

Clinton pushes Beijing plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton asked Congress on Wednesday to approve a major trade agreement with Beijing, saying it offers the most significant opportunity for positive change in China since President Nixon's historic visit three decades ago.

"We can work to pull China in the right direction or we can turn our backs and almost certainly push it in the wrong direction," the president said as he submitted legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China.

The measure would scrap Congress' annual, contentious review of China's human rights and trade record.

The promise of permanent trade privileges was part of a market-opening deal under which China

pledged to cut import barriers on American goods and services in return for U.S. support for China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

China's trade status is one of the biggest battles facing Congress. It's an issue complicated by election-year politics and an alignment of strange political alliances linking Clinton with Republicans and their business allies against Democrats and their supporters among organized labor, environmentalists and human rights groups.

The White House argues that open trade with China would be a bonanza for American companies and workers, tearing down barriers that have prevented U.S. firms from competing in the world's most populous country.

Women's Week 2000

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Tomorrow:

"The Change: Traditional and nontraditional approaches to perimenopause and menopause"

Brown bag lunch and panel discussion with educational exhibit about attitudes towards menopause. Speakers include: Pat Tetreault, Sexuality Education Program Coordinator, University Health Center; Nancy Goff, Menstruation Educator; and Carol Greenlee, RN, MSN and certified midwife. Nebraska Union (room to be posted).

11:30 a.m.-1 pm, March 10.

Co-sponsored by the Women's Center, University Health Center and the Employee Assistance Program.

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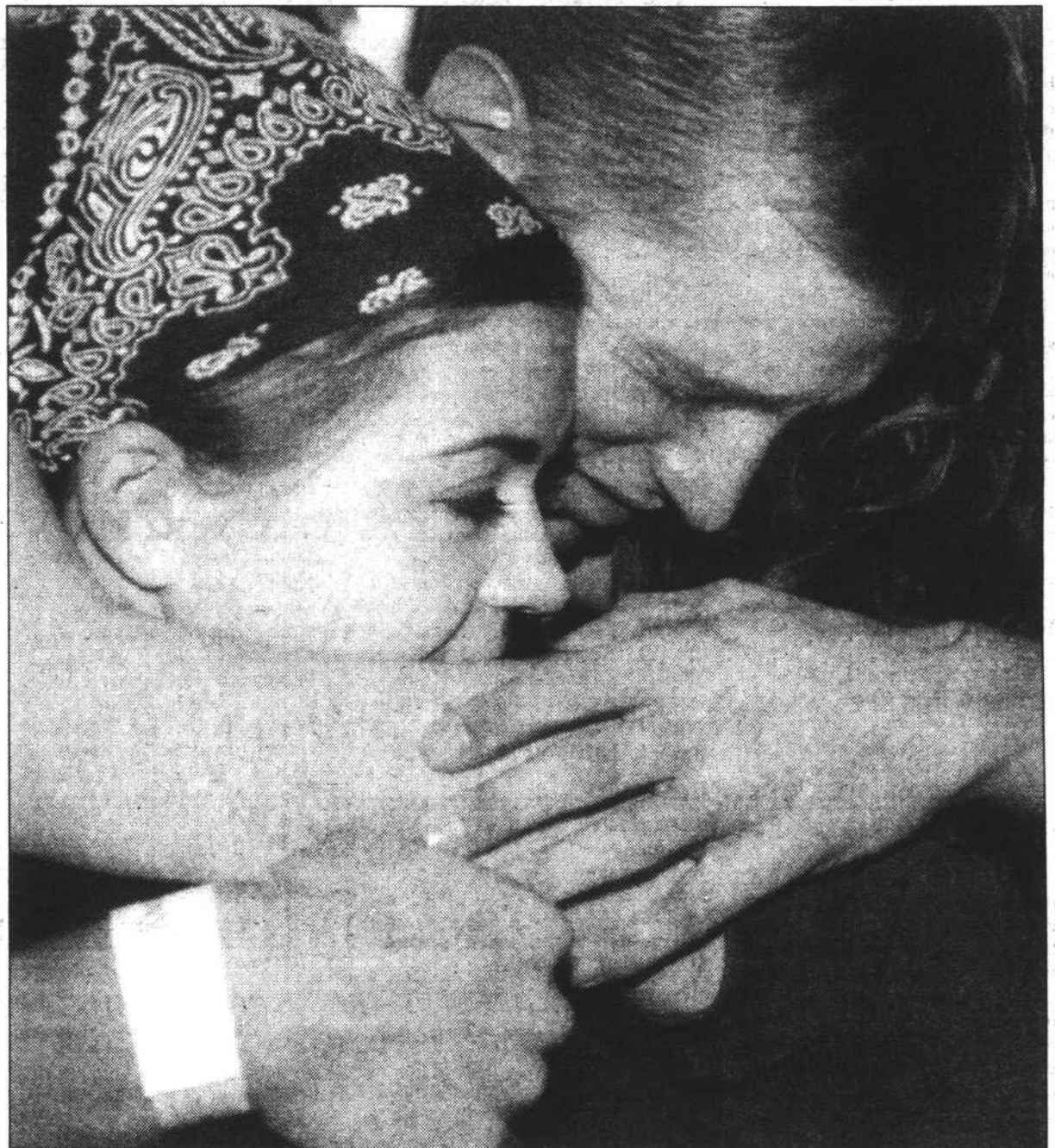


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ASUN ELECTIONS

'It hasn't really sunk in yet that I lost.' —Heath Mello



Heather Glenboski/DN
EMPOWER'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENTIAL candidate, Cecily Rometo, second vice presidential candidate, Mike Butterfield, and sophomore Cami Shreve comfort each other after hearing the results of Wednesday's election. Empower failed in its bids in the presidential and first vice presidential run-off and the second vice presidential run-off.

Empower pledges support

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

Empower first vice presidential candidate Cecily Rometo kept a straight face as she heard the results of Wednesday's ASUN run-off election.

"We lost," she told a small group of supporters.

Presidential candidate Heath Mello arrived late to Empower's post-election party at Mainstreet Cafe, 1325 O St., because he was in an Association of the Students of the University of Nebraska meeting.

When Mello arrived at the party, he said he was shocked at the results of the election.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet that I lost," he said.

Though they were disappointed, both Mello and Rometo expressed their best wishes toward A-Team's presidential candidate, Joel Schafer, and first vice presidential candidate, Riley

Peterson, who won the election with 1,081 votes to Empower's 857 votes.

"I want to congratulate Joel; he's a good guy," Mello said. "I hope he realizes he's giving a year of his life to the university."

Rometo echoed Mello's sentiments. "I've worked with Joel and Riley," she said. "It'll be fine next year."

Mello also said he, Rometo and Empower second vice presidential candidate Mike Butterfield are willing to help Schafer and Peterson.

"We care more about the organization than the parties," Mello said.

Rometo said that although she was surprised at the results, she was still pleased with Empower's campaign.

"I've met so many people, and I feel we've maintained our integrity," she said.

Although Empower did not win the election, the party still brought up several important issues, Rometo said.

"The issues we brought up are out of

the betterment for ASUN, which is why I ran in the first place," she said.

Rometo said she was disappointed but still managed to keep a sense of humor.

"I'll have time to write my thesis next year," she said.

Many members of Empower felt the Daily Nebraskan's coverage was biased and had a negative effect on the campaign, Mello said.

Mello said he realized a few weeks ago that he thought the Daily Nebraskan didn't support his party.

"The DN got what they wanted," he said. "They wanted a candidate to win, and he won."

Mello said he felt in this year's election, candidates' ideas didn't seem to matter.

"My advice for anyone thinking to run next year is to not worry about being involved or having any leadership skills," he said.

"Just do what you want to do."

Ellis ekes past Butterfield for win

From staff reports

Mike Butterfield said there was no way he could have predicted what happened Wednesday night.

He wasn't expecting to lose in the ASUN run-off election, he said. But he did.

And so did his running mates, Empower presidential candidate Heath Mello and first vice presidential candidate Cecily Rometo.

Impact candidate Amy Ellis defeated Butterfield for the office of second vice president. Ellis received 49.52 percent of the vote, only 45 votes more than Butterfield's 47.22 percent.

A-Team candidates Joel Schafer and Riley Peterson beat out Mello and

Rometo in the election for Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president and vice president.

Butterfield met with other Empower supporters at the Main Street Cafe, 1325 O. St., on Wednesday, while Ellis stood in a Nebraska Union hallway outside of the ASUN senate meeting.

Butterfield said he was disappointed with the results.

"I'm pretty shocked and upset about it," he said. "I had no idea."

Ellis had a decidedly different reaction. Just after hearing the results, she was literally jumping for joy.

"I am so excited, so amazingly excited," she said.

Ellis said this week was difficult. Along with the stress of the run-off, she

also had five tests, she said.

"We spent most of the day ... just trying to breathe," she said.

Butterfield said the defeat hit him extra hard because his party, Focus, lost last year in a run-off, too.

"We all worked very hard, but I guess obviously the majority of students thought someone else could do a better job," he said. "That's why they call it democracy."

Ellis said she was ready to take office.

"I have lots of people to represent, and I plan on doing it well," she said.

Staff writers Veronica Daehn, Katie Mueeting, Sara Salkeld and Jill Zeman contributed to this report.