

OPINION PACKAGES

OUR VIEW

Endorsements

*We'll voice our votes
before ballots are cast*

Two weeks from today, voters in Nebraska and across the nation will go to the polls to decide everything from who will be president of the United States for the next four years to who should serve on the village board of trustees.

Voters have some important decisions to make.

Are you ready?

We on the Daily Nebraskan editorial board have been closely following the major contests this year. We have devoted a portion of each of our weekly meetings to discussing the campaigns, the candidates and the issues involved.

Why? Because starting tomorrow and continuing through next week, we'll be sharing with you the conclusions we have come to.

After our final discussions on each of the races we will cover, we will vote on our official position as an editorial board. Candidate A or candidate B? For or against? Majority rules. No exceptions.

Based on those votes, we will make our endorsements for particular candidates or take stands on particular ballot initiatives.

We'll tell you what we think about several ballot initiatives, including 411 and 412, the property tax/quality education proposals. We'll talk about term limits. We'll endorse a candidate in an NU Board of Regents race. And we'll give our support to candidates in all three U.S. House races, the U.S. Senate race and the presidential race.

We hope you'll consider what we have to say.

We hope you'll find us convincing.

But given that there is rarely consensus in politics, we understand that you might not agree with us.

That's OK.

Mostly, we just want you to join us in thinking about these things, in making decisions and making them known by casting ballots on Nov. 5.

Time to register

The time has come. The time is now. You have until 6 p.m. Friday to register to vote in this year's elections. Your vote is your voice. It is your right. It is your privilege. It is your choice. You can take part in the democratic system that keeps this country ticking—you can have a say in who will sit in the Oval Office for the next four years, who will represent you in Congress, what changes (if any) will be made to the state constitution. It's up to you. But you'd better decide soon. You have until Friday.

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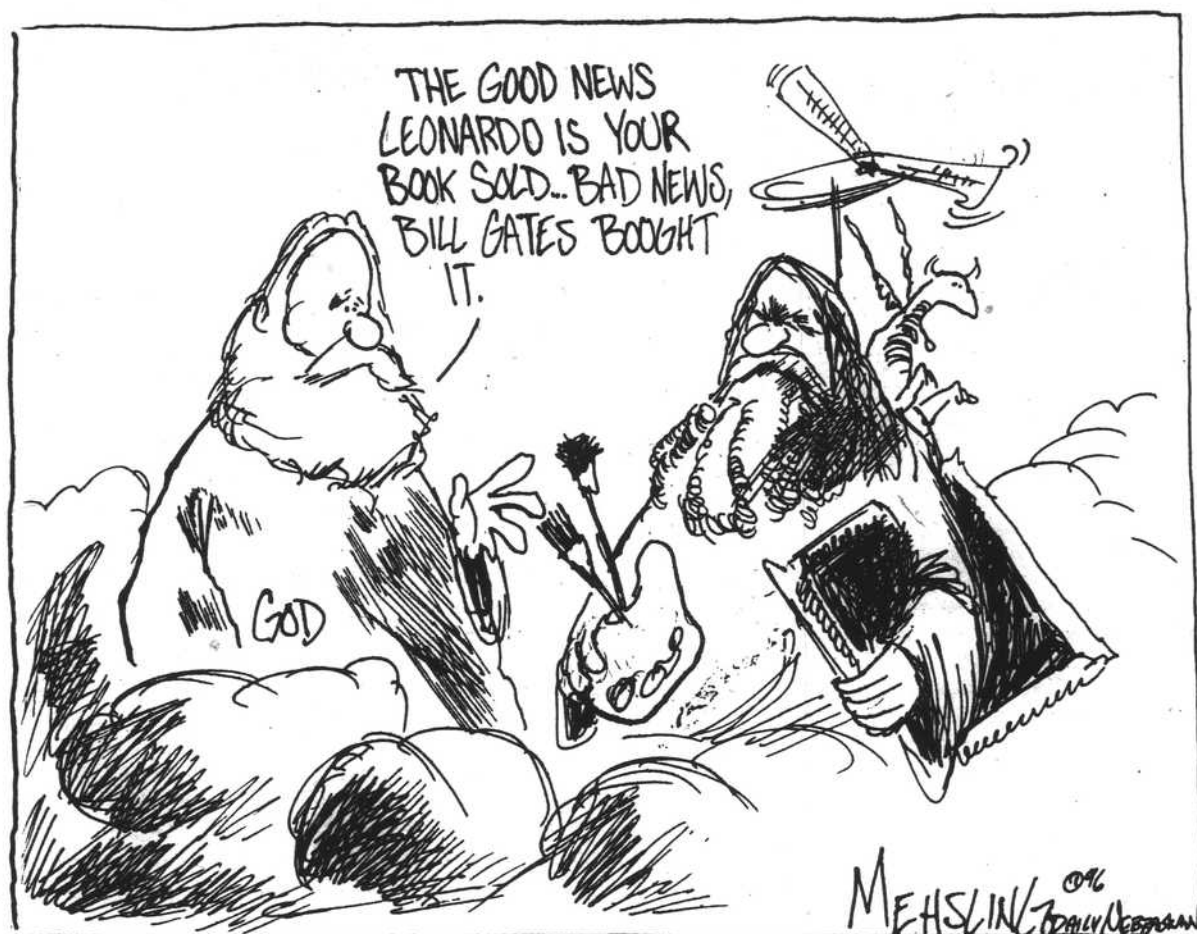
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The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Submitted material becomes the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. E-mail: letters@unlinfo.unl.edu.

MEHSLING'S VIEW



LETTERS

CAPTAIN CAMPAIGN

Sky Harbor near Eppley Airfield should be designated a landmark of historical significance for the field of psychology. With Wednesday's appearance of former Vice President Dan Quayle with Nebraska's own Jon Christensen marks the first time in human history that two individuals have appeared together on a public podium and the Intelligence Quotient dropped to zero in a single instance! All kidding aside, I think Quayle's appearance points to the desperation of Jon Christensen to assure his standing here at home by bringing GOP celebrities, rather than managing affairs RATIONALLY in Washington. This is, after all, the same Jon Christensen who wanted to cut the national weather service a year ago and then brought Newt here to prop up his image and earn himself campaign funds via a zillion-dollar-a-plate luncheon for the GOP faithful. Christensen certainly isn't taking any chances with his incumbency. Now if he'd manage the affairs of the nation with such concern, maybe he'd miss appearing on Harper's magazine's "Dim Bulbs of Congress" next term.

James Zank

senior

College of Arts and Sciences

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Anytime animals are involved in research, conflicts will arise between opposing groups. In response to Scott Ferguson's comments (Letters, Oct. 18 DN) we would like to point out that ostriches in South Africa have been raised in captivity for more than 160 years. There they are considered domesticated. In the wild they have only a 20 percent survival rate. However, since their domestication in 1881 in the U.S., their survival rate has increased to 36



MATT HANEY/DN

percent. Their domestication has prevented their potential extinction. The ostrich industry is rapidly growing throughout the U.S. In Nebraska, ostriches have been legally made a livestock animal, and at least 200 producers depend on them for their livelihood. As with any livestock animal, producers need nutrition and management plans to raise the animal. Therefore, research must take place.

Kay Kunze

senior

fisheries and wildlife

Dr. Sheila Scheideler

Associate Professor,
Animal Science Department

'QUALITY EDUCATION'

"Educators unite to oppose 'quality' school initiatives." read a front-page headline on Oct. 18. There is something the matter with university and college administrators opposing "quality" education for high school and grade school students, even if all that they are

actually opposing is a particular initiative to change the state constitution.

Initiatives 411 and 412 started life together as a single initiative that couple property tax relief with protection for primary and secondary schools, which receive most of their funding from property taxes. The purpose was to rectify real property tax unfairness without arbitrarily zapping schools. And yes, that meant that the legislature would somehow have to shield the schools from property tax decreases by moving money out of existing budgets or raising other taxes. And yes again, that means that money for colleges and universities, which is a large share of the state budget, could become part of the pot. Now that the two have been uncoupled by the state's attorney general, it is tempting to see a constitutional guarantee of "quality" education on the lower levels as inimical to the university.

But let's not let the business interests of Omaha and Lincoln—or ordinary taxpayers who would rather not pay for anybody's education—succeed at playing divide and conquer with education interests in the state. Given the amount of grousing about poorly prepared students that emanates from university professors (including me), we should all be doing our best to enshrine "quality education" at the lower levels in the state constitution and then fight even harder to make sure that the unicameral comes up with the substitute dollars by increasing taxes like the income tax the, however unpopular, is, unlike the real estate tax, assessed on those who can afford to pay.

Let's stick up for all education and not get to feuding among ourselves.

Frances W. Kaye
professor
English

P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.