

OPINION PAGES

Campaign '96

ENDORSEMENT

Vote O'Brien

Regent has worked for student interests

Every time you call N-Roll, think of Nancy O'Brien.

O'Brien, 45, was a major force on the NU Board of Regents in getting the telephone student registration system installed and getting students out of the long lines for drop and add.

The N-Roll issue serves as only one example of O'Brien's service to the students of all four NU campuses. She also worked to expand the number of courses transferable among colleges from 250 to 800.

O'Brien, who served as regents' chairwoman last year, is running for her second six-year term as 2nd District representative on the NU Board of Regents.

O'Brien has been one of the strongest voices on the board, often questioning how certain issues would have an impact on the students and whether they would agree with the regents' decision.

She's voiced concerns about University of Nebraska-Lincoln students paying excessive fees. She's advocated ways to keep tuition down without cutting programs. She was also in favor of raising UNL's academic admission standards.

Recently, she has supported improvements to the UNL campus, including expanding the Nebraska Union and building a 600-stall parking garage near Memorial Stadium.

She has also not been afraid to contest NU President Dennis Smith and other regents concerning issues with which she does not agree.

Though not advantageous for UNL, she represented the interests of her district by advocating a separate engineering college for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Even when the board voted 5-3 not to create a separate college, O'Brien worked for improvements in the joint program.

O'Brien, a native of Norfolk, now lives in Waterloo and is a UNL alumna.

Her opponent, Andrew Sigerson, a former student regent and UNL alumnus, might also represent the student voice, but O'Brien's successful performance as a regent should not be replaced.

Because the board is a nonpartisan body in charge of all four NU campuses, O'Brien's experience, intellect and knowledge of the context of past board actions show she is willing to stay and is not using her role as regent to accelerate to another governmental position.

The Daily Nebraskan encourages voters in the NU Board of Regents' 2nd District to vote for O'Brien. Her dedication and loyalty to the NU system justify her serving another term.

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MEHSLING'S VIEW

MEHSLING *of Daily Nebraskan*



LETTERS

NEURO-PACERS

Several weeks ago, I submitted a guest column to the Daily Nebraskan for publication in the Opinion Pages. In the column, I explained why it is vital for UNL to recruit top high school graduates. I also listed the efforts made by individual faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering to attract qualified and motivated students to our programs. While we do not guarantee students that they will find employment locally upon graduation, they do find that their preparation at UNL is adequate for them to compete nationally with graduates from universities with top reputations in engineering, for graduate assistantships, or employment by industry.

In my column, I referred to the top students as neuro-pacers, since their active participation in class enhances the education of all the students in class. The following quotation from a letter to me by Paul Heumphreus, a graduate of our electrical engineering program at UNL, is worth noting in this context: "I don't think most students recognize that the competition between each other is far overshadowed by the competition they will face with people that have been working for a number of years. I didn't like spending a lot of effort on the courses at the time, but the knowledge I gained has given me a number of opportunities that many of my peers just weren't prepared for."

The column I submitted was published in the Opinion section of the Lincoln Journal Star on Oct. 13 and in the Commentary section in the



JASON GILDOW/DN

Omaha World-Herald on Oct. 19. For copies of the column, please call UNL's Department of Electrical Engineering at 472-3771.

Dr. Ezekiel Bahar
George Holmes Professor
electrical engineering

BROKEN PROMISES

Before each birthday, I try to purify myself, hoping to obtain the clean, simple form and mind with which I entered this world. This year, I failed and broke my fast. Just as I was breaking from my promise to myself, I was reading Thursday's DN. Heather Lampe's column about resolutions really hit me hard. Perhaps her column was in jest, but there was not enough wit present for

me to believe this. I believe, in fact, that these were the words of a dreamless, disheartened college student. I wish to repair some damage her words may have caused.

First of all, breaking promises to yourself does not become OK because you do it often. Normally, a promise is made to yourself during a temporary moment of sanity. For instance, you discover that an eating binge at midnight really isn't necessary or beneficial and that it does really have consequences. You promise yourself that you will have more control in the future. If you break this promise, I urge you, do not take Ms. Lampe's advice and give up on yourself. Do not convince yourself that you were wrong then. Follow your instinct, meditate before breaking your resolution. Fast — success will bring freedom. If your vice is TV, put it into the closet for a month. Success will bring imagination and growth. If your addiction is the opposite sex, then remain celibate for a few seasons or years. Success will bring independence.

Break it down. These dependencies we have allow us to remit control of our existence to something else. Imagine a life with the satisfaction of freedom, self-will and self-control. No, really, imagine it! We all have it in us. Do not let others who feel discouraged bring you down with them. Misery loves company. Misery NEEDS company. Misery is need.

Ugh — free yourself, explore. LIVE.

Jenefer Monroe
senior
biology

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.