

# Primary letdown

## Government flaws because of voter turnout

For today, I have resigned my pen to Ms. Emirch so we may be informed by the following call to action. Please read on; the message is valid and valuable. Thank you, Bob Ray.

Calling all Democrats, Republicans and Independents, and of course, those voting age adults not registered. It's time to vote; it's time to choose the people we want running for office.

The primaries don't get much attention from voters in the state of Nebraska. Everyone seems to feel the primaries are not important, and the easy way out is to save their vote for the "BIG" November election.

But the "Big" election is the primary. The primary is our opportunity as voters to choose the candidates who will oppose Clinton in the presidential election and run for various government offices. How can this possibly be unimportant?

The excuse that there are no good candidates is not valid. By not voting, we allow other people to choose our government, and past history shows they are not doing a sufficient job (national debt, budget deficit, etc ...).

Once we Americans stand up and use our votes, the ability to take back control of the government will be in our hands. It's time to remind politicians of whom they represent.

The last time I checked, I thought it was the responsibility of the American citizen to keep Washing-

### Stephanie Emirch

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ton in line.

That means we have to be aware of the politicians vying for our votes, and the stances they hold — the issues they hold dear.

On Thursday, Steve Forbes announced his withdrawal from the 1996 GOP presidential race. Forbes may not have been everyone's favorite, but he is different. He is intelligent, successful, and he is not a career politician.

It took a great many people to convince him to throw his hat into the ring. I had heard people say the only reason Forbes ran was to benefit Wall Street, big business and his wealthy friends. Who knows? But watch for Steve Forbes in 2000; he may be back.

Sen. Robert Dole is the career

politician. He now enjoys Forbes' endorsement and is a near lock for the nomination. Dole has been trying to get the presidential nomination long before many of us were born. Dole has experience; that is a fact that no political circle can debate.

And then there is Pat Buchanan, a radical, quite possibly a racist, and just a little too extreme for America.

Buchanan has the ability to stir people's emotions, but do we want that characteristic in the White House for four years? I have a feeling we would be searching for reasons to impeach him after a couple months.

It doesn't require much effort to take the time to be aware of the issues and make a decision based on concrete information.

Anyone can buy a dog, and plaid shirts aren't hard to come by, either. The noteworthy things about candidates are their beliefs, stances on issues, and exactly what sort of action they'll take upon arrival in Washington.

And even though the pundits say (and they seem to be right) that Bob Dole is a shoo-in for the Republican nomination, it's still important to head on down to the neighborhood polling place and make your voice heard — make the politicians aware that they are being watched.

Please pay attention and vote, America is our country, not a politicians' playground.

**Emirch is a senior consumer finance major.**

# Gimme

## Columnist seeks funds to fuel eccentricity

I want to become, if possible, even more eccentric.

The only authentic pose is an eccentric pose after all, for who would wish to impersonate himself? Therefore, let me stand off-center.

Yet it has occurred to me that, to become more eccentric, I must find protection from my neighbors. It has also been made clear to me that I live among the poor.

I do not like the poor, generally, and I don't see why anyone should. The poor are boring, they are gray, they are frozen in time.

And they are dangerous, their petty fears are too easily fired.

I don't belong on the bottom of this barrel.

"I want a woman who is interested in Objectivism, the philosophy of Nietzsche. Preferably loaded."

Signed: Salvador Dali.

To all those like myself, those I have pledged to retrieve from the four corners of the earth, if you are listening: The call is to higher ground. Let us meet on the beautiful shores of the rich!

To all others, so long suckers! That is what my heart cries in the night like a wolf of the steppes! ARROoooo! ARRROOOoooo!

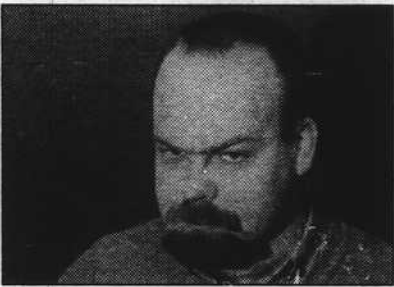
But yowling like that in public can get one into trouble. Hence the need for protection, and, therefore, wealth.

Money, I love money, give me moneymoneymoneymoney! I fully repent of my former willfulness in poverty.

O, Money, let me return to Thy breast! Be not far from me, dear Cash.

Here I am, on foot, coming and going — or riding those miserable buses ...

Walking home from work at 2:30 in the morning in all weathers when I should be checking my stocks on the Internet and attending meetings with



### Mark Baldrige

*"I fully repent of my former willfulness in poverty. O, Money, let me return to Thy breast! Be not far from me, dear Cash."*

my analyst by modem.

(Do not get this joke backwards. I already got the neurosis.)

Is it too much to ask, the freedom to say "Christ" in public and smoke 'em if ya got 'em?

I do need some new habits, Mr. Gingrich, the free-wheeling kind. I just don't know how to acquire them. Right now I work so hard for so little return, I'm ashamed of myself; hard work is not the answer.

Somchow, I gotta get paid. But the things I'm good at

nobody wants done. I just keep getting better at these useless, obsolete skills.

The best money I ever made in in this State was at the Lincoln Journal Star doing paste-up with a knife and hot wax; workplace-posters saying things like "Are YOU quality-minded enough?" and the reek of burning values.

Real mom and pop little place owned by some Billionaire in Texas,

I believe.

But if I'm to develop eccentrically, I must have leisure — and perfect freedom.

I need a better place to live, preferably with servants. Clothes that fit and a large automobile — all of which I will now produce by magic.

See? I will break even the laws of physics when necessary.

I want to do the things I want to do, and I don't want to do anything else. Is that so much to ask? Now really.

It's been my lifelong wish to be waited on hand and foot. I like to push people around. I want to mutter to myself and pace, fold self-consciousness like a letter, levitate, rise into the air on moonlit wings!

To develop my obscurer tastes, if you know what I mean.

To become fully the sinister magistrate of the invisible kingdom I know I have in me.

Will no patron come to my aid? Perhaps some visitor from the future will deliver \$100,000 without strings and without fail to my post office box, payable q-q-quarterly?

No?

Then I will have to achieve that for myself. All of it.

But do not expect me to be so glad-handed with my occult knowledge in future.

If I must create the wealth I require, I warn you I will pull no punches. It's a matter of my own self preservation.

I have dark business to attend to and I need a camouflage, an obscuring screen I can throw up against detection from prying eyes.

I will hide in plain sight: Money, power and fame will be my costume. And maybe I will see you at the Ball.

**Baldrige is a senior English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

# Bureaucrats adopt up-close approach

Question: When you are shopping for a garment and go into the fitting room, would it bother you to have a male salesperson accompany you and be there when you strip down to your undies?

Would you be at all embarrassed if this male salesperson helped you on and off with your garments? Zipping you up and that sort of thing?

The correct answer should be that you have no objection to his being there.

At least that seems to be the opinion of an agency of the federal government.

I'll explain. There is a chain of women's apparel stores called Lillie Rubin. It's based in Florida and has about 70 shops around the country, including one on Chicago's Michigan Avenue.

These stores have their own approach to pleasing customers. As an attorney for the chain describes it:

"It is high-end, personal-touch oriented. You walk in and there are no racks of clothing. They'll show you one dress in one size to give you an idea.

"You go with the saleswoman back to the salon, which is in the back part of the store. You sit on a couch while a salesperson comes in with different things to try on and consider.

"If you like one, you'll go from the salon to the dressing room. The saleswoman will help you get into it. If you like it, a fitter comes in and hems it and whatever."

This sort of touchy-feely approach apparently appeals to quite a few women or 70 stores wouldn't be in existence.

So what is the problem? Well, about four years ago a man applied for a sales job in one of the Florida stores. They told him they hired only women because of the intimate nature of their approach.

The man was miffed and complained to the federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Florida office of the EEOC took a look and agreed with the store that it would be inappropriate to have a male person involved in its approach to selling.

So the store was given an exemption from having to offer equal opportunity to guys.

This is what some people might call common sense. The company thought that was the end of it and felt relieved. The ninnies.

It seems that another man — this time in Arizona — wanted to work in the Phoenix store. The store said no, and he went to the Phoenix office of the EEOC.

And the bureaucrats in Phoenix saw it differently than the bureaucrats in Florida. They decided that, yes, a man could do that sort of work and it was discriminatory to reject him only because of the way nature had



### Mike Royko

*"Would you be at all embarrassed if this male salesperson helped you on and off with your garments? Zipping you up and that sort of thing?"*

designed some of his vital organs, given him a deeper voice and forced him to shave every day.

So now the Lillie Rubin stores are in deep trouble again. As their lawyer, Rodney Glover, describes their situation: "Lillie Rubin must put this guy in the store, and they must put him in the dressing room.

"If not, they told us they will file a class-action lawsuit. And any male in the United States who was unemployed at the time and could have applied for the job could be a party to the suit.

"They said they would sue us for millions of dollars.

"We told them that some of the customers are sometimes naked from the waist up. The woman in the Phoenix office said: 'Naked from the waist up, naked from the waist down, what's the difference? Some women like it like that.'"

He said there was a meeting with some of the big EEOC people in Washington.

"They sat there stony-faced for an hour. Then they handed us a prepared document that pretty much said: 'Go take a hike; we can't overrule the decision.'"

When we asked the EEOC why, its Florida bureaucrats said that they had EEOC offices all over the country and couldn't expect all those bureaucrats to know what the others were doing.

The spokesperson said they also can't let the women's clothing stores get away with discriminating.

"Could you refuse to hire male nurses for obstetrics wards?" the spokesperson asked.

No, but a dressing room in a fancy clothing store isn't quite the same as an OB ward in a hospital.

And that's the real problem with bureaucrats. They don't meet payrolls, compete with rival business strategies and show a profit.

Yet they sit in their offices and confidently say: "This is how we think you should run your business."

And if they're wrong? Too bad, that's the way the payroll crumbles.

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