

# UNL student earns experience through gubernatorial campaign

By JENNIFER WALKER  
Co-editor

Almost every day is a party for Danielle Nantkes.

She attends parades, festivals and rallies every week.

Nantkes, a senior political science major and a member of the field staff for the Hoppner gubernatorial campaign, spends her days making sure Bill Hoppner becomes a Nebraska household name.

"Whenever there's a festival, parade or any kind of community event, I make sure we have visibility," Nantkes said. "I make sure we have a group of volunteers at each event to represent the Hoppner campaign."

Nantkes is in charge of an 11-county area in south central Nebraska, which includes her home town of Seward.

In addition to supervising volunteers, she provides staff support for Hoppner if he attends the events.

She said her 50- to 60-hour work weeks would pay off in the long run, and there was nothing else she'd rather be doing.

"I've been involved in the Democratic Party since before I was even old enough to vote," she said. "I haven't had a job outside politics since I graduated from high school."

She hopes her experience in the Hoppner campaign, as well as other campaigns she's worked on, will help her in her future career.

"I'm trying to learn as much as I can

and meet as many people as I can," she said.

Nantkes' campaign experience includes working on Ben Nelson's senatorial campaign in 1996, two primary legislative races, a city council race and a school board race.

Jim Ritzman, treasurer for the Lancaster County Democratic Party, said Nantkes' experience and hard work were two points in her favor.

"She's a very vivacious, extremely talented young lady," he said. "Everything she does, she does full steam ahead, and does a good job at it."

Juggling a full-time job and school-work has been a challenge for Nantkes, although she doesn't have any complaints.

"The only thing I could say is that it's very demanding," she said. "But I'm used to that, and I'm better when I have to balance an extensive work schedule and school schedule."

But working in politics is not just a job for Nantkes, it's something she believes in. Hoppner's ideals appealed to her especially.

"(Hoppner's) campaign is about the issues that are important to me as a young woman," she said. "His emphasis on education is of vital importance to me."

Nantkes' role as a student is as important to Hoppner's campaign as his stance on education is to her.

David LaPage, communications director for the Hoppner campaign, said he thought students working on the campaign were a real asset.

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DANIELLE NANTKES  
Hoppner campaign field staff

"It's really exciting for some of us who haven't been college students for a long time to work with students who have the skills and excitement that they bring to the job."

"Danielle is working in the area where she grew up, and that's valuable for the campaign because she's working with family and friends," he said.

Nantkes said her political experience helped in her school work as well.

"Especially in my political science classes, someone will be going on and on about an issue or a senator," she said. "And I just had lunch with him yesterday. It's strange but kind of neat."

The most rewarding part of her job is not the experience she gains or the important people she meets, Nantkes said.

"I get to be a part of helping Bill Hoppner become the next governor. That's a rewarding ideal."

# 'Year 2000' bug threatens student computer owners

Experts say the severity of the problem will vary depending on computer makes and models.

By LINDSEY WRIGHT  
Staff reporter

Students with personal computers may begin to feel the bite of the infamous Y2K bug as the year 2000 approaches.

Y2K is the buzzword for the year 2000 computer problem. Most computer systems are unable to handle anything dated 2000 and later because programs recognize only the last two digits of the year. Computers will read "00" and 1900 rather than 2000.

This could cause a variety of problems with student computers.

It all depends on what kind of computer you have according to Gary Aerts, University of Nebraska-Lincoln manager of administrative systems and the Y2K coordinator.

Apple Macintosh owners won't have much to worry about, Aerts said, because they were designed to properly handle dates past 1999.

"Macs tend to be immune to the year 2000," he said. "The only glitches Mac users could find are those in software applications, which should be easy to fix."

But for other personal computers, the result will not be so user-friendly.

"The older the computer, the bigger the problem," Aerts said.

Replacing bugged software for a newer and faster program may require more memory for the computer, which in turn costs more money.

Aerts recommended testing the computer to see if it is year 2000 compliant. Most World Wide Web sites have instructions on how to test individual computers, he said.

"When it comes to PCs, no PCs are created equal," he said. "One may test okay, the other one not."

Some older computers may be year 2000 noncompliant. Even if software upgrades are available, the computer may not be able to have the necessary memory upgrade.

If you can't get enough memory, you may need an entirely new computer, Aerts said.

And that could easily become a \$2,000 bite from the Y2K computer bug.

For UNL students who use only the computer labs on campus, there should be few problems, Aerts said. There may be minor glitches in personal software, since even with testing it is hard to predict what might happen to computers when the year 1999 is history.

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