

Nearing the finish line NU close to achieving goal for minority hiring

State Sen. Deb Suttle is concerned the university won't be in the top 50 percent of its peers in the employment of women and minorities by 2002.

We're not.

The chairwoman of the Legislature's Select Committee on Gender and Minority Equity said last week she questions whether the university can meet a 1997 mandate that requires the university to be in the top 50 percent of peer institutions by August of 2002.

If it fails to meet that goal, the state Legislature could penalize the university by cutting its budget by \$3 million a year.

But based on reports, the university is already in the top 50 percent of similar institutions in employing women.

The percent of women faculty rose from 27 percent in 1997 to 28.6 percent in 1999.

The area where NU is still catching up is in the hiring of minorities.

The University of Nebraska is still behind the average of its peers. Minority faculty make up about 10 percent of the faculty. In 1997, its peers' average was 11.4 percent.

But the university is making progress. Three of the four campuses increased the number of minority faculty last year. Minority faculty at UNL increased by two faculty members, and the Medical Center had a net increase of eight. Eleven new minority faculty members joined the NU system last year. It only missed the annual benchmark of 12 by one faculty member.

We think the university is in a great position to meet the Legislature's goal by next August.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, just one of the system's four campuses, is engaged in numerous national searches for faculty and administrative positions.

We hope the university will seek out qualified minority and women administrators and faculty members as they progress in their national searches. We hope the university will work hard to keep women and minority members in Nebraska once they come.

By mandating that the University of Nebraska stay in the top 50 percent compared to its peers, the state Legislature is seeking diversity in a real way.

It is not promoting quotas or trying to seek diversity through other restrictive affirmative action measures.

Instead, the Legislature is leaving it open for each campus to hire the person most qualified for the job, while encouraging minority and women hires.

We have confidence that the university will meet its goal. We hope it continues to maintain it in the future.

Editorial Board

Josh Funk (editor) • J.J. Harder • Cliff Hicks • Samuel McKewon • Dane Stickney • Kimberly Sweet • Lindsay Young

Letter Policy

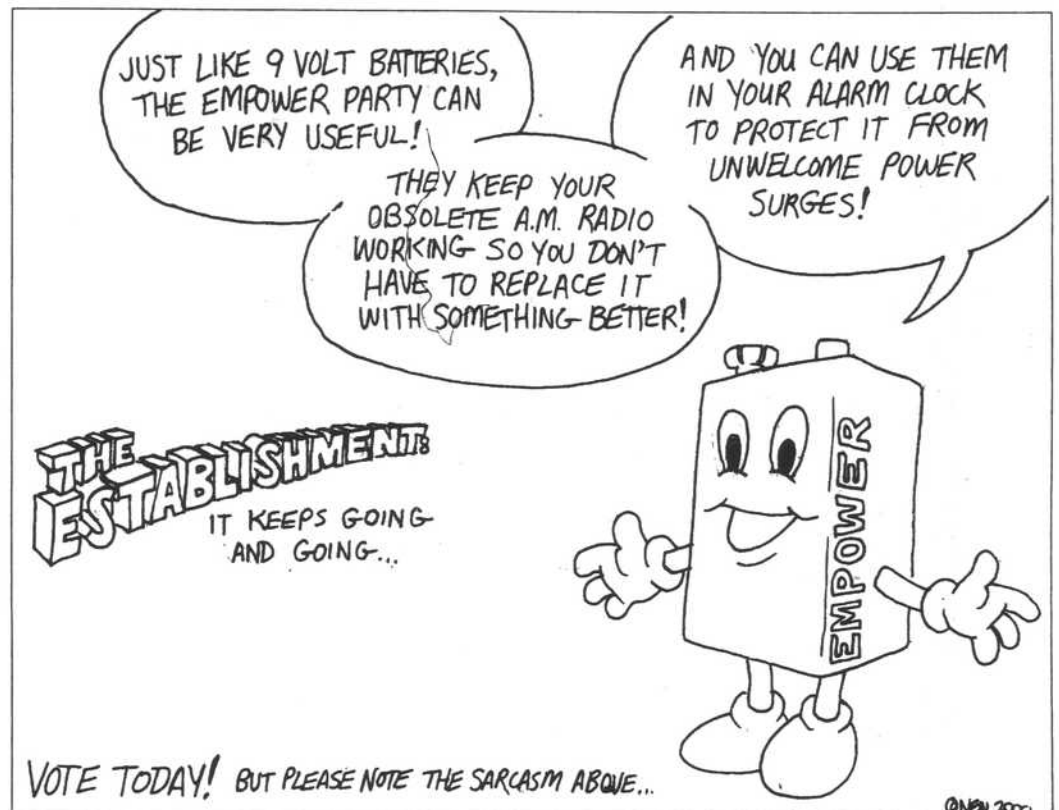
The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor and guest columns, but does not guarantee their publication. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject any submissions. Submitted material becomes property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous material will not be published. Those who submit letters must identify themselves by name, year in school, major and/or group affiliation, if any.

Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials are the opinions of the spring 2000 Daily Nebraskan. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, its employees, its student body or the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. A column is solely the opinion of its author. The Board of Regents acts as publisher of the Daily Nebraskan; policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. The UNL Publications Board, established by the regents, supervises the publication of the paper. According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student employees. The Daily Nebraskan strives to print fair and accurate coverage; any corrections or clarifications will be printed on page three.

Obermeyer's VIEW



Letters to the EDITOR

Resident endorsement

In comparing the two presidential candidates, I say that my vote is with Empower.

As much as I appreciate A-Team's views on the current ASUN senate, I cannot give my support to a ticket that I believe has isolated itself from fellow senate members.

Also, I believe that any president who cannot focus the senate's energy will be ineffective. This position requires experience as well as a devotion to student service. I believe Heath Mello and Cecily Rometo show more of these qualities, and I am confident that students' issues will be dealt with in a manner that will make a difference to the student body.

These are my personal feelings, and I am presenting them only to answer any questions as to my feelings about the current election.

Jadd Stevens
president

Resident Hall Association

commitment would be a strong asset for ASUN.

Her desire to implement Impact's platform and eagerness to work with others elected will benefit all students of this university.

Mello would be a great president for this university, and I have no doubt he would do an excellent job. However, I feel his strongest asset is having Rometo as a running mate. Her ideas and knowledge were by far the greatest of all the vice presidential candidates.

I encourage all students to vote today and cast their ballots not for someone who says he or she will make a change, but for someone who has the knowledge and desire to make this university a better place. Cast your ballot for Amy Ellis, Heath Mello and Cecily Rometo.

Jason Kidd
senior
accounting

Duff presidential candidate

Endocrine bias

Yesterday's story on Theo Colborn is yet another example of the Daily Nebraskan's complete neglect of balanced reporting.

Colborn's "endocrine disruption" hypothesis is (to be kind) highly controversial.

The American Council on Science and Health, which has seven UNL faculty members on its board of advisers, recently concluded that "typical exposures to synthetic chemicals in the environment are not linked, in humans, to alleged endocrine-related health problems,

such as reductions in sperm counts and cancers of reproductive organs."

You can find and download this report in five minutes on the Web. Yet the only faculty members your reporter interviewed were two who agreed with Colborn! Is it just that you can't be bothered to cover a story properly or are you deliberately biased?

Gerry Harbison
professor of chemistry

Ethanol schmethanol

You're a bit off base when you say ethanol is "something that those '70s and '80s cars don't seem to digest that well" (Our View, Tuesday).

My family has been using ethanol-blended gasoline exclusively for many years on our farm, in vehicles ranging in age from 1967 to 1993, with absolutely no fuel-related problems.

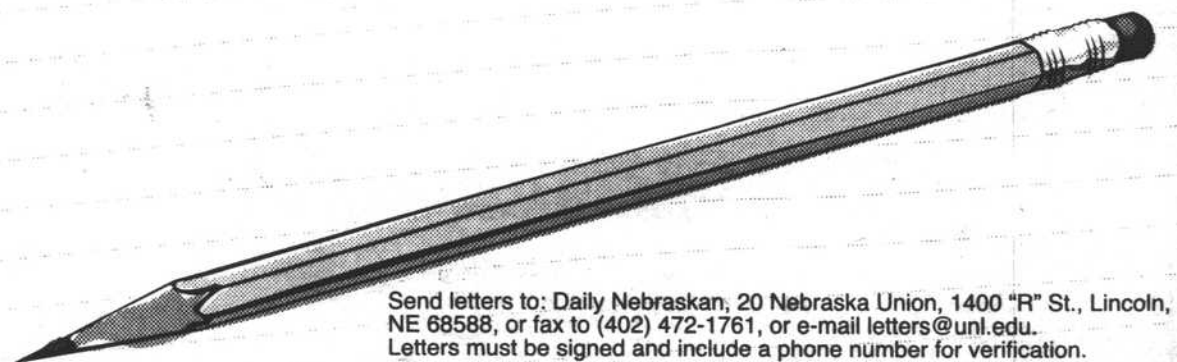
This is one of the biggest obstacles ethanol has had to overcome in becoming an accepted alternative fuel source.

You also state that you "don't want to pay prices any higher than the out-of-control ones we cringe at currently."

Doesn't it occur to you that as petroleum prices continue to increase, ethanol likely will become more price competitive and actually may reduce the price you pay at the pump?

Tim Hindman
graduate student
biological systems engineering

P.S. Write Back



Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.