

OPINION PACKAGES

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Our VIEW

Tapped out ADVANCE may be ASUN's last breath

"A little revolution is a good thing." KEG party presidential candidate Scott Brauer firmly believes that. And where the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is concerned, he's definitely right.

Unfortunately, right now, Brauer stands virtually alone. A revolution requires momentum and the support of the oppressed (i.e. the 90+ percent of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students so disenfranchised with their student government they don't even bother to vote).

Sadly, the KEG party — with just seven ASUN senatorial candidates on the ballot and only a few weeks' preparation leading up to the election — just doesn't have that this year.

The Daily Nebraskan has no choice but to endorse ADVANCE party candidates Curt Ruwe, Amy Rager and Malcolm Kass for ASUN president, first vice president and second vice president, respectively, in tomorrow's election.

Don't be mistaken: ADVANCE is about as likely to "advance" students' interests as ACTION was to take any action in 1996, as IMPACT was to have any impact in 1995, as VISION was to ... well, you get the idea.

But ADVANCE does have organization and a full slate of candidates who, if elected, will be able to successfully legislate their ideas — no matter how weak they may be. The party also has a strong first vice presidential candidate in Rager; one might wonder why she is not on the top of the ticket.

The real opportunity this year, though, lies with KEG (Knowledge and Education through Government).

If UNL can stomach one more year of business as usual, the KEG party may yet offer a chance to end the résumé-building political juggernaut that ASUN has become.

By their own admission, KEG party members pulled together their campaign at the last minute. They aren't ready for office — this year.

Their platform is strong in its simplicity: holding administrators accountable for their actions, increasing student representation and heightening direct communication between ASUN and groups on campus.

But how Brauer and company could achieve those goals with no more than seven ASUN senators (and it's quite a stretch that many — if any — will get elected) is questionable.

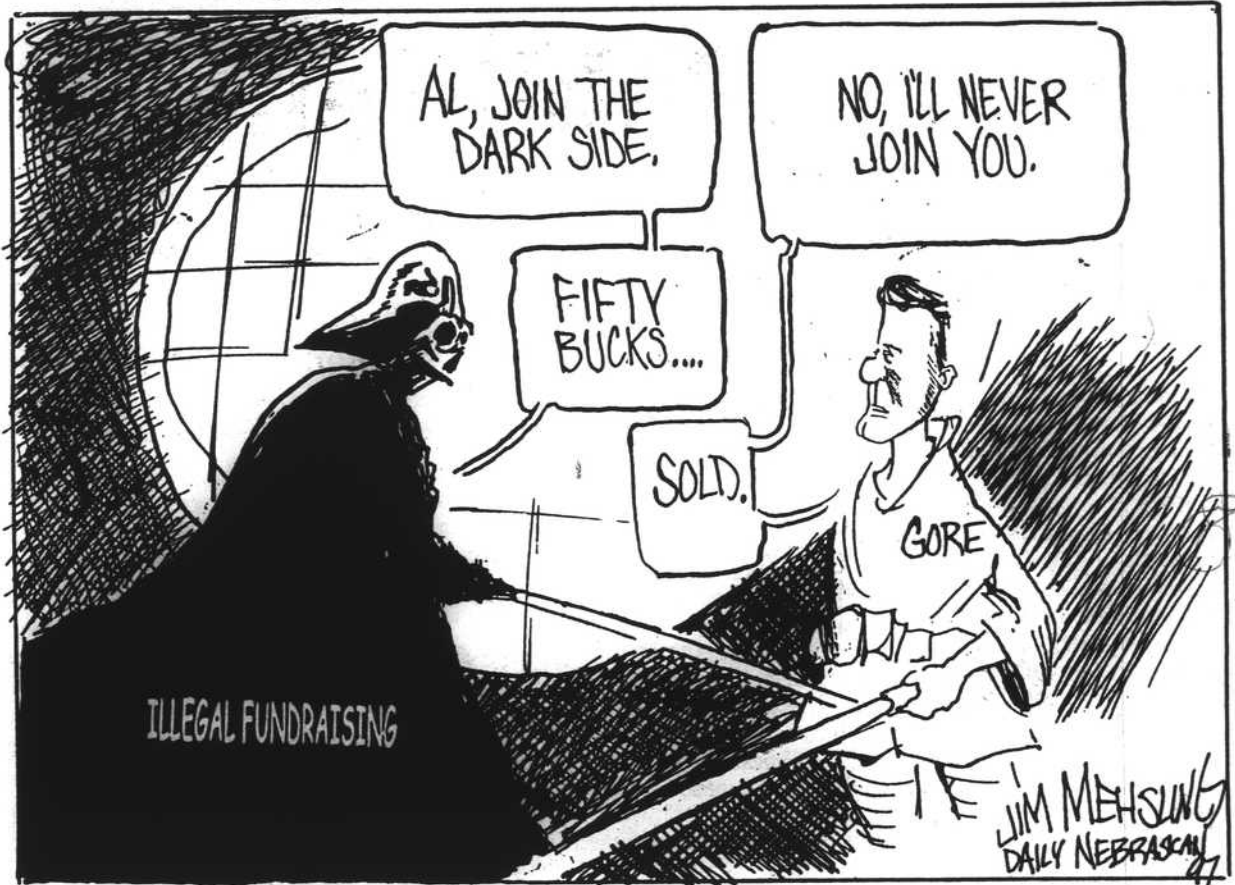
If KEG will follow through on its promise to stick around after the election, it will be a force to be reckoned with next year.

Brauer, only a sophomore, is bright and dedicated to his cause. Regardless of what happens in this election, "I will be back," he said.

Let's hold him to that. If he can return next year with a full slate of candidates, a little more experience and a lot more student support, whatever party ASUN churns out can forget about another cute little name.

It'll just be SOL.

Mehsling's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Twisted Words

J.J. Harder has struck a new low. His column "Alpha and the Omega" (DN, Wednesday) was a joke! Wake up and smell the coffee, J.J.

Killing in the name of life is like screwing in the name of virginity.

And please stop trumpeting the Bible as the excuse for your blood lust. Jesus himself is the most famous victim of capital punishment and he not only took the thief on the cross with him to paradise, but he saved the adulteress in the Bible from being stoned as well.

It really makes me sick to see religionists like you use the Bible to spread your bile around and put words in the mouths of the prophets that would have made them retch.

Mark E. Buhrdorf
senior classics



NATALIE LINSTROM/DN

atmosphere that is open to all, regardless of race or gender.

Eric Marintzer
ASUN president

Another Reason

I would like to respond to a misrepresentation that was in the DN's coverage of the weekly ASUN meeting Wednesday. The article stated that "(Eric) Marintzer opposed both bills, claiming that devoting 1 percent of UNL's budget was monetarily far too much for minority recruitment."

This was in response to my opposition of LB858, which would require the university to spend 1 percent of its budget to the hiring of women and minorities.

This statement is a gross misrepresentation of the discussion that occurred at the senate meeting. I explained that I was against this bill because it would allow the Legislature to tell the university how it should spend its money, not because I am against the hiring of women and minorities.

I will take this opportunity to reaffirm my stance that I am against any unfair or racial hiring practices, and the university should provide an

Plain As Your Nose

Kasey Kerber, your column "En fuego" (DN, Monday) was about as insightful as telling someone that if he or she jumps out of an airplane at 30,000 feet, without a parachute, that they will more than likely die.

Everyone already knows that smoking is harmful to the body, so why must you waste paper just to print your pointless drivel? Why must you, and most nonsmokers who I've come across, always try to infringe on the rights and choices of those of us who do smoke?

I go to the university just like you, and I pay my own tuition, which you may or may not do, the point being how can you say that the union shouldn't sell cigarettes to people?

You state in your column "Or are you willing to sell a product that has known and documented harmful effects?", and that statement is true; I won't argue that with you.

But what other things are being sold there also have the potential for harmful effects? I'd say a lot of them.

Chocolate, soda - these things have high sugar and caffeine, yet you mention nothing of them in your article.

Also, by your rationale of not using something that has "known and harmful effects," all of the students and faculty should never have any part of their skin exposed while outside because it is documented that too much sun is harmful to the skin. So congratulations, now everyone will be wearing full body armor to avoid the sun.

I don't see why you're taking such a stand on this. Is someone trying to force you to smoke? Why should it bother you that some of us do, and we enjoy it; so why don't you try to climb down off of your high horse and just leave us the hell alone?!!

Finally I'd like to discuss another passage in your article. You stated that "This issue has become a 'half-assed' stance." You were referring to the university when saying that — as if you're so much better by taking a "whole-assed" stance. From your article I gathered that you do not want to have anything to do with smoking, and if you had your way no one would smoke. I might be off on that, but I doubt it.

So let me ask you this: Have you ever been in the Bob Devaney Sports Center? If yes, then you are a hypocrite. You don't want people to smoke, but you're willing to reap some of the benefits from those of us who do. That's right, the Bob Devaney Sports Center was paid for by the taxes collected from cigarette sales. Next time you think about writing a column on anti-smoking ... don't, or else I might have to get constitutional on your ass (FREEDOM OF CHOICE)!

Matt Will
sophomore architecture

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