

# OPINION PACES

## Our VIEW

### A job well done

#### ADVANCE successful in student government

Last year at this time, we really wanted a full KEG.

Our Association of Students of the University of Nebraska endorsement editorial stated that we would have backed the renegade KEG party if it had only had a few more senatorial candidates. Instead, we grudgingly endorsed Curt Ruwe's ADVANCE party.

In being reluctant to back ADVANCE, our weak endorsement stated "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 ... well, you get the idea."

Eventually, we did.

Much to our surprise, ASUN President Curt Ruwe, First Vice President Amy Rager and Second Vice President Malcolm Kass did advance student interests - perhaps better than any other recent ASUN executives

And they have something to show for it.

While ASUN can never be all-powerful, Ruwe did represent our interests regarding the Pepsi contract, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, fall break, campus street safety, student fees, student involvement, diversity and other issues that came before the senate or were sought by ASUN.

The changes we may see in the upcoming years, in part because of his administration, include: a King holiday in February, lower speed limits and traffic-pattern changes on campus, Internet registration, better professor evaluations, a parking-education class and greater chances for student involvement.

He was a powerful voice for students on the NU Board of Regents and with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln administration. Even though he worked with the higher-ups, he never forgot who voted him into office. This also was true for Rager, Kass, Speaker of the Senate Viet Hoang and the other ASUN senators.

Ruwe was void of pretension and the ego that can come with having "president" affixed to one's name. He also kept in touch with the Daily Nebraskan through our ASUN meeting coverage, including our weekly ASUN Watch to keep track of Ruwe's progress on ASUN's goals. He was available and cooperative when we needed to talk to him, whether he was upstairs in his office or on a Colorado ski slope.

For the first time in many years, it seemed that both organizations worked together to promote student interests and bring some cohesion to the university environment. We can only hope this trend continues with whoever replaces Ruwe and his crew.

While it is highly unlikely a newspaper will ever concede to reversing its opinion about the local governance, the Daily Nebraskan commends Ruwe and the other members of his ADVANCE party ticket for bringing some truth and accountability back to student government.

Have a little KEG on us.

## Haney's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Snow much for safety

I am not sure exactly what the administration was trying to prove by holding classes on Monday - a day when every other school and half of the businesses statewide had the common sense to cancel activities.

The benefit of one day of classes is not worth risking the well-being of the student body. The decision to hold classes is especially hard on the majority of students who do not live on campus. While on-campus students may be able to walk to class, commuter students do not have that option. I spent Sunday and early Monday snowed into my house, only to learn that I was expected to make it to class when travel was still considered "inadvisable."

Despite my efforts, I was still unable to make it to class, but I did get to spend an enjoyable morning getting my car out of a snow drift. Even if I had made it to campus on time for class, the campus streets and parking lots were not even slightly cleared.

Perhaps this is what "academic rigor" really is all about.

Jason Langenfeld  
junior  
psychology

### Snow laughing matter

I have one simple question to ask with regard to attending class on this Nebraska winter day: Why? It's admirable that (administrators) are putting forth the educational interests of the students of the university, but at the same time, (they) have endangered (students') general safety and well-being.

For example, one of my professors this morning is from Omaha. In order for her to get to class today she had to rent a 4x4 and drive down Interstate 80 illegally. If that story doesn't make you wonder, perhaps this one will. One of my friends witnessed a blind student using a walking stick going to class today. Because the sidewalks weren't adequately cleaned off, he wound up falling face-first into a snow bank.

As a student living on campus, I don't have to experience the difficulty of driving against the conditions each day just to get to class. I feel sorry for any commuter students who made the trek to campus only to find that there were no parking lots cleared. Even as I write this at 2 p.m. I can look out my

dorm window and see cars stuck in the middle of the parking lots because they haven't been cleaned out.

If the best interests of this university are to keep its students safe, it seems this only applies if you live on campus and are not physically handicapped. Sorry professors, I don't know where you fit into the picture. In case you weren't aware, most professors just give out bonus points to those who brave the elements to make it to class. There's education at its finest!

Stop arguing over petty things like whether or not we should sell cigarettes on campus and do something that actually will promote the health of the entire university: Keep us at home and off the roads.

Brian Vance  
senior  
secondary English education

### Dirty dancing

Hmmm. I pick up a Daily Nebraskan to see their coverage of the men's and women's basketball teams, and what do I see? The men are mentioned in a front page headline and story, with a little box telling people where to find the story on the women's team.

The second story about the men tells where to get tickets if you want to follow them to the Dance, but there is no such information provided for those who would want to follow the women. This seems odd, considering that the women have been ranked higher, had a better record, were given a higher seed and, in general, have outperformed the men all year.

If balanced coverage is too much to hope for and you find yourselves unable to celebrate both teams' invitations equally, you might at least give the preference to the team that has earned it on the court.

Brad Pardee  
university libraries

### Seeing the light

Malcolm Kass's Friday editorial and support of COMMIT ("Party time") bring about a necessary request: Practice what you preach.

Malcolm, who was perhaps a product of the party system himself, has held the powerful position of Association of

Students of the University of Nebraska second vice president for nearly a year. Unfortunately, instead of using his ASUN position to take action, he waits until March to make his statement. Malcolm's failure to act, and merely provide idealistic suggestions, provides the actual connection between him and the idealistic COMMIT party.

Malcolm asks us: Do you want the old or the new? By attending Monday's debate, VISION gave new steps of action, while COMMIT chose to provide us with its old ideas. We, as students, should look for leadership and representation from other students who will listen to us. COMMIT thinks its thoughts need to be buried in concrete, while VISION has already shown that it will respond to students' wishes.

COMMIT presidential candidate Sara Russell tells us she wants to keep fees low. Maybe each student should ask her why she voted FOR a \$9,000 increase over the Committee for Fees Allocation's original recommendation. That's right, she actually went out of her way to add to the financial burden of students.

COMMIT wants to better represent student organizations and diversity. Maybe each student should ask her how productive this room of 300 people will allow all students to be represented. By looking at the Campus Coalition, COMMIT would realize the benefit of VISION's realistic President's Cabinet.

So, Mr. Kass, if you are looking for a political party that will speak rhetorically, then stay with your COMMIT party. Then you can see a tongue-in-cheek year in ASUN. They speak against the party system, yet they point to their party as the source of all of their power.

I'm sorry, but simply being a member of a party is not what determines one's dedication. VISION's support of the party system is refreshing because we know they are practicing what they preach. The existence of two strong parties this year makes the election interesting and something actually deserving of attention. VISION has grabbed my attention because they respond to students' concerns, they offer solid ideas to better represent students and they tell students the truth.

Matthew Eickman  
junior  
economics and finance

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