

And the winner is...

New government holds promise of change for ASUN

Wow.

One of the most intriguing elections we've seen has ended.

Two parties started the process last semester. Two others jumped in this spring.

The four of them took us on a ride we'd never imagined in December. We predicted it would be the same ol'-same ol' come March 1.

Now we can look forward to change.

The A-Team and Duff threw the two parties who were called traditional for a loop with their aggressive advertising tactics and strong remarks.

And those efforts swayed enough students to get A-Team into the run-off election - something most, including A-Team, thought was going to involve Impact and Empower.

And the A-Team really, really threw Empower for a loop.

With the A-Team's win Wednesday night, things will change in student government.

Fresh ideas will be taken into account. New people will grace the floor of the ASUN office.

The Impact and Empower senators will be working with a president with no prior loyalties. Even if there are bad feelings, senators must learn to work with Joel Schafer and Riley Peterson.

It'll be a learning experience for

everyone. That's what college is all about, after all.

The voters picked the A-Team - a pair of men with no experience. As we've said before, this will be an asset to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

But even more, this election, with each party boasting a different face, sparked a fire on this campus. It gave people something to talk about.

The A-Team contributed with its out-of-the-ordinary advertising. Duff added its push for a wet campus - something that most parties wouldn't even start to tackle.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say we've heard more, and even talked more, about student government this spring than since we started college.

What's more, the presence of two underdog parties and the fact one of them actually won, may encourage more students to run next year.

We need more than two parties running for ASUN, and we need new ideas in ASUN.

The A-Team proved that the non-traditional parties served more purpose than to be a sounding box for those who challenge the establishment.

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Obermeyer's VIEW



Letters to the EDITOR

Ethics, not pessimism

David Baker, your pessimism annoys me. I am offended by your generalizations about CBA students (March 7, DN). You say we are not concerned about "humanity or human rights." Granted, big business often creates headlines by making immoral investments, but there are people working to change that.

Instead of studying international finance, why don't you take some philosophy and ethics classes instead of something you apparently despise. Maybe those classes will teach you to consider how ethical it is to make false accusations.

Brett Otte
senior
finance

Toxic turmoil

The opinion written about LB1234 misses several important points, most obviously the environmental rationale behind the bill. The displacement of toxic gasoline compounds with ethanol generates both air quality and water quality benefits. Gasoline typically contains approximately 280 chemicals that range from benign to harmful when combusted, leaked into groundwater or absorbed during exposure as we fuel our automobiles.

Benzene for example, a known carcinogen, is a typical component in gasoline. Benzene is easily absorbed through the skin and lungs. In many areas of the country, benzene content is strictly regulated, but not in Nebraska.

An April 1999 news release by the Environmental Defense Fund noted the consequences of using toxic compounds like benzene in gasoline. The report stated, "Government estimates of toxic chemical concentrations in local air indicate that 197,710 residents of Lancaster County live in neighborhoods where the additional can-

cer risk from toxic chemicals in outdoor air was more than 100 times higher than the goal set by Congress a decade ago ..."

The news release noted that nearly half of the toxic inventory resulted from vehicle exhaust emissions in Lancaster County. LB1234 would result in reduced toxic compounds in gasoline via dilution with 10 percent ethanol. Ethanol, like other oxygenated fuel components, also reduces carbon monoxide emissions from vehicles while reducing the toxicity of gasoline.

A final point related to the environmental rationale that has generated support for LB1234 is the recent detection of MTBE in groundwater. MTBE is used by petroleum refiners to increase the octane content of gasoline. MTBE is a good gasoline additive from an air quality perspective. However, it migrates very quickly in groundwater supplies.

Recent investigations by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality have confirmed the fears of all who are interested in water quality - MTBE has leaked into under-

ground water in at least seven Nebraska communities. Water clean-up costs and threats to drinking water supplies are an unnecessary consequence of MTBE use. Enactment of LB1234 will discourage the use of MTBE because ethanol is an excellent octane additive that precludes the use of MTBE.

LB1234 represents an important public policy opportunity to improve the air we breathe, protect our valuable water supplies, produce a value-added renewable fuel from Nebraska grain and retain energy dollars in the state's economy.

Todd Sneller
Nebraska Ethanol Board

Cardinal complaints

After reading the "SSC Success Might Come With a Price" article (March 7, DN), I was left speechless. Sioux City is hardly a "financial empire." We do not consider North Sioux City our "bastard cousin" Our water is not muddy. Our children are not trashy and the town is not obsessed with basketball.

I have called Siouxland (as the locals call the Sioux City area) home since 1986. I'll admit that there's not a great deal of entertainment for the youth, but you'll find the same situation in most cities in the United States. Lincoln is a prime example, which leads me to my next point. I have seen more obsession over a sports team (mainly football) on this campus than I ever saw in South Sioux.

The article was probably formed with the notion that the girl's basketball program came out of nowhere. This in itself is an insult to those young ladies who work hard for their success.

Deidre Martin
freshman
architecture

