beef

While lean, ACTION's platform meatier

ACTION has it. As did IMPACT. As did VISION. As did VOICE. In the last four ASUN elections, the victors have always had one big advantage — organization. This year it's especially evident.



Bret Gottschall/DN

Both parties have a couple of attractive planks in their platforms — stances and issues that are designed to capture votes and maybe (just maybe) become reality over the next year. But this ASUN election is not really about issues.

They never are. They usually come down to the same thing: "establishment" vs. "outsiders."

This year is no exception. Justin Firestone and the OFFICE party have a noble goal — to change student government. They want to

bring down the political machine that is ACTION/IMPACT/VISION/VOICE, etc. That would be great. But OFFICE isn't the party to do it.

OFFICE doesn't have enough candidates to mount a serious challenge to ACTION. If the political cycle that has captured ASUN elections for so long is ever to be broken, it must start from the bottom. OFFICE offers only 12 candidates to ACTION's 72. Even if all of OFFICE's candidates were elected, ASUN still would be dominated by ACTION, and Firestone would be ineffective.

OFFICE's stance on many of the issues is either weak or indistinguishable from that of its opponents. The party brings new people to the table, but not new ideas.

ACTION has slightly stronger goals and experience. They have better ideas on keeping student costs low and improving safety on campus. Presidential candidate Eric Marintzer has necessary experience and has shown a desire to use that experience to benefit students. In addition, he will provide a strong voice as a student regent, perhaps the most important duty of the ASUN president.

Electing someone other than the establishment is a good idea. But only if the alternative is better.

When an "anti-establishment" party comes along that can fill a senate slate, provide fresh, new ideas and demonstrate that a vote for them is more than a vote against the "machine," it definitely will be deserving of students' support.

But OFFICE isn't quite that party.

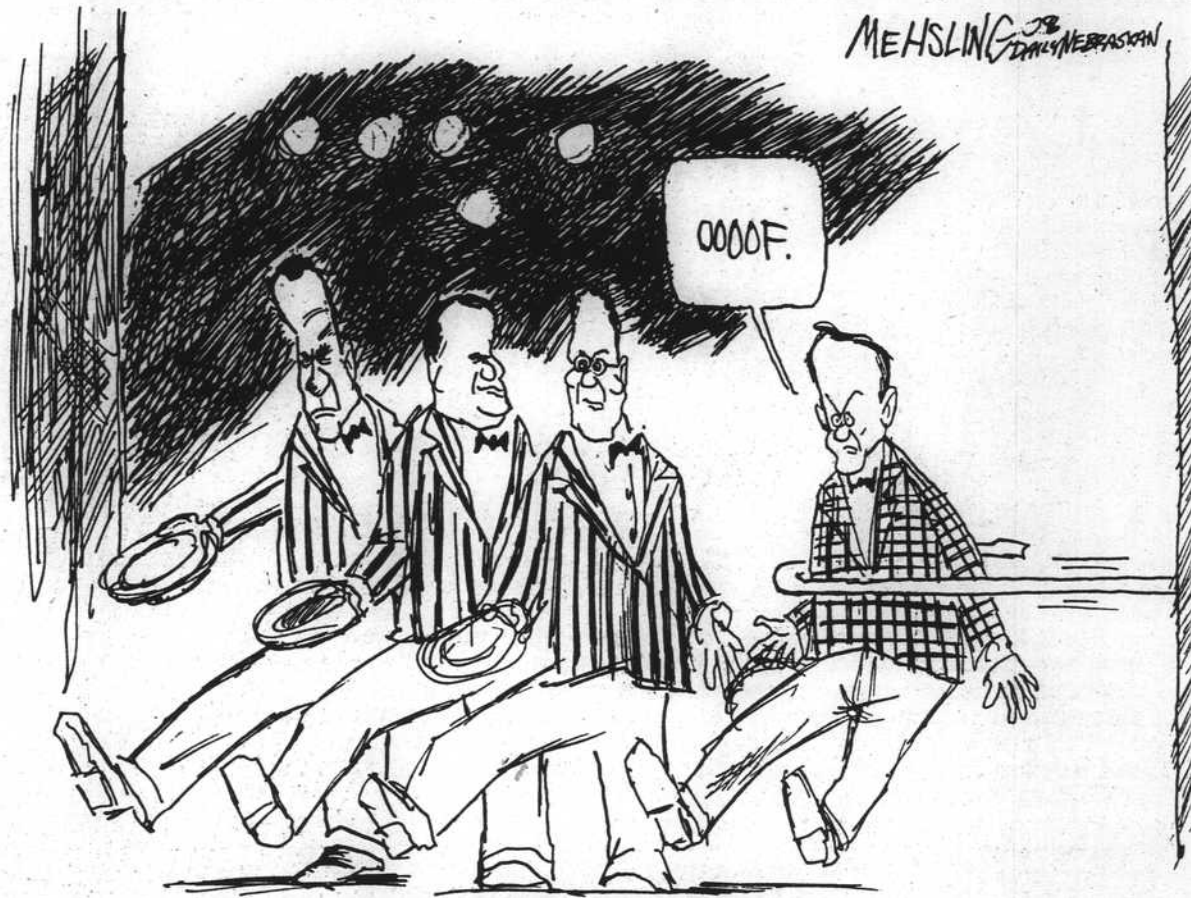
The Daily Nebraskan hands the ACTION party a medium-rare endorsement in today's ASUN election.

### Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1996 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: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



MEHSLING  
DAILY NEBRASKAN

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Men face burdens

After reading Jennifer Mapes' article "Feminism" (March 4), I was both confused and angered. The confusion came from the part of the article where Jennifer says that her parents were "generally egalitarian in outlook." To be an egalitarian, one must believe in the goal of making everyone as equal in everything.

This means both in the rewards of society and in the burdens that come with those rewards.

The rest of Jennifer's article goes on to talk about the goal of Feminism being equal rights and opportunities for women. She seems to entirely skip over or ignore the burdens. The old saying is that you can't get something for nothing. Feminists seem to think that women should have all the same rights and opportunities as men without having the same burdens, and that angers me.

One of the biggest burdens that I can think of is selective service. Selective service is one of the biggest burdens that I can think of that the American male has to handle. It is the burden of going to serve, and possibly, die for your country whether you want to or not. That is a pretty big duty.

I have yet to hear any Feminist call out that she wants the right and opportunity of selective service.

I think that Feminism will succeed when women finally acknowledge the fact that you can't get rights and opportunities without also getting the burdens that go along with them. When women accept that, there will be true equality for all.

Philip Paider  
sophomore  
general studies  
via e-mail

#### What's the difference?

Regarding Ted Taylor's front-page article "Senators Hear Testimony on Gay Marriage" (Feb. 28):

Two people fall in love. They want to spend the rest of their lives together in a monogamous relationship and share their lives and fortunes.



Bret Gottschall/DN

Should they get married or just live together?

They should get married, right? If they make a formal commitment to each other, they're more likely to take the relationship seriously. If they just live together without taking public vows of fidelity, they're more likely to fall apart in times of stress.

What if they're named Bob and Ted, or Carol and Alice?

If it's good for society when heterosexual couples settle down in permanent, legally-sanctioned relationships, why is it bad when gay couples do likewise?

Out of one side of their mouths, the religious right suggests that gays are promiscuous, engaging in repeated sexual acts with unmarried partners. Out of the other, they say that allowing gays to marry will be the end of civilization.

Well, individuals who think homosexuality is a sin can go on thinking that. Churches that don't want to perform religious ceremonies for gay couples can go on refusing to do so. The end of segregation didn't end racism; the end of the ban on gay marriage won't end homophobia.

Disliking gays won't make them go away or desire someone of the opposite sex. Never has, never will. As such, people who would stop homosexuality are waging a war they cannot win.

Allowing same-sex marriages would seem to accomplish one of the religious right's primary objectives, discouraging promiscuity while

encouraging permanent loving relationships. What could possibly be wrong with that?  
William Stosine  
Iowa City, Iowa  
via e-mail

#### In defense of veggies

Gene Paulsen and Heather Stewart seem quite troubled by the column on vegetarianism by Kelly Johnson (Feb. 28). It was moderate, well-thought out, and not terribly opinionated. Why the animosity?

It appears to me that Paulsen and Stewart are threatened by the idea of vegetarianism going rampant. As director of the Nebraska Vegetarian Society, I can assure them their fears are unfounded. While more and more folks are seeking a healthier lifestyle accompanied by healthier eating habits, there are still far more meat-eaters than pure vegetarians.

I'd suggest that Paulsen and Stewart try to understand the many reasons why vegetarians choose their lifestyle. An excellent place to start would be the well-documented "Diet for a New America," by John Robbins. This is an excellent source for the answers to Paulsen's questions.

For instance, most of the world's grains are now produced for animal feed. These are grains that vegetarians can and do eat, such as soybeans, oats and wheat.

It takes 16 pounds of grain and soybeans to yield a pound of feedlot beef. Fifteen vegetarians can be fed on the same amount of land needed to feed one person on a meat-based diet. It's a lot more efficient use of the land, and it makes sense environmentally. If we use less land to grow feed crops, we could grow more diverse crops with less topsoil erosion.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a world of advantages to a vegetarian diet that encompass health, the environment and animal welfare. And the Nebraska Vegetarian Society proudly welcomes all, vegetarian or not, to its fifth annual "Vegetarian Awareness Festival" to enjoy a vegetarian buffet and to learn more about the "whys" of vegetarianism.

Marcia Andersen  
director,  
Nebraska Vegetarian Society  
Lincoln