

OPINION PAGES

Our VIEW

A new hope? ASUN's latest win relies on old faces

Here we go again. Despite a minuscule upswing in voter participation, the result of this year's Association of Students of the University of Nebraska election is the same as last year's. And the year before. And the year before that.

Once again the honor of leading the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's student government goes to the people who were already there in the first place.

President-elect Curt Ruwe, 1st Vice President-elect Amy Rager and 2nd Vice President-elect Malcolm Kass are all ASUN veterans — insiders, if you will.

Yet ADVANCE, like every ASUN party before it, claims to be a new party, with fresh goals and objectives. It says it's not part of what has been called a "political machine," a group of elitist résumé-builders.

But only time will tell. ADVANCE's stance on updating university technology is admirable. Its desire to improve the working and living conditions of the university's main consumers — the students — is inspirational. Its promise to increase student representation in university-related committees and advisory boards is commendable.

But there are too many issues that ADVANCE — which for all intents and purposes is nothing new from this year's ACTION or last year's IMPACT — has ignored.

In short, ADVANCE has shown that it is part of the problem. If the party is truly turning over a new leaf in ASUN, then it's time to start seeing some solutions.

Before the new administration takes over, voters, new executives and senators must remember that this is the same ASUN that barely managed to muster quorum for 15-minute meetings while the university took your modem pool away.

This is the same ASUN that failed to garner student input on the coming beverage alliance (the deal that will award one soft drink company exclusive sales rights on campus).

This is the same ASUN that has been in power while your football and basketball student ticket prices continue to increase.

It is not unrealistic for students to expect a government the size and scope of ASUN to deal with these kinds of problems. No one is asking it to solve UNL's parking problem, lower tuition or take a Husker team — any team — to a championship game.

ADVANCE may have received support from only 6.6 percent of the student body, but make no mistake about it: It received a mandate — from the 90 percent of students who didn't even care enough to vote.

And if ADVANCE turns out to be proof that ASUN can churn out a contender that isn't a rehash of every party since its inception, then maybe those students will have a reason to vote.

Mehsling's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Clearing Up Confusion

While reading the letter "Blowing Smoke" written by Joan Brion, I could not help but to shake my head in disappointment. The article was the epitome of the thought pattern of a soul trapped in a sinful condition.

I don't say that to call anyone all bad, or to call myself all good, but to help Joan Brion in this terrible state of confusion.

No. 1: Nobody submits a column to the DN to gain glory or any sort of personal benefit. I cannot foresee movie deals or radio-show offers sparking from the mere submitting of a DN column.

The benefit is for people like you, Joan, who can't seem to recognize that drugs have the potential to easily destroy whatever type of brain you have, body you have and life you have. Anybody should be able to recognize that.

No. 2: You can't attack someone for submitting the truth to be told. I'm glad Kasey Kerber's column was printed in the DN because it was there that you read the column, not in some magazine for moral living — because you probably would have steered clear away from picking it up.

Regardless of whether this column appeared in a comic book or Playboy magazine it still stands strong and bold as the truth, and try as you may to attack and discredit this, it's still the truth.

Lastly, when people point out the error of your ways they are not condemning you, they are trying to help you. Telling people they are headed for destruction doesn't make someone holier than thou. If they



MATT HANEY/DN

were doing the same self-destructive behavior, it would be only right for you to do the same for them.

If you don't, you are probably the type of person that never takes a stand for what's right and always standing for what's wrong. For anyone who is offended by this letter, I apologize, IT'S TIGHT BUT IT'S RIGHT. If by chance you are still angry and offended — don't get mad at me, get mad at the truth.

Willie Hibler
senior
communication studies

Belief not Truth

This letter is in response to the guest view written by Eric Crump entitled "Truth is Hard" (DN, Wednesday).

I have two points to address:

1. Truth (as defined by the Webster's College Dictionary): A verified or indisputable fact. Conformity with fact. According to Mr. Crump, truth is defined as a spouting of opinions with no actual statistics or data to support them.

Normally, when one writes a column that makes accusations, he or she would support these claims with information that has been collected by a reputable agency or a research group.

This guest view had absolutely no statistics or qualified information to support any of the statements made by the writer.

2. Every day, most of the citizens of the UNITED States of America work to maintain and improve all that this country stands for.

We work hard to make the United States a better place to live, and along with that comes equal treatment of all people. The UNITED States has people that are willing to die for our safety and to preserve what you and I believe in.

In the past, men and women (of ALL races) have died to stand up for our freedom, our rights and during the Civil War, the rights and freedom of specifically blacks.

It makes it hard to fight for equality when people disgrace our country, calling it the "Divided States of America" as Mr. Crump has done. That is an expression of utmost disrespect for this country, those who have fought to preserve freedom and all that the United States of America stands for.

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computer engineering

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P.S. Write Back



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